

# NCA Editor's Information Report



**To:** NCA Legislative Assembly

**From:** Kimberlee Pérez, Editor-in-Chief

**Journal Title:** Text & Performance Quarterly

**Report Dates:** August 1, 2024 - July 31, 2025

## Manuscript Acceptance/Rejection Rate:

- Number of **new manuscripts received** during this period: 181
- Number of **revised manuscripts received** during this period: 27
- Total number of manuscripts **accepted for publication**: 39
- Number of manuscripts **returned for revision and resubmission**: 40
- Number of manuscripts **rejected**: 109
- **Acceptance rate**: 19%

## Editor's Goals and Progress Toward Meeting Those Goals:

- **Goal 1:** Increase submissions from NCA and NCA-performance studies.

My transition from Editor-Elect to Editor has been largely successful and supported by some notable figures and strategies. Though my previous experience as an Editorial Assistant for this journal provided me with important experience and insight into editing a journal, the guidance and conversations from then NCA Publication Board Chair Devika Chawla was invaluable and included a mentoring meeting prior to my application and then when I was appointed Editor-Elect. The early notification (around April of 2023) of my appointment was crucial to strategizing and implementing my editorial vision. A deliberate partnership with then-Editor Jake Simmons and his team was equally imperative to assess the state of the journal. The submissions between the last editorial report and this one increased from 89 to 181.

- **Goal 2:** Continue to cultivate TPQ as an inter- and intra-disciplinary site for performance studies scholarship.

The first issue of my editorship was dedicated to an overview of the field. While previous iterations have largely included small conferences and subsequent published proceedings by either NCA or TPQ, at the intersection of time, resources, and the Covid pandemic, I curated what turned into a double issue with invitations across scholarly generations as well as disciplinary legacies. The resulting two-part issue positions TPQ as a vivid and vibrant outlet for cutting edge conversations as and in a field that not only reflects critically on itself but invites and invigorates invitations for new voices and directions. In part, I see a direct line between the two-part issue and the uptick in submissions from within and beyond NCA performance studies.

- **Goal 3:** Review, expand, and cultivate an Editorial Board inclusive of junior scholars and from across the field.

During my editorial-elect year, I reviewed the Board and ran reports to assess member's activity. I emailed each board member individually to ask whether they wanted to remain on the board and ascertain commitment to reviewing up to two essays per year, asking them to consider submitting essays and actively solicit submissions from colleagues int



the field. Through this review, I was able to eliminate retired (and deceased) board members and invite active junior scholars to the board to increase TPQ's visibility across institutional and inter- and intra- disciplinary constituencies. I continue to remain actively assessing the Board and inviting active scholars in the field.

## Strengths:

- **Strength 1: Manuscript Submission Recruitment**

During my editorship I have made significant efforts at directly soliciting manuscripts. My editorial assistant and I either attended or reviewed national and regional NCA conferences and their programs to identify and contact upwards of 45 authors of performance-related papers, from within divisions of performance studies and related areas.

- **Strength 2: Editorial Support**

As an extension of the manuscript recruitment process, I offer to meet with solicited authors to discuss and review manuscripts to assess the readiness of their essays for submission and/or publication in TPQ. Though submissions are up, this contributes to a reduction in desk rejects and increases reviewer engagement. I make the same offer to desk rejects that I see have potential but are not ready for full review, especially those that are interdisciplinary or do not center performance research. While not every discussion leads to a submission or publication, I identify this as a strength for the visibility and reputation of performance studies and TPQ.

- **Strength 3: Performance Space and Book Review Editorship**

A goal of my editorship and for the field was/is to assess and review the function of the Performance Space and Books in Review. These field has changed since the genesis of these sections. The editors of each section are actively engaged in making visible the different types and modalities of performance scholarship, blurring boundaries and pushing the field toward questions of methodologies, representations and directions.

## Areas for Improvement:

- **Area of Improvement 1: Increasing reviewer commitment and reducing review timeline**

Securing reviewers and getting them to turn reviews in within a certain timeframe has been an ongoing and increasing challenge of my editorship, which has resulted in processing and decision delays for essays. I am committed to increasing time to decision by doing more outreach to reviewers to ascertain availability, commitment, and appropriate review.

- **Area of Improvement 2: Forums**

In my editorial application, I articulated a vision and plan to follow related NCA journals and feature topical forums that respond to contemporary issues in the field and/or social and political context. Some of this work is being done in the Performance Space section of the journal. I am currently working with one group of scholars who are developing a forum and in talks with others. In hindsight it may be that such a venture required an additional associate editor to facilitate this. I am still working with this idea and hope to



realize it in my second and/or third year and discuss such a section with the next editor.

- **Area of Improvement 3:** Developing digital content

The digital capacity of T&F to host and/or embed digital content remains underutilized, especially for a discipline such as performance studies. While the non-NCA cousin journal *liminalities* does host and is more known to scholars looking to publish digital content, it remains something that I am seeking ways to make authors more aware of in considering TPQ for performance studies scholarship.