

Ethnic and Racial Studies

Response to Plan S by Martin Bulmer and John Solomos

Ethnic and Racial Studies has been published by Routledge since 1978 and established itself as an international journal for scholars and researchers working on issues of race, ethnicity, migration, nationalism and related issues. It publishes research produced by scholars in all parts of the world, although it attracts authors particularly from the U.S., the UK and other European countries. Over the past five decades *Ethnic and Racial Studies* has established itself as a high-quality peer reviewed journal, as evidenced by reputational standing and also by its Impact Factor. We have published both empirical and theoretical research from scholars all over the world, the vast majority of it not funded by specific research grants. The vast majority of the articles we are able to publish are produced by scholars from all over the world as part of their on-going scholarly research rather than as a result of research funding by research councils or by public bodies.

It has been a subscription journal from the beginning, and in the past few years it has also moved towards publishing articles through article processing charges, namely as Open Access. We now publish 15 issues a year as part of our subscription offering and 1 issue as *ERS Open*, which hosts all our Open Access articles. From 2019 *ERS Open* will host all papers we accept that are Open Access, and this will therefore offer the community an opportunity to influence our publishing model through their publication choice. We also publish some Open Access articles in our Special Issues. We are in this sense what is sometimes called a ‘hybrid’ journal. The vast majority of the income we receive from our publishers is through subscription income, although we also now receive a small income through article processing charges. We use the

income we receive to support an editorial office composed of a Managing Editor and an Assistant Journal Manager and the work of the editorial team.

As a journal we are very concerned about the possible implications of Plan S. As the leading global journal in our field we seek to publish the highest quality articles that are submitted through our peer review process. Most of the scholars we publish are not in a position to pay article processing charges. In 2017 9% of the papers we published were Open Access. This is particularly the case for the many scholars we publish from the U.S. or other parts of the globe where there is no established culture of publishing through article processing charges. We are very much an international journal, and in 2017 54% of our papers came from outside Europe (42.1% from the U.S.). But it is also the case for scholars in the UK and other European countries whose research is not funded by publicly funded research bodies. We should note that 75% of articles we published in 2017 reported no funder to acknowledge. As a journal we have sought to broaden the range of authors who submit their work through our peer review process, particularly early career and minority scholars. We feel that the impact of Plan S on these groups of scholars needs to be carefully considered. Given the preponderance of early career scholars from minority backgrounds we are concerned that they will be particularly hard hit by Plan S if it is hastily implemented.

We are fully committed to developing *Ethnic and Racial Studies* as a 'hybrid' journal and we are sure that the publishing landscape for high quality peer reviewed journals will evolve and change over the coming period. We are also deeply committed to maintaining the journal as the leading international forum for the dissemination of the highest quality peer reviewed research. By depriving scholars working on publicly funded research in Europe of the opportunity to publish in *Ethnic and Racial Studies* and other 'hybrid' journals Plan S could end up harming the careers of those scholars as well as limiting the reach of their research to an international audience

