Information for Contributors

Please Read Carefully Before Submitting Any Manuscript

Psychological Science encourages submission of papers from all fields—including cognitive science, neuroscience, linguistics, and social sciences—that are relevant to psychological research, theory, or applications. Preference is given to articles that are deemed to be of general theoretical significance or of broad interest across specialties of psychology and related fields, and that are written to be intelligible to a wide range of readers.

Types of Articles Published

General Articles. General Articles (up to 5,000 words) may (1) give perspectives on problems, issues, or new developments pertaining to psychology in public affairs, government, or environmental or social problems of broad concern; (2) review new developments in one field of research that would be of interest to readers in other fields; (3) present a tutorial or critical review of literature on a research problem or research method. General Articles are not empirical papers or meta-analyses; they should include an abstract of no more than 150 words; the reference list cannot exceed 30 items; and figures and tables should occupy no more than a printed page.

Research Articles. Research Articles (up to 4,000 words) may present new theory, new data, new methods, or any combination of these. They must be written to be intelligible to a relatively broad readership. Psychological Science does not normally provide for the primary publication of extensive empirical studies with the full presentation of methods and data that is standard for the more specialized research journals. Broad theoretical significance and interdisciplinary interest are major criteria for acceptance. A Research Article should include an abstract of no more than 150 words and a maximum of 40 items in the reference list.

Research Reports. Short reports (up to 2,500 words) are expected to present new research findings and will be favored if they present innovations in approach or method. The report should include an abstract of no more than 150 words and a reference list not exceeding 30 items. Accepted Research Reports will generally be published more quickly than accepted Research Articles.

Short Reports, Commentaries, and Letters. Short Reports (up to 1,000 words) may present brief experiments of broad interest. Commentaries (up to 1,000 words) and letters (up to 500 words) may discuss problems of general interest to psychological and social scientists or may criticize or supplement articles or reports previously published in Psychological Science. None of these have abstracts. They are also limited to one figure or table.

Preparation and Submission of Manuscripts

Authors may correspond with the Editor via e-mail. The address is psychsci@cornell.edu. Manuscripts should be addressed to the Editor, Psychological Science, James Cutting, Department of Psychology, Uris Hall, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY 14853-7601, USA.

The title page of a submitted manuscript MUST contain a word count and the mailing address, phone number, and e-mail address of the author to whom communications about the manuscript should be directed.

A manuscript may be submitted in duplicate by regular mail or courier. Alternatively, a manuscript may be submitted for initial screening by e-mail as a pdf or Word file; if it is approved for review, duplicate hard copy will be requested. Included with the submission should be a letter of transmittal stating that the material has not been published and is not under consideration for publication elsewhere. It will be presumed that all listed authors of a manuscript have agreed to the listing and have seen and approved the manuscript. The letter of transmittal may include the names, institutions, e-mail addresses, and research specialties of up to six persons outside the author’s institution who have not collaborated with the author(s) and who are qualified to referee the paper. An effort will be made to obtain at least one referee from the author’s list. Investigations on human subjects must include a statement indicating that the rights of the subjects were protected, and that applicable human research subjects guidelines were followed. Investigations on experimental animals must indicate that their care was in accord with institutional guidelines.

The style of the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, 5th edition, must be followed with respect to handling of references, footnotes, tables and figures, and abbreviations and symbols. Permission from the copyright owner should be included for use of any figure previously published elsewhere. Authors should include effect-size information in the reports of their major findings.

Statistics

Effect sizes should accompany major results. In addition, authors are encouraged to use $p_{rep}$ rather than $p$ values (see the article by Killeen in the May 2005 issue of Psychological Science, Vol. 16, pp. 345–353). Thus, typical statistical reports would follow formats like these:

- $t(50) = 2.68, p_{rep} = .95, d = 0.76$;
- $F(1, 30) = 4.69, p_{rep} = .90, \eta^2 = .133$; or
- $\beta = .61, p_{rep} = .99, d = 1.36$.

When relevant, bar and line graphs should include distributional information, usually confidence intervals or standard errors of the mean.

Text and Graphics Files

After a manuscript is accepted for publication, the author must supply a single electronic file for the text and tables (Word or WordPerfect), plus a separate file for each figure. Figures must be in EPS or TIFF file format, at a resolution of at least 300 dpi. If, for some reason, the electronic file for a figure cannot be used, hard copy will be scanned. Final figures may be modified to conform to journal style. Authors who wish to reproduce figures in color should bear in mind that color work is expensive, and we have no option but to have authors pay these costs.

Review and Selection of Manuscripts

On receipt, a manuscript is appraised by the Editor and/or an Associate Editor for its conformity to the overall guidelines and preferences of the journal. Authors who submit manuscripts deemed unsuitable or likely not to be competitive for limited publication space will be notified of this decision within 2 weeks of receipt. Authors whose manuscripts pass screening will be asked for electronic copy. These manuscripts will then be reviewed by outside referees and the author notified of acceptance, rejection, or need for revision, usually within 8 to 12 weeks. Rejected manuscripts cannot be reconsidered unless resubmission following revision has been invited by the Editor.

Accepted papers are edited to improve readability and effectiveness of communication. When editing is extensive or when the author's meaning is not clear, the manuscript may be returned to the author for review and retyping before the article goes to press.

*Word counts must include the main text plus notes, acknowledgments, and appendices.