Call for Papers

Media Use and Well-Being: New Perspectives on the Risks and Benefits of Media Exposure

A Special Issue of the *Journal of Media Psychology*

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The growing influence of media in our daily lives is hard to overlook: Media content in the form of communication, information, and entertainment demands a significant share of our leisure time and waking hours. Online and mobile media have further extended the scope of traditional mass media and make media content and computer-mediated communication available at any time and at any place. Concerns about the effects of this massive media exposure on the users’ well-being have been a significant driver of research since the early days of our discipline. Whereas the research agenda on media effects has long been dominated by a focus on the negative and unintended implications of media use, more recent research has also started to explore the numerous beneficial effects of media exposure, such as inducing elevation and other positive emotions via “meaningful entertainment”, media as a facilitator of social interaction and support, or media use in recovery and the restoration of resources. The heterogeneity of the existing evidence in this research tradition suggests a complex relationship between media use and well-being. Consequently, gaining a better understanding of the underlying processes that drive media effects on well-being, or the situational and individual differences which may make some users more vulnerable to the risks and others more susceptible to the benefits of media use, remains a crucial challenge for the field of media psychology.

The aim of this special issue is to showcase state-of-the-art research that provides innovative insight into the interplay of media use and well-being. Research submitted for publication in the special issue should thus:

- Address the relationship between the use of traditional or new and interactive media and psychological well-being. This includes research addressing hedonic forms of well-being (e.g., affect, satisfaction with life etc.) as well as eudaimonic well-being dimensions (e.g., satisfaction of intrinsic needs, psychological growth, meaning etc.) Given our focus on psychological well-being, we would prefer to exclude studies with a strict health, clinical/pathological or developmental focus, unless psychological mechanisms of well-being and media are of primary interest in the study.

- Provide new impulses and extend our understanding of the interaction of media use and well-being by revealing the underlying mechanisms (e.g., moderators or mediators) of these effects, exploring their mutual dynamics (e.g., reciprocal effects; longitudinal perspective and direction of effects), or by bridging the gap between theory and the “real life” (e.g., exploration of the interplay of media use and well-being in different life domains; development and evaluation of interventions that increase well-being through media applications etc.)

- Offer new perspectives or theoretical frameworks for describing and predicting relationships between media use and psychological well-being, bridging disciplinary gaps between health, psychology, media and communication science traditions.

Successful submissions should substantially extend prior theory and research rather than merely demonstrating singular effects of media use on well-being or supporting...
existing single effects. Submission of studies using innovative research designs (e.g., experience sampling or diary research, big data, tracking of media use data, etc.) is strongly encouraged.

**Manuscript Preparation and Submission**

We invite the submission of original empirical or theoretical contributions as well as empirical reviews or meta-analyses. Authors should prepare and submit an extended abstract (max. 1,000 words) of their work. Abstracts should include a theoretical outline, method(s) of the study/studies, as well as an overview of the results. Completed research only will be considered, no ongoing or prospective studies without results will be accepted. Please send your abstracts to leonard.reinecke@uni-mainz.de.

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**Deadline for the submission of abstracts is June 15, 2016**

The editors will make a selection from the submitted abstracts. Authors of promising abstracts will receive an invitation to submit full papers for the special issue by July 15, 2016. Full papers have to be submitted no later than October 15, 2016. Articles will be peer reviewed and a decision rendered within 50 days. The target publication date for the special issue is the third issue in 2017. Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the journal’s author guidelines (available on the journal's website at http://www.hogrefe.com/periodicals/journal-of-media-psychology/).

Questions about this special issue can be directed to Leonard Reinecke (leonard.reinecke@uni-mainz.de) and Allison Eden (a.l.eden@vu.nl), Special Issue Editors.