

Balance in AJPOR

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Editor in Chief

Some thoughts about the balance of research published in AJPOR

Most scientific journals (including *AJPOR*) attempt to balance their responsibilities not only to the authors but also to the journal readers. Scientific journals attempt to have interesting and useful articles in every issue but not all articles are equally interesting to all readers. When I look at a journal issue, I tend to read most abstracts, but I always hope that one article will be useful for me for my teaching and/or research. If I find one, I read it more carefully. We hope that *AJPOR* is publishing enough articles in your area of professional interest.

AJPOR publishes articles with various types of research methods. These methods include case studies, many forms of qualitative research, big data studies, and small- and large-scale surveys. However, *AJPOR* has published few multi-country comparisons or survey experiments – either methods or substantive experiments. I'm currently teaching a survey design class where students have access to a small-scale nonprobability sample to collect data. The students can choose a topic or an experiment for their projects. All students are conducting either methods or substantive experiments. In the US, substantive experiments are regularly conducted and published in sociology and political science journals.

In the past two years, *AJPOR* has published many articles related to COVID-19 and to fake news. Many researchers around the world turned their research sights to these topics, so this trend is not unique to *AJPOR*. However, I sometimes wonder if *AJPOR* has published too many articles on too few topics and that we are not providing useful articles to all readers.

I encourage *AJPOR* readers to consider where *AJPOR* could provide more useful research to more researchers. Does *AJPOR* have a good balance of articles (both methods and topics) that meet the needs of both researchers and readers? Please send

your thoughts to kennedyj@indiana.edu.

Biographical Note:

John Kennedy directed the Indiana University Center for Survey Research for 24 years. He also directed the University of Hartford Institute of Social Research for two years and was employed at the US Census Bureau for four years. He earned a PhD in sociology from the Pennsylvania State University. He has been involved in the development of a number of professional journals and was the founding editor of *Survey Practice*, an e-journal published by the American Association for Public Opinion Research. He has also been actively involved in professional research ethics including chairing Indiana University Social Behavioral IRB for 12 years and he served on two committees that revised the American Sociological Associations Code of Ethics. He teaches a graduate course in Survey Design.

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