

COMMENTARY FROM THE EDITOR

Becky L. Yust, Ph.D.

My associate editors, Chris Cook and Marilyn Bruin, and I are pleased to have been selected to steward the next three years of the journal, *Housing and Society*. We admire greatly the work that Ken Tremblay, former editor, has accomplished (see his commentary) and he has shared a wealth of information with us as we begin our term.

As these are new roles for us, I thought I would describe the review process as we have implemented it this year. When I receive a manuscript, I identify three reviewers (who have previously volunteered) for a manuscript based on their areas of interest and appropriate distribution of manuscripts to balance their workloads. They receive both a hard copy and an electronic copy of the manuscript and the evaluation form to facilitate their reviews. Once they have completed the review, their comments and their recommendations are sent to me. I divide the manuscripts between the associate editors and send them the manuscripts and the reviews. After reading the manuscript and reviewing the comments, the associate editors prioritize the main suggestions and make a recommendation to me. I then note the changes on the manuscript that are suggested by the reviewers including questions we have, I summarize the comments for the author, and I inform the author of the final recommendation based on the reviews. Depending on the recommendation, the author then makes changes and resubmits the manuscript for a second review, or makes changes and the publication process begins.

We are grateful to the members of HERA who have volunteered to serve as reviewers of manuscripts; they have completed their reviews professionally and promptly. They are committed to the review process, so that the articles that appear in the journal are of high quality, are relevant, and are informative.

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We are always interested in additional reviewers, however. With a larger number of reviewers, fewer manuscripts need to be reviewed by each. The reviews generally need to be completed in four to six weeks and it is a way by which you can support the advancements in our field. If you are interested in serving as a reviewer, please let me know.

Our organization's members have broad interests including concerns about the planning, development, delivery and service of decent, safe, sanitary, affordable, ecologically sound, and appropriately designed housing for all people. Manuscripts that reflect those issues are central to our journal's interests and we encourage submissions either for articles or for notes on research, academics, and programs. For manuscript submission guidelines refer to the inside back cover of this issue, or to HERA's website at www.housingeducators.org.

And, any suggestions to us to improve the journal are always welcome.