

**Report of the Editors, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes*
James Krapfl, May 8, 2026**

Seventy years since its founding, *Canadian Slavonic Papers / Revue canadienne des slavistes* has become a big deal. In 2025, for the second year in a row, our journal had the highest impact factor of all interdisciplinary journals in Slavic, east European, and central Asian studies worldwide. Our publications were downloaded over 100,000 times over the course of the year, and we are attracting more and better submissions. This success is working in our favour this year as we negotiate a new contract with our publisher, Taylor & Francis, which has agreed to raise substantially its annual contribution to offset editorial expenses. Another highlight of the past year has been a search for a new editor. Ten individuals expressed interest, five of whom submitted applications; the nominating committee interviewed two. I'll leave it to the nominating committee to report the happy ending.

Whether we look to the quality and impact of our publications, our global reach, the dedication of our staff and partners, or our finances, *CSP/RCS* is in excellent shape and poised to continue the upward trajectory. This report summarizes the highlights.

Publication

Volume 67 (2025) contained a total of 530 pages, starting with a special double issue on “War and Religion in Ukraine.” In total we published 18 refereed articles, one thematic cluster introduction, a report, an interview, and a roundtable on the winner of the Association’s 2024 Taylor & Francis Book Prize (Natalie Kononenko’s *Ukrainian Ritual on the Prairies: Growing a Ukrainian Canadian Identity*), in addition to 36 book reviews. Of the 27 “core content” contributors, 15 were based in the United States, four in Canada, and three in Ukraine, with four other countries represented. Owing to the special issue theme, over a third of our articles were in religious studies, with four in history and two each in literature and anthropology; film studies, theology, international relations, and linguistics were also represented.

Mira Markham won our 2025 Article of the Year Award, sponsored by Taylor & Francis, for “Operation Velehrad, 1950: Communism, Catholicism, and Popular Tradition in Czechoslovakia,” while Pavlo Smytsnyuk earned honourable mention for “The Holy See’s Positive Neutrality and Conflict Mediation: Moral Dilemmas in the Russo-Ukrainian War.” The most frequently downloaded contribution to vol. 67 has been Heather Coleman’s and Catherine Wanner’s introduction to the “War and Religion” issue, with 1,684 downloads since it was published. The most frequently downloaded article of all since the beginning of our partnership with Taylor & Francis (and download tracking) in 2015 remains David Marples’ contribution to our 2022 flash forum, “Russia’s War Goals in Ukraine,” with 11,438 downloads.

Subscriptions and Readership

In 2025, over 3,200 institutions had access to the journal (the exact number is not yet available from Taylor & Francis). A few dozen were still through stand-alone subscriptions, but the vast

majority were through online “subject collection” subscriptions, such as T&F’s “Politics, International Relations, and Area Studies” and “Social Sciences and Humanities” library packages. Independently of the institutional subscriptions, all CAS members receive individual subscriptions; in 2025 there were 216 CAS members, down from 242 in 2014.

The best measure we have of readership is full-text downloads. We had over 100,000 downloads in 2025—our second-best year ever, following 2023. Readership remains high this year, and downloads from Taylor & Francis Online in the first quarter of 2026 were up 6% compared to the same period last year. Approximately 45% of downloads over the past year were in Europe with 38% in North America, consistent with long-term patterns. As usual, the U.S. accounted for the highest number of downloads, with Germany now replacing Canada in second place; the U.K. came third and Canada fourth, with China, the Netherlands, Australia, Ukraine, Poland, and Sweden rounding out the top ten. The largest number of downloads by institution was from Zhejiang University in China, followed by McGill, Toronto, University College London, and Beijing University. Taylor & Francis advises us that Chinese universities—especially Zhejiang—may have set up a system to download articles automatically, so their rankings may not indicate real research interest, as it presumably does in the other cases.

Taylor & Francis collects royalties and shares a portion with us. The full archive, updated to the latest issue, is available to all Association members at no charge on the journal’s page on the Taylor & Francis website. In order to maximize our royalties, members are encouraged to download articles as often as they need them, and to provide links for students to download articles directly from the Taylor & Francis site using their libraries’ subscriptions, rather than providing PDF copies.

Indexing and Impact

CSP/RCS is indexed by all the most important abstracting and indexing services in the humanities and social sciences, several of which also track citations and assign rankings to journals on that basis. The most prominent of these rankings is Clarivate’s “impact factor,” associated with the indexer’s “Web of Science,” and in 2025—for the second year in a row—*CSP/RCS* earned the highest impact factor of any interdisciplinary Slavic studies journal: 1.622. This metric measures how many times articles we published in 2022 and 2023 were cited in 2024 (the year prior to release of the data) in all journals that Clarivate indexes. Our extended impact factor—which counts the number of citations in 2024 to articles published in the preceding five years—was 1.064—meaning that every *CSP/RCS* article published in the last five years has been cited on average at least once in a journal that Clarivate indexes. Our metrics have also improved considerably in the Scopus database. Our “Cite Score,” which is Scopus’s equivalent of the impact factor, was 1.852—higher than it has ever been. The Cite Score counts citations in books as well as journal articles over a four-year period, making it more comprehensive than the impact factor. According to Scopus, we rank in the top 3% of all journals publishing in Literature and Literary Theory, the top 6% in History, the top 6% in Visual and Performing Arts, and the top 16% in Philosophy and Cultural Studies. We’re on track to receive an even higher CiteScore this year.

Driving much of the growing impact have been the thematic clusters *CSP/RCS* has published on topics of current interest, such as the 2022 forum on Russia's invasion of Ukraine, our 2023 forum on decolonization, and a 2024 thematic cluster on language, culture, and media in the war against Ukraine, which editorial board member Alla Nedashkivska proposed. Increasing impact is like investing: the more one has, the more one can get. The higher metrics are attracting more and better quality submissions, so the upward trend could become self-sustaining. CAS members are therefore encouraged to help maximize our returns by citing *CSP/RCS* wherever possible, by submitting high-quality manuscripts and encouraging colleagues to do the same, and by proposing thematic clusters.

Administration and Staffing

In January 2025, I agreed to return to the help of *CSP/RCS*, joining Rolf Hellebust as a co-editor. CAS President Lyudmila Parts made the interim appointment, which was confirmed at the 2025 AGM in Edmonton. We have continued to benefit from the administrative skills of Antony Kalashnikov, who has served as assistant editor since 2024, while Guillaume Sauvé, the previous assistant editor, continues to help with French-language content as an editorial assistant. We are supported by a strong team of associate editors: Heather Coleman, Piotr Kosicki, Inna Tigountsova (until the end of 2025), and Bojana Videkanić (since the start of 2026). Natalie Cornett continues her work as book review coordinator. We are particularly happy to report that Ela Rossmiller of Wilson College joined our team of book review editors in January, with responsibility for the Social Sciences. She has gotten off to strong start, brilliantly complementing the highly effective work of our veteran review editors: Jane Hacking for Language and Linguistics, Eva Plach for History, and Megan Swift for Literature and Culture. Assisting with office work and website maintenance have been also been two student assistants.

Thanks go to all these members of the *CSP/RCS* editorial staff, as well as to our editorial and advisory board members, who continue to render faithful service, recommending reviewers in their fields and often taking on the review of manuscripts that are difficult to place, offering opinions on editorial policy, and proposing special issues. Special thanks go to the board members who volunteered for this year's article prize jury: Maria Grazia Bartolini, Natalie Kononenko, and Brigitte Le Normand.

CAS members have, as always, made an essential contribution as book reviewers and article referees. We would especially like to thank those who have generously contributed their time and expertise to evaluate manuscripts submitted to *CSP/RCS*. Without their anonymous work, the standards of our collective enterprise would be impossible to maintain.

Agreement with Taylor & Francis

We are currently in an "extension year" of the contract we signed with Taylor & Francis in 2023, so last fall we began negotiating a new agreement. The discussions have been protracted, in part because Taylor & Francis's lawyers have been trying to "future-proof" contracts by including wording to address technologies that they are not yet using but might, particularly within the sphere of "artificial intelligence." We are therefore trying to find compromises that will ensure

that, whatever technological innovations may come into play, our rights and those of our authors will not be endangered. As always our contacts at Taylor & Francis have been remarkably pleasant to work with, and the negotiations have been entirely cordial. As a sign of their good will and the favour in which Taylor & Francis holds *CSP/RCS*, they have agreed to increase their yearly contribution to journal expenses by \$10,000—enough to cover an annual course release for the editor going forward. In exchange, however, we are being asked to publish more content: a minimum of 22 articles, reports, roundtables, or review articles and at least 40 book reviews or similarly short pieces.

Finances

The *CSP/RCS* Financial Report appears on the next page, reflecting our fiscal-year cash flow (i.e., income and expenses). An anomaly this year is that, due to the ongoing contract negotiations, Taylor & Francis has not yet sent us its contribution toward 2026 editorial expenses. As a result, our annual equity for the past year is only \$2,962.89 (including \$830 we collected for the Canadian Association of Ukrainian Studies). Other noteworthy shifts in the past year have been an increase in royalties and a marked jump in interest income, offset by higher outlays for wages and the editorial stipend. The royalty increase reflects not just more downloads, but primarily the fact that we published a higher-than-usual number of open-access articles (for which authors, institutions, or academic consortia pay fees). The returns of over \$9,000 on our investments spring from investment strategy we launched in 2024; our venture into mutual funds has been especially rewarding. The higher wage expenditures are partly a result of assistants claiming hours in this fiscal year for work done in the previous one, besides paying for additional student help. The total amount spent on wages is still below the average of the past 15 years, however. The increase in the editorial stipend (approved by the CAS Finance Committee) is a contingent consequence of the current co-editor situation.

Last year's 11% decline in membership meant a decline in membership revenue, though the silver lining is that it translated into a decrease in what we paid Taylor & Francis for members' subscriptions. To offset the publisher's production, distribution, and mailing expenses, we pay a set rate of \$25/member plus sales tax per volume for CAS members' subscriptions.

Overall, our finances are in excellent shape; our total equity on March 31, 2026 was \$312,968.97—a 45% increase over where we were five years ago. The health of our finances is important, because if the journal is to maintain its current level of quality and even publish more, considerable work will be required. A single course release only begins to compensate the editor for the amount of work involved, so for the enterprise to be sustainable, more help will have to be hired.

When the journal started out in 1956, it published just eight to ten articles in a single annual volume with limited availability. Now, as a quarterly, we publish more than twice as many articles in addition to book reviews, our reach is global, and our impact is undeniable. Happy anniversary!