

The 2024 publication year, in brief:

The operations of *Central European History* (*CEH*) were affected by two major events this year: the change in editors and the aftermath of a “cybersecurity incident” at Cambridge University Press (CUP).

First, Monica Black and Mirna Zakić completed their five-year terms as editor and associate editor, respectively. The CEHS board appointed Jared Poley (Georgia State) and Benjamin Marschke (Cal Poly Humboldt) as new editors and Eli Rubin (Western Michigan) and Michael Sauter (Suffolk) as new associate editors, effective July 1st. We four (Jared, Ben, Eli, and Mike) congratulate Monica and Mirna on a job well done, and we thank them for a big head start: two issues of the journal already ready to go. Jared and Ben are profoundly grateful to Monica for her indispensable hands-on guidance regarding how to navigate CUP’s counter-intuitive online system, “ScholarOne,” especially while CUP was off-line.

Second, Cambridge University Press had a “cybersecurity incident” the first week of June, which resulted in a near total “technical disruption,” so that CUP was virtually completely incommunicado for two months, through early August. Of course, this made for a very awkward and fraught on-boarding experience for Jared, Ben, Eli, and Mike.

CUP’s production was stopped for three months, and only restarted in September. The June issue of *CEH* (57:2) which been on the verge of appearing punctually when CUP was hacked, appeared only at the end of September. CUP is catching up quickly, and the September issue (57:3) appeared the first week of December. We are optimistic that by midway through 2025 the journal will appear punctually again.

Developments to date:

Because the issues of 2024 (volume 57) were almost entirely prepared by Monica and Mirna, the current editorial team will abstain from commenting on the many fine articles that have appeared (and still will appear in issue 57:4 in early 2025). Among new developments, Jared and Ben are working with Winson Chu, President of CEHS, on publishing the proceeds of the presidential panel at the American Historical Association as a forum in *CEH*. Jared and Ben invited two new members to the editorial board, and we thanked two long-serving members for

their service. Next year Jared and Ben will have much to report about volume 58.

Associate Editor Search:

One of Jared and Ben's principal tasks this year was to search for and recruit a new book review editor to replace Mirna Zakić. Jared and Ben publicized a call for applications in January 2024 and also reached out directly to a range scholars. Eight candidates applied: two women and six men; and three full professors, two associate professor, one associate lecturer (UK), one assistant professor, and one post-doc. Jared and Ben evaluated candidates on the criteria of (1) career stage and position, (2) breadth of expertise, (3) breadth of network, (4) ability and willingness to take on the workload, and need for compensation. Based largely on criteria #1, in April Jared and Ben interviewed four candidates: one woman and three men; and three full professors and one associate professor.

What had begun as a search for one associate book review editor took a turn as it became clear that none of the four candidates had the breadth of expertise, breadth of network, or the ability and willingness to take on the entire workload, especially given the consensus that *CEH* should broaden its scope in geographic, periodization, and thematic terms, but that the workload of the associate editor was already excessive (the last point being a testament to the yeoman service of Mirna). The unorthodox (but in retrospect obvious) solution was to appoint two book review editors whose areas of expertise and networks would complement each other: Mike and Eli. (This was the same logic that drove Jared and Ben to apply to be co-editors-in-chief.) Jared and Ben sought permission from the CEHS principals (Directory Tony Steinhoff and President Winson Chu) and then the CEHS board to pursue both Mike and Eli, and then in June Tony made an offer to Mike and Eli that they could not refuse. Eli and Mike are already working on several featured reviews and review forums.

Statistics

Similarly, the data in CUP's publishing report lags a year, so that the December 2024 report offers complete data only for 2023. Over the last five years, the acceptance rate during Monica's tenure was fairly constant at roughly 30%, with the denominator of submissions fluctuating more than the numerator of acceptances.

Acceptance rate over time

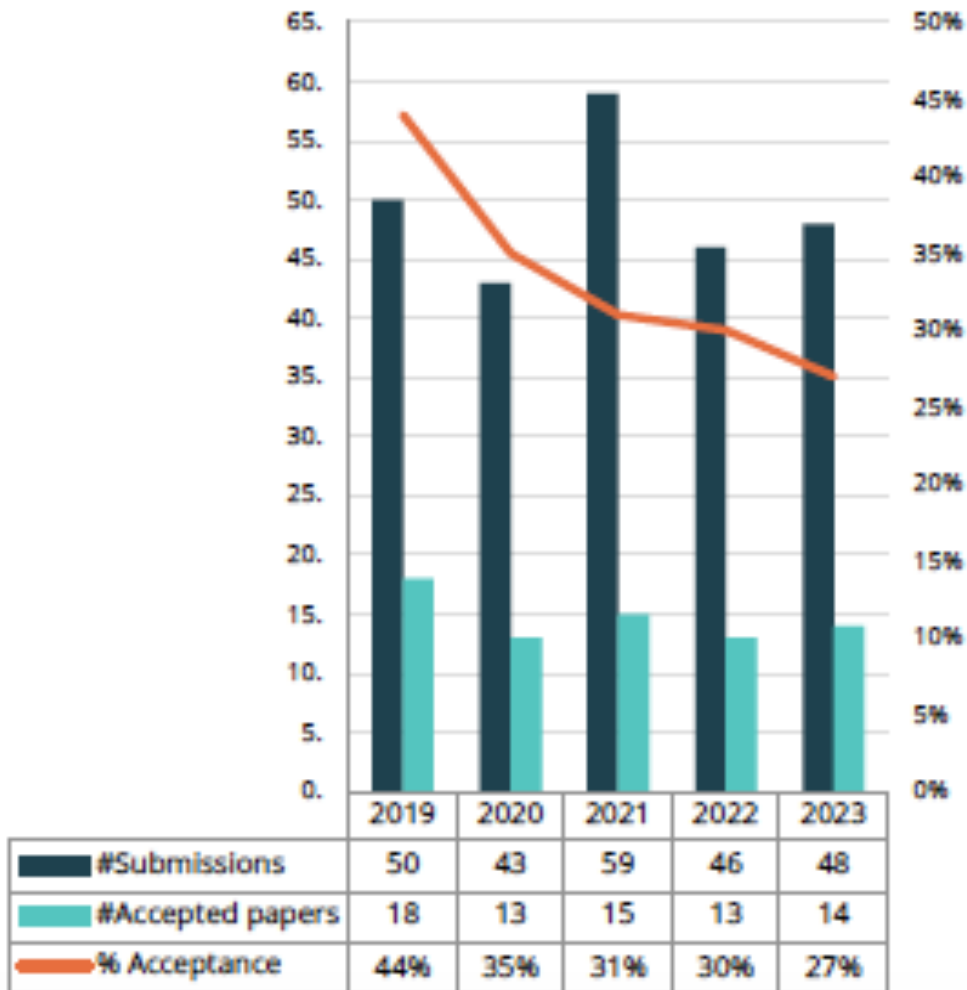


Figure from CUP's 2024 publishing report.

Many of the articles that will appear in volume 58 were already submitted and sent out for review by Monica before July—of the manuscripts that have been submitted since June, the first to be published will appear in 58:2. Therefore, due to the small sample size, Jared and Ben's acceptance rate of the new submissions since July is more anecdotal than statistical, but the raw data is as follows (as of 29 December):

- 32 submissions:
- 16 desk rejections, or unsubmitted
- 2 rejections after peer-review

- 8 in peer-review
- 2 in revision
- 2 in peer-review, again (after revisions)
- 2 accepted and in production (for 58:2)

Jared and Ben also received four informal inquiries from authors about potential manuscript submissions, none of which resulted in formal submissions. There are also six manuscripts from before July in revision, and one in peer-review, again (after revisions). Anecdotally, submissions continue to be healthy (32 in less than six months), and Jared and Ben are on track to continue Monica’s acceptance rate of roughly 30%.

CUP’s statistics for countries of submissions are also from 2023, but Jared and Ben see the same trends roughly continuing:

Country	# Submissions (by submission date)	# Accepted manuscripts (by final decision date)
United States	18	8
Poland	7	0
Hong Kong	3	0
Czech Republic	2	0
Germany	2	1
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	2	0
Australia	1	1
Austria	1	0
France	1	0
Greece	1	0
Hungary	1	0
India	1	0
Italy	1	1
Kazakhstan	1	0
Norway	1	0
Romania	1	0
Slovakia	1	0
Slovenia	1	0
Thailand	1	0
Ukraine	1	0

Figure from CUP’s 2024 publishing report.

Of the 35 authors and co-authors who submitted 32 manuscripts since July, the sex of the authors are 13 women and 22 men. Of the 16 authors and co-authors of the 14 manuscripts in process, seven are women and nine are men. These numbers are more anecdotal than statistical, but submissions were 63% men and 37% women, and manuscripts in process are 56% men and 46% women. The “in process” rate for men is 9/22 (41%) and for women 7/13 (54%).

The countries of the (lead) authors are as follows (of 32 total, since July):

<u>Country</u>	<u>Submissions</u>	<u>In process</u>
USA	9	6
UK	3	2
Czech	2	2
Austria	3	1
China (PRC)	3	1
Canada	2	1
Italy	1	1
Hungary	2	0
Ireland	2	0
Poland	1	0
France	1	0
Denmark	1	0
Finland	1	0
Lithuania	1	0

Submissions and acceptances by time period (of 32 total, since July):

<u>Period</u>	<u>Submissions</u>	<u>In process</u>
to 1750	8	2
1751-1870	1	1
1871-1918	10	3
1919-1933	5	4
1933-1945	4	2
since 1945	4	2

Submissions and acceptances by geographic subject matter (of 32, since July, but each is included in all relevant categories, so the total is more than 32):

<u>Where</u>	<u>Submissions</u>	<u>In process</u>
Germany	15	9
Austria/Habsburg	7	3
Poland	3	2
Czech	2	2
Hungary	3	1
Romania	3	0
Albania	1	0
Lithuania	1	0
Global/Comparative	7	4