

EDITORIAL

Letter from the new Editor-in-Chief

I am pleased to write this Editorial for the fourth issue of 2017 and my first as Editor-in-Chief. I begin my editorship at an exciting time in the journal's history. Now in its sixth decade of publication, the *International Journal of Psychology (IJP)* celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2015 with a virtual issue that included some of the most highly cited articles published since *IJP*'s inception. Thanks to outgoing Editor-in-Chief, Rainer K. Silbereisen, a strong Editorial Board, and staff, the journal is changing hands in good health. The journal's impact factor is 1.8 (a steady increase over the past 4 years). The average time to first decision is just 54 days, and the acceptance rate in 2016 was 17%. Most important, we have and will continue to see articles and sections of thematic interest to psychologists around the world.

We have an excellent new editorial team for which I am grateful, and an Editorial Board of psychological scholars from around the world who represent the diversity of our discipline. Our Associate Editors (AEs) also reflect that diversity. I am pleased that Liqi Zhu (China; developmental psychology) has kindly agreed to continue as AE, and we welcome two new AEs: Joop de Jong (Netherlands; cross-cultural psychology) and Timothy Piehler (USA; methodology, clinical psychology, and prevention science). Over the next few months, two additional AEs will join our team, for a total of five associate editors to help manage the flow of approximately 500 new submissions that come to the journal each year.

My goals for the *IJP* are threefold: to increase the journal's *impact*, *visibility* and *accessibility*. First, I intend to maintain and strengthen the journal's standing in the world of psychology by enhancing its *impact*. This will require contributions from a wide range of psychological scholars interested in sharing their work at a broad international level. Of course, this does not solely apply to those interested in cross-cultural psychology. Psychological findings in all areas of psychology, including, but not limited to social, developmental, clinical, educational, industrial/occupational psychology, neuroscience, learning and memory, and related fields are strongly welcomed.

The *impact* of the journal will also be strengthened if we address issues of strong relevance for psychology today; for example, addressing the replicability crisis and harnessing technology for the benefit of psychological science. Psychology has long suffered from a crisis of

replicability—that is, an inability to replicate findings (see, e.g., Open Science Collaboration, 2015). Journals have been unwittingly complicit in this by refusing to accept articles that include replications because of an emphasis on publishing novel studies. Here at *IJP*, we are interested in international and cross-cultural/contextual replications of findings that have had scant opportunity or evidence for replicability. Replications of interest include not only basic research studies but also prevention and intervention research. The article by Novak, Mihic, Basic, and Nix (2017) in Issue 2's special section on Advances in Psychological Prevention and Treatment Interventions to Promote Children's Mental Health provides a good example. The authors report results of a replication of a US-developed evidence-based prevention program for school-aged children in Croatia, finding some discrepant outcomes, which they attribute to the cultural and historical context of the country and its political transition.

With rapid technological and related scientific advances, "big data" are increasingly available. Psychologists are now able to access very large datasets and to use them to answer questions that have hitherto been difficult to answer in small, often underpowered studies. I encourage those of you who have access to large national and particularly cross-national datasets, and those of you who have access to data at multiple levels of analysis (e.g., genetic, physiological, behavioural, interpersonal) to consider submitting your work to *IJP*. Methodology papers also are welcomed, such as those highlighting innovations in the design and analysis of psychological research. One example is Garcia-Huidobro and Oakes' article (2017) in Issue 2 of this year about causal analysis, which is a tool for modelling causality when one is in a situation of not having access to strong data for inferring cause (i.e., true experiments or randomised controlled trials). Another example is last year's special section on Cultural Differences in Survey Responding (Kimmelmeier, 2016), which highlights the intersection of methodology and cultural context. See, for example, Smith and colleagues' article examining variations in response styles and their cultural and intra-individual correlates in 33 countries (Smith et al., 2016).

We are living in a time of significant upheaval, for which the field of psychology has a great deal to offer. The flow of migrants and refugees around the world continues to increase. Indeed, since 2000, the number of migrants

worldwide has grown 41%, a rate faster than the growth of the world's population (United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, 2015). Last year saw a recent record in the number of refugees forcibly displaced from their homes due to war and civil unrest. Populations in several countries have indicated their displeasure in liberal democracy by voting for isolationist and autocratic leaders. Natural disasters continue to increase and disproportionately affect certain regions of the world. Psychologists are responding to these events with the support of the International Union of Psychological Science (IUPsyS). For example, IUPsyS and its partners have sponsored workshops to train psychologists in the Asia-Pacific region in the conduct of basic and intervention research after disasters to support individuals, families, and communities (<http://www.iupsys.net/events/capacity-building-workshops/index.html>). A symposium sponsored by IUPsyS and partners at the European Congress of Psychology this summer will focus on psychosocial reactions to migrants and refugees.

The current issue of the *IJP* has a strong focus on psychological science related to these issues with five articles focused on attitudes and behaviour towards outgroups, social discrimination, and adjustment following war. For example, López-Rodríguez, Cuadrado, and Navas (2017) demonstrate the importance of perceptions of similarity for positive behaviour towards immigrants. Their three studies, conducted with almost 400 Spanish adults, revealed that quality of contact mediated the association between perceived similarity and facilitative behaviour towards immigrants. Perceived similarity was associated with lower symbolic threat, and, in turn, higher quality of contact, and more facilitative behaviour towards Moroccan, Ecuadorean, and Romanian immigrants. Similarly, Zagefka and colleagues, in their article "To know you is to love you ..." (2017), demonstrate how intergroup contact is associated with reductions in prejudice among indigenous Chileans, via increased knowledge of the outgroup, and reduced intergroup anxiety. Roberts and colleagues from four European countries tested the Situationism Scale (developed and previously validated only in the USA) among more than 1100 young adults in Western, Eastern, and Southern Europe (2017). Situationism, which refers to a person's beliefs about the relationship between that individual's behaviour and the environmental context, was found to differ across countries: higher in more interdependent cultures (Eastern Europe) and lower in less interdependent cultures (Western Europe, with one exception). Pinazo and Bresó (2017) report results of a randomised trial of a mindfulness-based intervention aimed at improving intergroup acceptance by increasing non-judgement, non-reactivity, and self-observation. Though extensive evidence already exists for the salutary effects of mindfulness interventions for a range of individual mental and physical health outcomes, little research

has focused on the applications of mindfulness training for the reduction of social discrimination.

How can *IJP* remain visible at a time in which there are over 100 peer-reviewed psychology journals? One way to increase *visibility* is to highlight the value of the journal to the national member organisations of IUPsyS, and their constituent members, by being present and showcasing our work online, at the Congresses, and at regional meetings. Please do check out the *IJP* app for iPhones: <https://itunes.apple.com/us/app/international-journal-psychology/id1107993710?ls=1&mt=8> with an Android version coming soon. See the videocasts introducing our special sections on the *IJP* home page, and look for an increased social media presence for the journal. And please consider that there are various ways to increase the visibility of your *IJP* articles, including the creation of a video abstract—a short video introduction to your article. Details will be provided to authors when their papers are accepted for publication.

The vibrancy of psychology depends upon the level of its discourse. I plan to increase *accessibility* to our discourse by encouraging early career scholars and those from countries typically underrepresented in published psychological research to submit their best research to *IJP*. In order to accomplish this goal, we plan to develop a mentored writing and reviewing program by recruiting several senior, well-published scholars, who are willing to mentor and assist early career scholars interested in submitting to and/or reviewing for *IJP*. We will start with a small mentored review program for early career scholars who will be mentored by senior researchers and who each will commit to a minimum of three to five reviews each year. Stay tuned for more details on both these programs; applications will be available on the *IJP* website later this year.

IJP has for some time been moving towards increasing access to its content by offering both paid and gratis open access options for publication, as well as providing a fully open access issue each year available for 12 months. In addition, some institutions and funders have agreements with our publisher, Wiley, that help affiliated authors with open access article publication charges. You can discover if your institution will cover your open access fees at <https://authorservices.wiley.com/author-resources/Journal-Authors/licensing-open-access/open-access/institutional-funder-payments.html>.

To further our aims in this arena, based upon the value that openness is core to good science, we are offering authors the opportunity to identify their willingness to share their data or their materials (e.g., analyses) with other researchers, and to denote whether their study was preregistered in a clinical trials or other database to increase the integrity of the research. It is my hope that these practices will increase not only the quality of our submissions but also potential collaborations to advance psychological science across the world.

Special sections of the journal are crucial to expanding our readership and—by extension—our impact on the field. Special sections enable the journal to focus on an issue that is timely and relevant to psychological and societal issues. I encourage you to take a look at the five special sections published over the 2 years since *IJP*'s 50th anniversary. For example, the special section on Youth and the Great Recession (Schoon & Mortimer, 2017) addresses issues related to adolescent and young adult identity, economic insecurity, and values, in the context of the largest global recession since World War II. Please consider proposing a special section on a topic of your choosing; email me with your ideas and I will share them with our editorial team.

What can the journal offer to those submitting manuscripts? First, we are committed to an efficient submission process. You can expect a first decision anywhere from 6 to 12 weeks from submission. Second, all accepted manuscripts are published “online first,” which vastly shortens time to publication; articles are online just 1 month, on average, after acceptance. If you would like to submit to *IJP*, please refer to the author guidelines on our website ([http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/\(ISSN\)1464-066X/homepage/ForAuthors.html](http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/journal/10.1002/(ISSN)1464-066X/homepage/ForAuthors.html)).

It is important that papers be written in clear, coherent English, and be the original work of the author.

We cannot accept papers with a high degree of similarity or overlap with other papers (even those written by the author). Finally, the topic of the article must be of relevance to *IJP*'s broad readership. For example, papers reporting on the translation of a measure or its adaptation to a single language or country are typically not appropriate for *IJP* unless there is a larger cross-cultural goal or relevance to the study. We strongly encourage papers that examine data at multiple levels of analysis—from genome to behaviour, as well as robust studies that do not rely solely on individual self-report but instead provide multiple method and multiple informant data to address a psychological question. Cross-sectional studies offer us a snapshot in time, but longitudinal studies capture change and are thus often preferable for the examination of psychological processes. True experiments, such as randomised controlled trials (i.e., intervention and prevention studies), provide us the only way to truly establish causality among relationships. We welcome basic and applied research across the diverse fields within psychology, including but certainly not limited to the examples described above.

I look forward to a fruitful and productive term as Editor-in-Chief of *IJP*. Please do not hesitate to contact me with your comments and ideas: agewirtz@umn.edu.

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