

IOS Press Looking to the Future

Sustainable Development Goals Report 2023



Introduction

In December 2020, IOS Press became a signatory of the UN [SDG Publishers Compact](#). In doing so, the company committed to develop sustainable practices and act as champions of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), publishing books and journals that will help inform, develop, and inspire action in that direction.

An IOS Press **SDG** working group was established during the first quarter of 2021 with a task to set targets relating to specific SDGs. Since then, the group has worked on the following priorities: SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals). See the full report of our previous activities in the [2022 report](#) [1].



Quarterly updates are announced at:
iospress.com/sustainable-development-goals



Informing our Community

Throughout 2023, the SDG working group worked on informing the IOS Press community about our efforts towards the SDGs. In addition to the reports shared with Editors-in-Chief (further information in this report), we published blog posts on [Labs](#) about different aspects of our actions.

In [IOS Press Pursues Sustainable Development Goals via the Publishers Compact](#) [2], we provided an overview of our actions in 2022. While our previous annual report is publicly available [1], the blog post supplements it by reminding readers of the ten key points to achieving the SDGs, and providing the highlights of IOS Press activities relating to the SDGs.

To celebrate the International Day of Women and Girls in Science, [Shining the Spotlight on Women and Girls in Science](#) [3] delves into why the day is vital to advancing gender equality in science as well as the STM publishers' initiatives that are underway to encourage gender equality in the realm of scientific publishing. On the latter, Karen Jacobs, the Editor-in-Chief of [WORK](#), shares her perspective as a woman taking the lead in science.

[Sustainable Marketing at IOS Press: A Journey Towards Sustainable Marketing](#) [4] shares how IOS Press works towards eco-friendly marketing, blending innovation and responsible practices. Special attention is given to our approach at conferences, prioritizing digital- over paper-based marketing materials.

In [The Audacity of Hope for People and Planet: Rescue Plan for 2030 Sustainable Development Goals: Part – I](#) [5] Prof. Bharat H. Desai, the Editor-in-Chief of [Environmental Policy and Law](#), shares his thoughts on the 2023 SDG summit, held in New York between 18-19 September 2023.

Subscribe to the [Labs Newsletter](#) and stay updated on the latest IOS Press developments!



SDG-Related Content

The SDG working group recommends that Editors-in-Chief consider the [Top Action Tips](#) by the [SDG Publishers Compact Fellows](#) to help the successful acquisition, identification, and sharing of SDG-related content. Highlighted content as well as calls for papers directly relating to SDGs are now featured on a dedicated page with quarterly updates: iospress.com/highlighted-sdg-content.

In addition to the central SDG content page, each journal's homepage now features:

- A list of SDG themes relating to the content of that journal
- A statement of the journal's support of the IOS Press' actions relating to the SDGs, if applicable
- A statement of the journal's commitment to the [Diversity and Inclusion Statement](#), if applicable
- The geographical distribution of authors publishing in the journal in the past three years

Browse our catalog to discover more: iospress.com/catalog/journals.

How do we collect SDG information from all of our journals?

Using [LD Connect](#), we applied [search queries](#) developed by Scopus to find content relating to the SDGs in each journal. Terms in the article considered for the mapping are from the title, keywords, journal subject areas, and abstracts [6].

IOS Press  LD Connect



SDG 5 & SDG 10

Gender Equality & Reduced Inequalities

To work on SDG 5 (gender equality) and SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), a careful assessment of all IOS Press journals in terms of gender and geographic diversity has taken place since early 2022. More information is provided in this report.

In the third quarter of 2021, IOS Press joined the [Joint commitment for action on inclusion and diversity in publishing](#) with an aim to pool our resources, expertise, and insight to accelerate research culture change. We also have representation on ALPSP's working group on equality, diversity and inclusion.



Equal Publishing Opportunities

IOS Press is a partner of [Research4Life](#), benefiting institutions and researchers (both readers and authors) of selected lower-income countries. The project enables these countries to have free online access to the content of IOS Press' journals and books. Moreover, authors from countries included in the project may publish at no cost in journals that charge an article publishing charge, including full open access journals, depending on each journal policy.

IOS Press published a Diversity and Inclusion Statement (DIS) in the second quarter of 2021, and Editors-in-Chief of all our journals are invited to support the DIS. Read the full statement here: iospress.com/sustainability#diversity.

Inclusive Language

The [IOS Press website](#) applies – and promotes – the use of inclusive language in respect to all people and their diversity. We seek gender neutrality by using “you” as default/wherever possible to avoid using “he/she”. Guidelines on the use of inclusive language are recommended to be included in our instructions to authors as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language.



Assessment of IOS Press Journals

To incentivize journals' development towards equality in terms of geographic diversity, we collect geographic data from all authors on a yearly basis. The 3-year geographical spread of each journal can be found on each journal page on the IOS Press website.

The gender information of editorial board members is assessed only for journals that actively support the IOS Press' actions for the SDGs. The editors-in-chief of supporting journals receive a yearly report with detailed information about their journals concerning geographical and gender diversity, and how their journal compares with other IOS Press journals.

The report also offers recommendations for actions that may be taken to diminish inequalities among editors, reviewers, and authors, including:

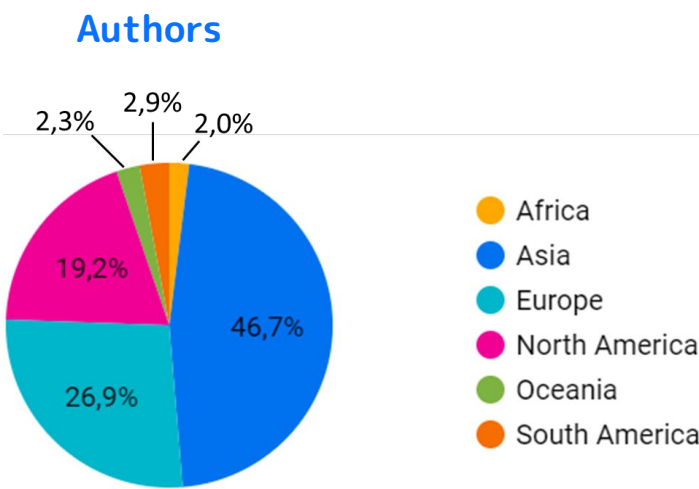
- Promotion of professional growth within the journal
- Attentiveness to gender and geographical balance when considering reviewers
- Editing special issues taking into account gender and/or geographical equality

Our goal with such an action is to raise awareness, and that the working group's recommendations become the starting point for discussions – at journal level, with editors, and at company level, among our colleagues and the company management – about actions that could be taken towards improved equality.

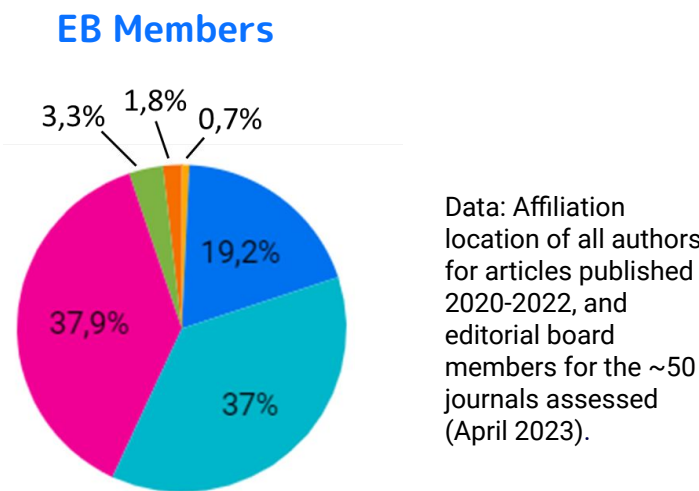


Geographical Distribution: Authors and Editors

Almost half of the authors publishing in IOS Press’ journals between 2020 and 2022 are affiliated with institutions in Asia (46.7%), while the other half is composed mostly of authors affiliated with European and North American institutions (26.9% and 19.2%, respectively). The remaining ~7% is more or less evenly distributed between South America (2.9%), Oceania (2.3%), and Africa (2.0%).



Looking at the ~50 journals assessed at board level, most editorial board members are affiliated with institutions in North America (37.9%) and Europe (37%). The third most represented continent is Asia, where 19.2% of the editorial board members are affiliated. Oceania, South America, and Africa sum ~6% (3.3%, 1.8%, and 0.7%, respectively).

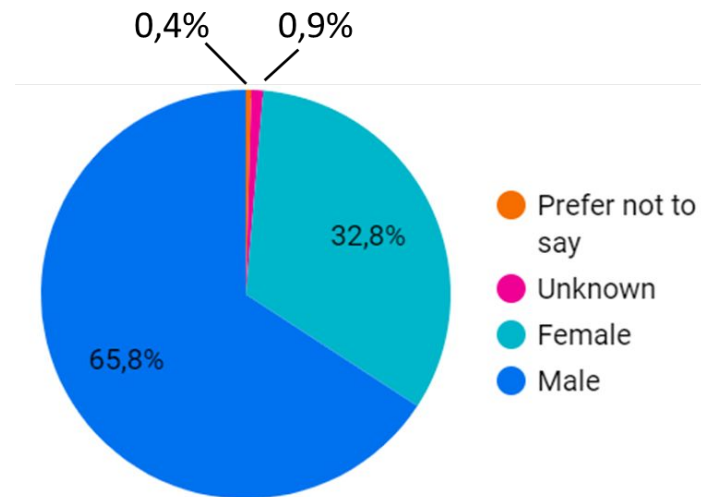


In an effort to achieve a better balance worldwide, editors are being invited to expand editorial boards and establish partnerships with researchers in the least represented parts of the globe. At the same time, IOS Press makes sure that [Research4Life](#) access to publish is incentivized in journals that charge article publishing charges.



Gender Distribution: Editors

Research reveals that women are often under-represented at board level [7] and in the peer-review process [8]. At IOS Press, we invite editors to consider whether any actions could be taken for their journals. Approximately 55% of all our journals have been analyzed for gender balance, showing that the editorial boards of those journals are predominantly male. Men account for 65.8% of editorial board members, while women represent 32.8%. 0.4% preferred not to say, and the other 0.9% did not respond.



Data: Editorial board members for the ~50 journals assessed (April 2023).

How do we collect geographical data from all authors?

The working group uses [LD Connect](#) to gather information publicly available in the articles published by IOS Press, such as authors' names and affiliations. The search tool allows us to gain an overview of all authors publishing in our journals throughout the years.

IOS Press  LD Connect



SDG 12

Responsible Consumption and Production

Focusing on our priorities for SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), we have committed to drastically reducing the amount of paper that we print and are investigating moving to a more ecologically-sound approach of prioritizing electronic services.

The main target is to reduce print materials. After assessing the current print situation of our journals, we have significantly reduced the number of print copies. In 2024, 30% of our journals will no longer have a print version, being digitally available only. Moreover, the working group reaches out to journal managers, editors, and marketers to raise awareness about responsible consumption and production and reduce where possible.



Sustainable Marketing

Sustainability is considered before new partnerships or contracts are initiated. Linking in with SDG 12, we also advocate for using “green”/eco approaches when opting for our newly branded letterhead, business cards, and other materials for conferences. The use of flyers and digital items on a booth will reduce the amount of paper waste and lessen our impact on the environment. Read more about our sustainable marketing efforts in the blog post [Sustainable Marketing at IOS Press: A Journey Towards Sustainable Marketing](#) [4].



SDG 13 & SDG 17

Climate Action & Partnerships for the Goals

In 2022, we started using a structured approach for our organizational focus on sustainability relating to SDG 13 (climate action). To achieve this goal, we have partnered with [Coolset](#) (former Greencast) to assess and monitor IOS Press' carbon footprint. This assessment allows us to strategically set targets for decreasing our carbon footprint. Moreover, we are looking into joining [The Climate Pledge](#), striving to make our company Net Zero by 2040.

Having like-minded partners working with us is extremely important if we want to fully implement our sustainable development plan; hence SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) is a central point for us to start a successful journey. Throughout 2023, the SDG working group assessed which current suppliers fall into this category. We also encouraged those that do not have a public sustainability statement or environmental policy to implement one. The measurements provided by Coolset also show us how much carbon our partners emit when providing services to us. This way, IOS Press can inform them and work collaboratively towards more sustainable approaches.



Notes

1. "IOS Press Looking to the Future: Sustainable Development Goals" by IOS Press SDG Working Group, IOS Press (2022):
https://www.iospress.com/sites/default/files/media/files/2022-10/IOSPress_SDG-report_2022.pdf.
2. "IOS Press Pursues Sustainable Development Goals via the Publishers Compact" by Gabriela Ricci, Labs (2023):
<https://labs.iospress.com/news-blog/ios-press-pursues-sustainable-development-goals-publishers-compact>.
3. "Shining the Spotlight on Women and Girls in Science" by Lauren Grieco, Labs (2023):
<https://labs.iospress.com/news-blog/shining-spotlight-women-and-girls-science>.
4. "Sustainable Marketing at IOS Press: A Journey Towards Sustainable Marketing" by Pim van Holst, Labs (2023):
<https://labs.iospress.com/news-blog/sustainable-marketing-ios-press-journey-towards-sustainable-marketing>.
5. "The Audacity of Hope for People and Planet: Rescue Plan for 2030 Sustainable Development Goals: Part – I" by Bharat H. Desai, Labs (2023):
<https://labs.iospress.com/news-blog/audacity-hope-people-and-planet-rescue-plan-2030-sustainable-development-goals-part-i>
6. "Identifying research supporting the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals" by Bamini Jayabalasingham, et al., Elsevier Data Repository, V1 (2019):
<https://doi.org/10.17632/87txkw7khs.1>.
7. "Gender Equity on Journal Editorial Boards" by Julie K. Silver, The Lancet (2019):
[https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736\(19\)31042-6](https://doi.org/10.1016/S0140-6736(19)31042-6).
8. "Research: Gender bias in scholarly peer review" by Markus Helmer, et al., eLife (2017): <https://elifesciences.org/articles/21718>.

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Sustainable Development Goals
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