

# Instructions to Authors

GeroPsych

*GeroPsych* – *The Journal of Gerontopsychology and Geriatric Psychiatry* publishes innovative, original, high-quality research articles on normal, optimal or pathological human aging. The scope of the journal is defined by empirical and evidence-based methods, including clinical, experimental, and applied research. The journal welcomes manuscripts from all areas of fundamental and applied research related to adult development and human aging in the behavioral as well as the clinical context. To name just a few typical fields and domains of inquiry, *GeroPsych* considers manuscripts dealing with prevention and intervention, early diagnosis and treatment of dementia, depression, mental health, cognitive aging, risk and protective effects of social environments, motivation and personality across adulthood, including clinical, neurological, and methodological aspects of these topics. A criterion for publication is that research papers should link their findings to theoretical research questions, meaning, for reports and papers that are purely descriptive or speculative *GeroPsych* is not the appropriate outlet.

## Categories of Papers

All manuscripts are to be submitted electronically. An editorial decision on research papers will be made within 6 weeks.

- Full-length research reports include a quasi experimental or systematic field study or a series of at least two or more conclusive laboratory studies and may contain up to 8,000 words (including abstract, text, references, notes, and appendices).
- Short research reports reporting only one study may contain a maximum of 4,000 words. The word count for short articles comprises the text, notes, and appendices. Short research reports are acceptable only with the author's agreement not to submit a full report to another journal.
- Clinical case reports include a thorough, systematic, and indepth analysis of a new and innovative intervention or treatment that bears significant potential for new insights on a curing or treating a phenomenon of pathological mental or cognitive aging. Furthermore, the description of newly discovered clinical syndromes or treatment effects may be considered, provided they are presented with a clear hypothesis regarding the underlying pathophysiology. When submitting case reports, authors are required to ensure informed consent to publication from each of the patients described, or to obtain such consent from a legal guardian.
- Short reviews reporting innovative and previously unpublished theoretical approaches and models, intervention or prevention programs, meta-analyses, and innovative narrative reviews may contain a maximum of 6,000 words. Theoretical articles should provide evaluative summaries of research findings, integrative accounts of ongoing research programs, or presentations of innovative theories and models of normal, optimal or pathological aging; they may also focus on methodological issues, relevant psychogeriatricians, geriatric psychiatrists and gerontopsychologist.

## Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts must be prepared strictly according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th edition). The manuscript cannot be published unless fully meeting the criteria of the APA Publication Manual. All articles and abstracts must be written in American English.

Double-space the entire text; for all other formatting instructions as well as instructions on preparing tables, figures, references, metrics, and abstracts please refer to the manual. If your manuscript was mask reviewed, please ensure that the final version for production includes a byline and full author note for typesetting.

## General Recommendation and Requirements

Authors are asked to bear in mind the multidisciplinary and international nature of the readership when writing their contribution. The stereotypical presentation of individuals or social groupings, including the use of ageist language, should be avoided. In particular, the term "the elderly" should not be used. Alternatives may include older adults, elders or older people.

## Ethics in Publishing

*GeroPsych* will not tolerate plagiarism in any form in submitted manuscripts. Text copied from copyrighted works from third parties or from the author's own published work, in any section of the manuscript, is unacceptable. Each submission to *Geropsych* undergoes a review for plagiarism. Manuscripts with excessive overlap with previously published articles are rejected without peer review. To avoid the overlap between your manuscript and previously published works, please cite the relevant articles as references.

## Conflicts of Interest

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with third parties within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. Authors must declare any such conflict in the questionnaire accompanying the manuscript submission via the Editorial Manager and in the "Conflict of Interest" section of the manuscript itself.

## Studies Involving Humans

Research involving human participants and clinical trials must have been approved by the author's institutional review board. Authors must include in the Methods section a brief statement identifying the institutional and/or licensing committee approving the experiments.

For all experiments involving human participants, authors must also include a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from all participants, or provide a statement why this was not necessary. All experiments must have been conducted according to the principles expressed in the Declaration of Helsinki. For animal studies, authors must report the species, strain, sex, and age of the animals.

Identifying information shall not be included in any part of the paper, unless it is essential for scientific purposes and written informed consent for publication in the print and electronic version has been obtained.

If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning and editors should note so.

## Studies Involving Animals

All experiments on live vertebrates or higher invertebrates must be performed in accordance with relevant institutional and national guidelines and regulations. A statement identifying the committee approving the experiments and confirming that all experiments conform to the relevant regulatory standards must be included in the Methods section of the submission.

# Manuscript Submission

Submissions are only accepted online on [www.editorialmanager.com/Gero-Psych](http://www.editorialmanager.com/Gero-Psych). Please follow the online instructions for submission. Should you have any questions regarding this process, please contact the publisher. The submission of manuscripts implies that neither the manuscript nor any component of it has already been published or is currently under consideration by another journal.

## Review Process

Based on the title and abstract, two or more reviewers will be requested to open review the manuscript. For research articles, the reviewers will be asked to complete their review within 3 to 4 weeks. The acting editor makes an editorial decision and notifies the corresponding author of the result, usually within 3 working days of receiving the reviewers' feedback. There are four kinds of decisions: accept, accept conditionally (on minor changes), revise and resubmit, and reject. Rejected manuscripts can be resubmitted after substantial revision, but they will be treated as new manuscripts. The entire review process is completely reliant on electronic communication in order to ensure speedy processing.

## Anonymous Review

Anonymous review is available on request. This should be indicated on the cover letter and designated in the submission process. In this case, manuscripts should be prepared so as to conceal the identity of the author(s). The cover page and footnotes identifying author(s) should be omitted. Manuscripts, which are not prepared in this manner will receive open review.

## Access to the article

With the first online publication of each accepted article the corresponding author is granted access to the publisher's version of the article with the possibility to download it (PDF). This version is for personal use only, which includes the distribution to the co-authors.

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