

2025 Panel of Editors

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A Panel of Editors was included in the 2025 Annual Conference of the American Council on Consumer Interests. Four editors were invited to share information about their journals and insights on academic publishing. The purpose of the panel was to inform everyone about some of the many possibilities for publication in the consumer and family economics discipline. The four journals were: the Journal of Consumer Affairs (JCA); Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning (JFCP); Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal (FCSRJ); and Journal of Family and Economic Issues (JFEI). The editors and the universities where they are located are: Rui Yao, University of Missouri-Columbia; Jing Xiao, University of Rhode Island; Mari Borr, North Dakota State University; and Dee Warmath, University of Georgia.

Introduction

The Panel of Editors took place during the closing session of the 2025 Annual Conference of the American Council on Consumer Interests (ACCI) in Pittsburgh, PA. Originally proposed by Sharon DeVaney as a resource for ACCI members and conference attendees, the panel provided valuable insights into the academic publishing landscape, catering to both aspiring and experienced authors. Moderated by Nilton Porto and Elizabeth Kiss, the discussion covered strategies for getting published and staying informed about the rapidly evolving field of scholarly publishing. Editors highlighted successful practices and addressed challenges faced in their efforts to bring important research to the forefront. The four panelists responded to five standardized questions before engaging in a Q&A session with the audience.

Panel Questions:

1. Is there a submission fee?
2. What is the maximum word length for a submission? Do you follow the APA Guide or another guide?
3. What is the timeline/goal for the review process? How long does it take for reviews and a decision?
4. Do you require citing the journal in the manuscript?
5. What skills do you look for in a reviewer for a manuscript?

Rui Yao, Journal of Consumer Affairs

1. ACCI members in good standing may submit as many articles as desired during the valid membership year to JCA free of charge. But for non-members, we have a submission fee of \$125 per submission.
2. Original research on issues of topical relevance to consumers may be of empirical or conceptual design. For original research, we normally receive submissions of less than 8,000 words. Trends and Applications articles often provide specific recommendations for policy, research, and/or practice. The maximum word limit is 3,500 words. The Commentary section is devoted to articles that contribute new thought about key issues in consumer well-being, rights, education, research, policy, trends, or regulation. The maximum word limit is 2,500 words. JCA offers Free Format submission. This means we will accept manuscripts submitted in any consistently applied name-date citation and reference style.
3. For desk rejection, 1 day to 2 weeks. If the manuscript passed the desk rejection, then it is a multi-factor process, depending on how fast reviewers respond, how many rounds of revisions the manuscript undergoes, and how fast the authors respond to reviewers' comments.
4. We encourage authors to cite articles recently published within JCA.

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5. Are you interested in getting more reviewers? We are actively seeking quality reviewers who possess the right expertise, demonstrate strong critical thinking skills, attention to detail, and a sense of conscientiousness and responsibility.

Jing Xiao, Journal of Financial Counseling and Planning

1. JFCP does not charge a submission fee.
2. 7000 words including all sections (text, references, tables and figures). APA style is required.
3. It will take about 2 months to complete the review process.
4. We hope the authors cite two or three relevant papers published in JFCP to connect their studies with this journal.
5. We hope reviewers are familiar with the literature of the topic, dataset, analytic analyses of papers they review. We always look for new reviewers. For those who are interested, please send their CVs to the editor.

Mari Borr, Family and Consumer Sciences Research Journal

1. The FCSRJ does not charge a submission fee.
2. We prefer that initial submissions are 6000 words or less, but we do have flexibility if a longer length is warranted. We follow the APA Guide, 7th edition.
3. It typically takes around 2-3 months to go through the initial peer review process. Some manuscripts have a final publication acceptance within 4-6 months while others take longer. It depends on the quality of the manuscript, how many revisions it needs to go through, and how many times it needs to be reviewed.
4. We request that the author cite two articles previously published in FCSRJ to assist in showing that their manuscript is connected to previous manuscripts published in our journal.
5. We prefer that they have a doctoral degree or are working on one. A person with a master's degree who has expert knowledge on a specific subject may also be acceptable. The reviewer needs to have both content knowledge and knowledge of research methods and analysis. We are always interested in getting more reviewers.

Dee Warmath, Journal of Family and Economic Issues

1. The JFEI does not charge a submission fee.
2. We do not have a maximum word length. Most of the papers we publish are between 7,500 and 10,000 words. But we are completing a special measurement-focused issue where the papers were limited to 4,500 words. Authors are encouraged to follow APA Version 7. This is not required in the initial submission.
3. In 2024, the average days to first decision was 14 and average days from submission to accept was 264 days. The beginning of the year is typically a little slower and that has been especially true in 2025 given the change to the new editor and the introduction of a new submission system. We hope to meet or exceed the 2024 pace before 2025 ends.
4. We do not require authors to cite JFEI papers in their manuscripts; however, we do examine whether the submitted manuscript continues or initiates academic conversations that are important to our audiences. Demonstrating how your work contributes to conversations that are taking place at the intersection of family economics, consumer science, and human development and family studies is important. Citing work that has been published in the journal is just one way this can be done.
5. There are many skills that make a good reviewer. Perhaps the most important one is the ability to provide constructive feedback regarding what was done well and what is missing or needs to improve. Ideally, such feedback would be provided clearly and with sufficient explanation to help the author(s) understand what the reviewer is suggesting.