Instructions to Authors

Journal of Media Psychology

Theories, Methods, and Applications
Journal of Media Psychology (JMP) is committed to publishing original, high-quality papers which cover the broad range of media psychological research. This peer-reviewed journal focuses on how human beings select, use, and experience various media as well as how media (use) can affect their cognitions, emotions, and behaviors. Submissions must substantially advance the current state-of-the-art on a theoretical and/or an empirical level. To name just a few typical fields and domains of inquiry, the Journal of Media Psychology considers manuscripts dealing with research on entertainment, computer-mediated communication (including social media), human-computer interaction, e-learning, computer and video games, virtual environments, or advertising. The journal is also open to research from neighboring disciplines as far as this work ties in with psychological concepts of the uses and effects of the media. Submissions of comparative work, e.g., cross-media, cross-gender, or cross-cultural, are encouraged. Moreover, submissions including alternative analysis procedures such as the Bayesian approach are welcome. The pre-registration of research plans will also be possible. To ensure short turn-around cycles for manuscript review and fast publication, the Journal of Media Psychology relies heavily upon electronic communication and information exchange, starting from electronic submission and continuing throughout the entire review and production process.

Journal of Media Psychology publishes the following types of articles

Original Research Papers, regardless of methodology, may contain up to 8,000 words, including abstract, text, references, notes, appendices, as well as figures and tables. An allowance for any tables and figures should be deducted from the above depending on their size (approximately 200 words per quarter print page).

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In a first round of review, the proposal will be judged by its theoretical contribution, plausibility of hypotheses, and soundness of the methodological and analysis plan. If it is evaluated positively in this round, the study receives an “in principle” acceptance (potentially with recommendations by editor and reviewers). Subsequently, within 6 months, authors are asked to conduct the pre-registered study. Data files should be appropriately time stamped to show that data was collected after the in-principle acceptance and not before. Any deviation from the stated methodological procedures, regardless of how minor it may seem to the authors, may lead to summary rejection of the manuscript (in cases of unforeseen circumstances authors may consult the corresponding editor for advice).

After completion of the study, authors submit the second part of their work (containing an additional maximum of 2,000 words) presenting and discussing their results. After this step, the manuscript (with a total of 8,000 words including abstract, text, references, notes, appendices, and an allowance for any tables and figures depending on their size) will be published regardless of whether the initial hypotheses are supported by the data or not. However, the second part will also undergo a review round in order to evaluate whether the results and discussion sections meet the standards of the journal.

Please consider that also this second review round may result in a major revision of the empirical part of the paper. For this category of submission, please consider that the hypotheses and methods that were proposed initially have to be reported in the final article. Statistical post-hoc analyses that go beyond the first plan are possible, but should be explained in a detailed letter to the editor and reviewers when submitting the second part of the manuscript.

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All manuscripts are subject to anonymous peer review. An editorial decision on research papers will be made within 8 weeks. Based on the title and abstract, two or more reviewers will be requested to review the manuscript. Reviewers will be asked to complete their review within 4 weeks. The editor responsible for the manuscript makes his or her editorial decision and notifies the corresponding author of the result, usually within 2 working days after receiving the reviewers’ feedback. For original research papers, theoretical articles, and research reports, there are three kinds of decisions: accept, revise and resubmit (with either major or minor revisions), 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.

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