

Contemporary Accounting Research **Editor's Report for January 1 to December 31, 2023**

Overview of 2023

Contemporary Accounting Research (CAR) enjoyed continued strong submission volume in 2023, with 538 regular manuscripts and 121 conference manuscripts, for a total of 659 new submissions. We maintained our broad reach in attracting submissions that continue to reflect diversity in topics, methods, and author location. We also maintained a highly rigorous and selective review process. A later section of this report provides detailed statistics.

In 2023, the CAR conference and doctoral consortium was held in a hybrid format for the second time. The Craft of Accounting Research workshop and PhD and junior faculty consortium furthered CAR's outreach to young Canadian scholars.

In the remainder of this report, I discuss the following topics:

- Personnel & process changes
- External recognition of the journal
- Conferences and meetings
- Manuscript statistics

Personnel & process changes

I began my three-year term as Editor-in-Chief on January 1, 2023. Carina Hackett, Judy Tran, Sadie Hall, and Judith Russell of Queen's University continued to manage the back-office functions that keep the peer-review process flowing smoothly. As Managing Editor, Sylvia Siemens oversees accepted manuscripts through the production process up to compilation of each issue.

During 2023, we continued to work on improving our systems and procedures to maintain high standards of academic integrity and to acknowledge reviewers and editors for their support of the journal.

Social Media Presence

In 2023, CAR continued to grow its social media presence on LinkedIn and Twitter. We are using these platforms to announce recent articles accepted for publication, to promote virtual events (discussed below), to bring attention to our virtual issues (see next section) and to bring attention to the journal more generally. On December 31, 2023, we had 1,432 followers on LinkedIn (an increase from 992 on December 31, 2022) and 963 followers on Twitter (an increase from 724 on December 31, 2022). We encourage authors of accepted articles to promote the research using their own social media networks and a number of authors are doing so. Thanks to Krista Fiolleau and Stéphanie Rioux-Wunder who continue to lead social media efforts on behalf of CAR.

Wiley's New Journal Design

We started to adopt Wiley's New Journal Design (NJD) format in January 2023. The first articles to be published using the new design were published in the Summer issue.

Transition to Virtual-Only Issues

Articles accepted for publication in *CAR* after August 9, 2023 (with the exception of conference papers) will be published in an online-only format with no print edition of the journal routinely published beginning with the 2024 volume. This is a proactive move towards reducing the environmental impact of the production and distribution of printed copies and will allow the journal to invest in further innovation, digital development and sustainability measures. Published articles will continue to be published on Wiley Online Library and disseminated quickly through the journal's broad network of indexing services. Articles will also continue to be discoverable through popular search engines such as Google. Anyone wishing to obtain a print copy of the issue in which their article is published may do so through a print-on-demand service.

External recognition of the journal

Over the years, *CAR* has earned widespread international recognition as one of the world's top accounting journals. *CAR* has been included in the *Financial Times (FT)* Research Rank of top business journals since 2010. *CAR* has also merited an A* in the Australian Business Deans' Council ranking of top business journals since the inception of their journal quality list in 2008. More recently, *CAR* received the top score of 4 from the UK Chartered Association of Business Schools Academic Journal Guide 2021. Currently, Google Scholar ranks *CAR* third (2022: fourth) among accounting and taxation journals on its h5-index and h5-median. According to the most recent Impact Factor information (2021), *CAR*'s two-year ISI impact factor is 3.6 (down from 4.041 in 2022).

Conferences and meetings

Craft of Accounting Research workshop

The goal of this annual one-day event is to enhance the quality of research carried out in Canada. This workshop is intended for doctoral students in at least the third year of their PhD program.

The 2023 workshop was held on June 8 as part of the 2023 CAAA Annual Conference in Saskatoon. The workshop was organized by Lan Guo (Wilfrid Laurier University), Kim Trottier (HEC Montréal), and Andy Bauer (University of Waterloo). The 2023 workshop started with opening remarks from Samir Trabelsi (Brock University), as incoming President of the Canadian Academic Accounting Association. This was followed by a presentation from me as Editor-in-Chief of *CAR*. This presentation was followed by breakout sessions based on different research methods: behavioural research, presented by Ryan Guggenmos (Cornell University); archival research by Andy Bauer (University of Waterloo); and other methods presented by Marion Brivot (Université Laval).

In the second half of the workshop, Adam Presslee (University of Waterloo), Editor-in-Chief of *Accounting Perspectives*, and Leslie Berger (Wilfrid Laurier University), past Editor-in-Chief of *Accounting Perspectives*, gave some brief remarks. The second breakout session consisted of presentations on sustainability, by Adam Vitalis (University of Waterloo); how to handle challenging comments from reviewers, presented by Darren Henderson (Wilfrid Laurier University); and the fundamentals of machine learning, led by Kim Trottier (HEC Montréal). These breakout sessions were followed by six student presentations. Attendees were welcome to attend a group dinner afterwards.

There were 41 in-person registrants. The participants included 33 students and junior faculty

members from Canadian colleges and universities, along with 8 students and junior faculty members from elsewhere in the world. Gianluca Delfino (IE Business School) represented the European Accounting Association (EAA) at this workshop.

CAR Conference

The journal holds the annual *Contemporary Accounting Research* conference to provide a forum where the global accounting research community can engage and interact, in Canada. The invitation-only conference attracted roughly one-fifth of the total number of new submissions to the journal in 2023.

We held the 38th annual *CAR* conference in-person on October 20 and 21, 2023, in Vancouver, British Columbia. The conference continues to be offered in a hybrid format. There were 175 in-person registrants and 149 virtual registrants, for a total of 324 registrants. This marked the largest in-person *CAR* conference to date. Khim Kelly and Linda Myers shared responsibility as co-editors for the conference with me, including organizing the program, and selecting papers and discussants. The conference attracted 121 submissions (see Table 1 in the Manuscript statistics section), which are peer-reviewed as regular journal submissions. With the aid of Editors' recommendations, Khim, Linda, and I chose six manuscripts that reflected a wide range of topics and methods, in keeping with *CAR*'s conference tradition. As always, conference sessions consisted of presentations by authors and discussants, followed by an open discussion with attendees. The response to the 2023 *CAR* Conference was overwhelmingly positive: over two-thirds of survey respondents described their experience at the conference as excellent.

CPA Canada also organized a virtual 'perspectives from practice' session that was held on October 19. The session was entitled "Leveraging Data and Transformative Technologies: Providing quality audited information for the Capital Markets" and featured D'Arcy Delamere, an experienced member on various Boards and Task Forces and Paul Vetrone, an Audit Transformation and Innovation Director with BDO.

PhD and junior faculty consortium

Each year, a consortium precedes the *CAR* Conference. The consortium allows faculty experts to present their ideas and insights about research and the research process to Canadian doctoral students and junior faculty members. The main objective is to broaden junior scholars' appreciation and understanding of accounting research with respect to the methods employed and the topics examined. Khim, Linda, and I co-organized the consortium.

The consortium was held on October 19, 2023, in a hybrid format. There were 39 in-person attendees and 31 students registered to attend virtually. The consortium began with "Research on Corporate Governance and ESG" presented by April Klein (New York University). The next session was entitled "My journey in historical and interdisciplinary accounting research," led by Vaughan Radcliffe (Western University). This was followed by a session on "Conducting theory-based, practice-relevant research" led by Margaret Christ (University of Georgia). Next was a presentation of "Accounting Research and Public Policy" by Jaron Wilde (The University of Iowa). Finally, the consortium concluded with a panel session where attendees asked the four presenters and myself questions covering a wide range of topics.

Virtual event

In 2023, *CAR* was pleased to host one free virtual event. The event, “Analysts and Location” was held on April 21, 2023, and was organized by *CAR* Editor Crawford Spence (King’s College London) and Stephannie Larocque (University of Notre Dame). The session featured four academic researchers who use the institutional features of analysts in a given location to investigate the role of analysts as intermediaries and explored the question, “What are the institutional features in various countries that impact sell-side financial analysts and the manner in which they add value to their buy-side clients?” The panellists included Ken Lee (The London School of Economics and Political Science), Hongping Tan (McGill University), Fei Du (University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign), and Stanimir Markov (University of Texas at Dallas). The session will include brief presentations from each of the four speakers, followed by Q&A. In total, there were 134 registrants and 74 attendees.

Manuscript statistics

Each year, we present statistics that illustrate *CAR*’s national and international reach, the selectivity of the review process, the timeliness of manuscript processing, and the topical and methodological diversity of submissions.

Canadian mandate and global reach of the journal

Table 1 shows continuing strong submission volume in 2023, with a total of 659 submissions. In 2023, 13% of submissions involved a Canadian author, consistent with recent history. Another 53% of submissions involved at least one author working outside of Canada and the US.

**Table 1: New submissions 2019-2023 by submission type,
with annual changes and region of origin**

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Regular	538	562	543	487	503
Conference	121	100	98	135	104
TOTAL	659	662	641	622	607
<i>% increase over prior year</i>	-0.45%	3%	3%	2%	9%
<i>% of Total with a Canadian author</i>	13%	16%	15%	16%	15%
<i>% of Total with an author from outside Canada and the U.S.</i>	53%	51%	46%	46%	44%

Table 2: Publications 2019-2023, with region of origin

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Volume	40	39	38	37	36
Pages	2875	2969	3253	2695	2694
Articles, including discussants' comments*	87	84	95	86	86
<i>% of articles with a Canadian author**</i>	23%	14%	9%	19%	19%
<i>% of articles with an author from outside Canada and U.S.**</i>	29%	31%	36%	20%	22%

*In 2019, Wiley began publishing bundled conference articles & discussions with a single DOI. Of the 87 articles published in 2023, there were 6 discussions published as part of bundled articles.

**For bundled articles, the manuscript geographic region of origin for the conference paper was used.

The publication information in Table 2 shows an upward trend in the page count and the number of articles since 2019, consistent with increasing submission volume.

Comparing the regional percentages in Table 2 with those in Table 1 confirms that the journal generally publishes papers by Canadian scholars at rates similar to their submission percent (with 2021 as an exception), and those by non-US international authors at rates below their submission percent. It is worth noting that it is misleading to compare the number of articles published year-by-year with submission numbers in the same year, because manuscript vary in the time period from initial submission to publication, generally taking from two to three years. Almost no manuscripts are published in the same year they are submitted.

Selectivity

Table 3 reports on first-round decisions, demonstrating *CAR*'s highly selective peer-review process. The "withdraw" decision indicates manuscripts that were not suitable for the journal, either because they did not fit within the journal's Aims and Scope (e.g., lacked 'accounting' content), or because they did not merit reviewers' time (e.g., insufficient care taken by authors in preparing the paper). Manuscripts that are withdrawn receive a 50% refund of the submission fee. First-round rejections are those where, after peer-review, the Editor determines that the manuscript does not meet *CAR*'s standards and is highly unlikely to do so with revision. Manuscripts are rarely accepted on the first round, so the sum of rejections and withdrawals indicates that about 20% of submissions receive a "revise" recommendation in the first round.

Table 3: First-round rejection and withdrawal decisions, as a percent of submissions, 2019-2023

	2023*	2022	2021	2020	2019
First-round rejections	77%	75%	71%	73%	68%
First-round withdrawals	6%	7%	8%	8%	<u>12%</u>
Sum of rejections & withdrawals	83%	82%	79%	81%	80%

* The 2023 numbers represent the 577 submissions that had a first-round decision on Jan 15, 2024, out of 659 total 2023 submissions.

Turnaround time

Turnaround time, reported in Table 4, is the time from an author's submission until a decision is issued by the Editor. *CAR*'s goal is that 90% of manuscripts should be turned around within 100 days. We continue to closely monitor manuscripts that approach or exceed the 100-day mark, and follow up with Editors and reviewers as needed, in an effort to maintain timeliness without sacrificing the quality of reviewer feedback. The median time to provide an initial decision on a regular submission was 67 days in 2023.

Table 4: Timeliness of first-round feedback to authors, 2019-2023

	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
# with 1 st round feedback < 100 days	497	569	537	497	527
Total new submissions	577	662	641	622	603
% < 100 days	86%	86%	84%	80%	87%
Median turnaround time (days):					
Regular	67	66	61	72	61
Conference	80	73	93	88	76

* The 2023 numbers represent the 577 submissions that had a first-round decision on Jan 15, 2024, out of 659 total 2023 submissions.

Topics and methods

From its inception, *CAR* has taken pride in being open to all forms of accounting research. Table 5 below summarizes authors' self-reports of topic areas and methods for 2023 submissions. If an author identified more than one topic or more than one method, Table 5 reports the first topic mentioned.

Table 5: New submissions 2023 by topic area and method

Topic	Audit	Manag'l	Fin'l	Tax	AIS	Other	Row Total	Row %
Method								
Analytical	7	8	20	5	0	4	44	7%
Experimental	19	28	13	4	0	0	64	10%
Empirical/Archival	100	68	305	32	1	14	520	79%
Case/Field Study	8	5	2	0	1	3	19	3%
Other	4	4	1	2	1	0	12	2%
Column Total	138	113	341	43	3	21	659	100%
Column %	21%	17%	52%	7%	0%	3%	100%	

Tables 6 and 7 below summarize the mix (percentages) of topics and methods for new submissions over the past five years. Overall, the mix of methods and topics reflected in new submissions during 2023 is largely consistent with that of the preceding four years.

Table 6: Submission mix by method, 2019-2023

Method	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Analytical	7%	7%	6%	5%	7%
Experimental	10%	11%	13%	12%	11%
Empirical/Archival	79%	76%	76%	77%	76%
Case/Field Study/Other	3%	5%	4%	4%	4%
Other	2%	2%	2%	2%	2%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

Table 7: Submission mix by topic area, 2019-2023

Topic Area	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019
Auditing	21%	24%	23%	26%	26%
Managerial	17%	19%	18%	16%	17%
Financial	52%	47%	48%	50%	46%
Taxation	7%	6%	7%	5%	7%
Other	3%	3%	4%	3%	5%
	100%	100%	100%	100%	100%

In January, we sent our annual update to reviewers continuing the practice of offering a waiver of a future submission fee as a gesture of appreciation to individuals who provide two prompt reviews. The practice is now supported by a formal process for tracking who has earned a waiver and an expiry policy. Our sustainable fee waiver process will help retain the goodwill of our reviewers, a resource that is critical to the continued success of *CAR*.

I acknowledge and thank all members of *CAR*'s community for their support of the journal. I am especially thankful for the contributions of Deputy Editors-in-chief, Khim Kelly and Linda Myers, the team of Editors, Editorial Board members, and reviewers, and the outstanding CAAA administrative support team of Carina Hackett, Judith Russell, Judy Tran, Sadie Hall, and Sylvia Siemens. Collectively, the hard work and commitment to excellence of the entire *CAR* team has had a significant impact on the continuing success of the journal.

Sincerely,

Partha Mohanram
Editor-in-Chief
Contemporary Accounting Research
February 9, 2024