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**Key words:** Gender, Editorial Board, Subject Editor, Associate Editor, Editor-in-Chief, Gender Parity, STEM

**Geographic Coverage:** N/A

**Temporal Coverage:**

Begin: 1985-01-01

End: 2013-01-01

**Exceptions:** as noted in the individual data files

**Project Info:** Despite women earning similar numbers of graduate degrees as men in STEM disciplines, they are underrepresented in upper level positions in both academia and industry. Editorial board memberships are an important example of such positions; membership is both a professional honor in recognition of achievement and an opportunity for professional advancement. We surveyed 10 journals in environmental biology, natural resource management, and plant sciences to quantify the number of women on their editorial boards and in positions of editorial leadership (i.e., Associate Editors and Editors-in-Chief) from 1985-2013. The results of our analyses using these data resulted in the following paper:

Alyssa H. Cho, Shelly A. Johnson, Carrie E. Schuman, Jennifer M. Adler, Oscar Gonzalez, Sarah J. Graves, Jana R. Huebner, D. Blaine Marchant, Sami W. Rifai, Irina Skinner, and Emilio M. Bruna. 2014. Women are underrepresented on the editorial boards of journals in environmental biology and natural resource management. *PeerJ*.

The R code to conduct the analyses and generate the figures in the paper is at https://github.com/embruna/Editorial-Board-Gender

This research and the resulting paper were part of a Workshop in Scientific Publishing taught in Spring semester 2014 by Emilio M. Bruna at the University of Florida.

**Title**: Gender of the Members of 10 Editorial Boards in Environmental Biology (1985-2013)

**Funding**: UF Center for Latin American Studies Faculty Research Award to Emilio Bruna

**Files:**

Biotropica\_EB.csv

Biocon\_EB.csv

ARES\_EB.csv

Agronomy\_EB.csv

NAJFM\_EB.csv

AJB\_EB.csv

ConBio\_EB.csv

Ecology\_EB.csv

JECOL\_EB.csv

JTE\_EB.csv

IF\_2012.csv

**Description:** Data on the gender and country of institutional affiliation of the editorial board members of 10 scientific journals from 1985-2013, the Impact Factors of those journals in 2012, and the 5-year Impact Factors of those journals in 2012.

**Methods:** We selected for review 10 journals from environmental biology, natural resource management, and plant sciences: Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics, Biotropica, Agronomy Journal, North American Journal of Fisheries Management, American Journal of Botany, Conservation Biology, Biological Conservation, Ecology, Journal of Ecology, and the Journal of Tropical Ecology.

Our analyses were based on the years 1985-2013, though for some journals data collection extended beyond this range (e.g., Biotropica). Because of library licensing issues were unable to obtain data for the Journal of Tropical Ecology for the years 1986-1989.

For each journal, we selected the first issue of each year published and recorded the names, institutions, and editorial positions of all editorial board members. We then used internet searches, personal knowledge, and interviews of colleagues to determine the gender of each editorial board member.

Journals often have different titles for positions with similar editorial responsibilities, these titles frequently change over time, and that not all journals had all positions throughout the study. We therefore assigned editorial board members to the following categories based on their responsibilities:

(1) Editor-in-Chief (EIC). The EIC oversees the journal and is ultimately responsible for editorial policy, standards, and practice, including appointing members of the Editorial Board.

(2) Associate Editors (AE). The AE assists the EIC with their responsibilities and may take the lead on some aspects of journal administration; in some cases they might oversee all submissions in a particular subject area or from a geographic region. Not all journals have AEs, while those that do may vary in the length of time they have had them.

(3) Subject Editors (SE). The SEs, also commonly referred to as Handling Editors, oversee the process of manuscript review. For some journals they make final decisions on manuscripts after considering reviewer feedback (e.g., *Ecology*) while for others they provide recommendations based on which EICs or AEs make final decisions (e.g., *Biotropica*). They also provide formal or informal feedback to the EICs/AEs on journal policy and administration. They are referred to collectively by a variety of titles, including Board of Editors (*Ecology, Biological Conservation*) and the Editorial Committee (*Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematic, American Journal of Botany*). Note that two journals – the *American Journal of Botany* and *North American Journal of Fisheries Management* – used the title of “Associate Editor” for members of their Editorial Board with the responsibilities of SEs; we therefore included them in this category in our analyses.

Note: Many journals have someone tasked with organizing special sections, reviewing data archives, soliciting reviews of recently published books of interest to the journal’s readers, etc. (e.g., Biological Florida Editors for the *Journal of Ecology*; Concept Section, Data Archive, Special Features, and Invited Papers Editors for *Ecology*). When a subject Editor had these responsibilities, it is noted in the “notes” column.

We excluded from our data collection production staff (e.g., production editors, managing editors, editorial assistants) and the American Journal of Botany’s “Section Representatives”, which were used to suggest reviewers and guide journal direction, but did not make editorial decisions on individual manuscripts (Dr. Judith E. Skog, pers. comm., 14 March 2014).

**Column Headings:**

JOURNAL: The code used to identify each scientific journal. The codes were: (a) AREES: Annual Review of Ecology, Evolution, and Systematics, (b) BITR: Biotropica, (c) AGRONOMY: Agronomy Journal, (d) NAJFM: North American Journal of Fisheries Management, (e) AJB: American Journal of Botany, (f) CONBIO: Conservation Biology, (g) BIOCON: Biological Conservation, (h) ECOLOGY: Ecology, (i) JECOL: Journal of Ecology, (j) JTE: Journal of Tropical Ecology.

YEAR: Year an Editor served on an editorial board.

VOLUME: Volume of the journal for which an editor served.

ISSUE: Issue of the journal for which an editor served.

TITLE: The title each editor had as listed in the journal, could include multiple titles (e.g., Subject Editor and Book Reviews Editor).

NAME: The name of the editorial board member.

COUNTRY: The country of an editor’s institutional affiliation. Note that all countries in the United Kingdom were included here as “UK”, but the individual country was recorded in the “Notes’ column.

GENDER: The gender of the editor: “M” denotes male, “F” denotes female.

CATEGORY: We categorized each board member as a Subject Editor (SE), Associate Editor (AE), Editor-in-Chief (EIC) as described above.

NOTES: Any additional relevant information. If a reviewer had two roles on the editorial board, we noted the second role here (i.e., someone who was an AE and Book reviews Editor was listed as “AE” in the Column “Category” and “BOOK” in the column “Notes”).

IF: The 2012 Impact Factor of each journal as calculated by ISI

IF5: The 2012 5-year Impact Factor of each journal as calculated by ISI