

## EDITORIAL

*Otávio Morato, Editor-in-Chief*

After six issues published (2023/1, 2023/2, 2024/1, 2024/2, 2025/1, and the launch of 2025/2), our term, which began in May 2023, bids farewell to CAAP Journal with a sense of mission accomplished. Without further ado, I present a brief overview of these two years.

### 1. INDEXING

The Journal was indexed in more than **50 academic databases** (indexers, repositories, directories, aggregators, associations, etc.). A few examples include: **Scopus** (Netherlands), **SCImago Journal Rank/SJR** (Spain), **Latindex 2.0** (Mexico) – where we met 37 out of 38 criteria of excellence (97%), **EBSCO** (USA), **Philosopher's Index** (USA), **PhilPapers** (Canada), **Google Scholar** (USA), **HeinOnline** (USA), and **DOAJ** (Sweden). These and other indexes can be viewed in full in the colophon of this volume, as well as in the indexers section on our website.

### 2. PUBLISHED CONTENT

In the past two years, we have published **52 peer-reviewed academic articles** – all evaluated by PhD reviewers under double-blind review, and subsequently copyedited by our editorial team.

In every issue, we maintained a minimum of **50% of articles from institutions outside UFMG**. While we supported local production, we also valued exchange with other research centers.

In addition to the articles, we conducted **six exclusive interviews**: with Minister of Human Rights **Macaé Evaristo**, Supreme Court Justices **Francisco Rezek** and **Carlos Velloso**, and Professors **Sidarta Ribeiro**, **Humberto Theodoro Júnior**, and **Viviane Mosé** (the latter yet to be published). All published interviews were also made available in English.

### 3. FUNDING AND DOI ASSIGNMENT

During our term, **every publication received a DOI (Digital Object Identifier)**. We also retroactively assigned DOIs to articles from prior volumes **2021** and **2022**. DOIs are obtained through CrossRef, via ABEC (Brazilian Association of Scientific Editors), of which we have been members since 2024. This was made possible through funding from the UFMG Graduate Program in Law (PPGD-UFMG).

#### 4. RESTORATION OF REGULARITY AND TIMELINESS

Editorial flow was reestablished, and the Journal returned to a **biannual** publication schedule — something not seen since 2019 (only one issue per year was released in 2020, 2021, and 2022).

A historic milestone was reached regarding **timeliness**: in 2025/1, for the first time in decades, the journal was published at the beginning of the semester (January 2025). We repeated this achievement in 2025/2, launching the issue on July 1, 2025.

With one more issue published on time (2026/1, expected in January 2026), we will meet 100% of the 38 excellence criteria defined by **Latindex 2.0**.

#### 5. ESTABLISHMENT OF AN EXOGENOUS EDITORIAL BOARD

Following a comprehensive expansion of the Editorial Board, the Journal now includes **45 members — 40 of whom are international PhDs** in Law or related fields.

At present, we have board members from **over 20 countries** and **6 continents**.

With the inclusion of these scholars, **two-thirds of the board now comes from outside UFMG** — meeting a valuable criterion required by several indexers and the Brazilian Qualis system: exogeneity.

#### 6. COMMUNICATION: VISUAL IDENTITY, WEBSITE, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

In 2023, we redesigned the logo and visual identity, including a new website layout. The site has featured English versions of all its sections ever since. All news, interviews, and editorials we published were translated into **English**.

Likewise, every article published during our term included **English-language abstracts**.

Our **Instagram** following grew from 100 to **1,548** in two years. In the past month alone, posts from @revistadoacaap reached **over 20,000 views**. We launched the Journal's **LinkedIn** page (now with over **500** connections), reactivated **Facebook** (a platform still relevant for reaching readers and authors), and created a profile on **Academia.edu**, where article uploads increase security, visibility, and citation potential.

## 7. CREATION OF COMMITTEES AND INTERNAL MATERIALS

Over the past two years, we held **six editor recruitment processes**, welcoming more than **30 new members**. These editors were assigned to four committees: Processing, Indexing, Copyediting, and Communications.

Each committee received **manuals, control spreadsheets, and internal support materials**, all of which have been passed on to the incoming team.

## 8. INTERNATIONALIZATION

Over the last two years, we committed ourselves to the internationalization of the Journal. This is reflected in everything outlined above: extensive presence in international indexes, DOI assignment, publication of foreign articles, a transcontinental editorial board, abundant English-language content, and digital outreach.

More than a strategy for visibility or impact, **internationalization** is essential to the prestige of a journal and is a **highly valued** criterion in the Qualis evaluation system and for inclusion in indexers.

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## GOALS AND CHALLENGES

CAAP Journal is an **editorial training ground** where UFMG students gain hands-on experience with high-quality editorial practices. It is the responsibility of seasoned editors to pass down ideas and knowledge to ensure new generations preserve the quality of the Journal. With that in mind, I suggest a few short- to mid-term goals for our successors:

The first is to seek an **A-level rating in the Qualis evaluation** for the most recent four-year period (2021–2024). This will require attention to CAPES announcements, proper submission of required data, and challenging any unfair evaluations — a strategy that has proven effective in the past. Despite an upcoming restructuring of Qualis, its current criteria will likely continue to guide quality assessments in Brazil for years to come.

Another goal is to **pursue inclusion in Redalyc, JCR, JSTOR, Web of Science, Clarivate, and ProQuest**, in addition to any emerging indexers.

It is essential to **reapply for inclusion in DOAJ**. We were admitted in 2023 but removed in January 2025 due to a technical issue: the licensing policy for legacy content (1996–2022) stated that copyright belonged to the Journal — a clause not permitted by DOAJ, which requires authors to retain rights. The policy must be updated, and a **new application submitted** after the six-month exclusion period.

The **continuation of DOI assignment** depends on funding, currently provided by the PPGD. Funds must be requested in advance with proper justification to the Graduate Committee. The application – to be submitted by a postgraduate editor – should demonstrate the Journal’s importance for editorial training and its history of publications from PPGD faculty and students. It is also advisable to **assign DOIs retroactively** to all articles published from **1996 to 2020**.

Editors must also advocate for the **restructuring of the UFMG Journal Portal (“Portal dos Periódicos”)** – the university body responsible for supporting its journals – which still lacks adequate infrastructure for the quality of periodicals published at UFMG. Ongoing issues include: (a) a malfunctioning OAI protocol, which prevents indexing in platforms like OpenAIRE; (b) inaccurate download counts for our articles (we’ve demonstrated that the counter often stagnates or even decreases – frustrating for editors and authors alike); (c) frequent server outages.

Lastly, the Journal must avoid well-known harmful practices: publishing **content upon request** from colleagues or professors, accepting **conference proceedings**, publishing **non-scientific content** or **content that fails to meet editorial standards**, or **allowing external pressures** to compromise the **excellence** and **integrity** built over decades.

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I also extend my gratitude to all editors who contributed to this memorable term, especially: **Rodrigo Xavier** and **Francis Duarte**, Associate Editors who shared major responsibilities with me; and to **Laís Barreto** and **Gabriella Murici**, talented colleagues who now rightfully assume leadership of the Journal.

Belo Horizonte, July 2025.