

Editorial Statement

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With Volume 30, Issue 1, we introduce a new editorial board to *Cognitive Science*. All of the articles appearing in this issue, and probably the next few issues, will be ones that were handled by the board directed by Robert L. Goldstone, who served as editor for five years starting with Volume 25 in 2001. Rob did an incredible job injecting energy into the journal. *Cognitive Science* has a long history as an interdisciplinary journal, which is both a great resource and a difficult challenge. A great resource, because there are few places where true interdisciplinary work has a home. A significant challenge, because finding, evaluating, and publishing a mix of papers that reflects true collaborations between disciplines is a daunting task. Rob Goldstone and his board handled those challenges, and brought this journal to new heights. I hope that our new editorial board will live up to the standards set by the previous group.

We have put together a board with thirteen editors that covers the major subdisciplines of our diverse field, and the members of our board of reviewers were also selected for their range of expertise. With the bugs ironed out of the submission software, and with our managing editor, Caroline Verdier, continuing to serve the journal under the new board, we will continue to strive to provide constructive feedback on manuscripts in a timely fashion.

The research community also plays an important role in maintaining the high standards of this journal. Many of the reviews written for the journal come from members of the field who are not members of the editorial board. I hope that if you are asked to review a paper that you will agree to do so. Also, please strive to follow the golden rule in reviewing. All of us want timely reviews that provide useful feedback on papers in a collegial manner. A good review does not necessarily need to be a long review, but it does need to provide specific feedback to the authors about the strengths and weaknesses of the paper. In an interdisciplinary journal, it is also important to provide feedback about relevant work from other fields, and to provide suggestions to help ensure that the paper will be comprehensible by readers from other disciplines. I thank you all in advance for your service to the journal in the coming years.

Cognitive Science will continue to publish the four types of articles listed in the submission instructions: regular articles, extended articles, brief reports, and letters to the editor. The one significant change to the journal will be the introduction of guest editorials. For most issues, I

will invite someone to write a brief article discussing an important issue in the field. The issue might be an emerging trend in research that deserves to be brought to wider attention. It might be a discussion of an area of cognitive science that has been under represented in the pages of this journal. It might be a critical evaluation of an ongoing controversy. I hope that these guest editorials will spur discussion, and perhaps lead researchers to submit papers here who have not previously seen *Cognitive Science* as a potential home for their work.

So, what is a *Cognitive Science* paper? Obviously, a primary objective of the journal is to provide an outlet for high-quality work. The journal's impact factor of 2.41 attests that the scientific community finds the papers published in *Cognitive Science* to be valuable. Furthermore, we strive for papers that will have lasting value in the field. Over the years, the journal has published a number of groundbreaking papers that continue to be cited many years after publication.

Perhaps most importantly, though, *Cognitive Science* provides a place for people to present truly interdisciplinary research. Many of the most successful papers in the journal are ones that would not have a home in the many journals that are devoted to only one of the disciplines in the field. In fact, if you are considering a submission to *Cognitive Science* (and I hope you are), one of the first questions you should ask yourself is whether the paper you want to submit would be more appropriate for a journal within a single field. When the answer to that question is a resounding "NO," then you have a *Cognitive Science* submission in your hands. To reinforce this criterion, when we receive a submission, the editors will evaluate whether it meets the interdisciplinary standards of the journal before sending it out for review.

In sum, the field of cognitive science begins with the recognition that questions about the nature of mind are too difficult to be solved through any single methodology. True cognitive scientists make a commitment to become well-versed in the methods and theories across areas in order to drive the field forward. This journal has always played a central role in bringing the best new ideas to the attention of the research community, and the commitment of this editorial board is to continue that tradition.