

Advice for authors

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 behavioural 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, that is, for reports and papers that are purely descriptive or speculative the Journal 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 six 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 between a maximum of 4,000 words. The word count for short articles comprises the text, notes, and appendices. Short research reports are only acceptable with the author's agreement not to submit a full report to another journal
- *Clinical case reports* include a thorough, systematic, and in-depth 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 that 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 must obtain such consent from a legal guardian.
- Short reviews reporting innovative and not yet published theoretical approaches and models, intervention or prevention programs, meta-analyses and innovative narrative reviews may contain a maximum of 6,000 words. Theoretical articles 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

All manuscripts must be prepared according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th edition). All manuscripts may be copyedited for bias-free language (see Chapter 2 of the Publication Manual). Double-space all copy. Other formatting instructions, as well as instructions on preparing tables, figures, references, metrics, and abstracts appear in the Manual. Note that the journal publishes colored material after consultation with the editors and exceptionally only.

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.

Journal’s language

All articles and abstracts must be in North-American English. The journal accepts additional abstracts in another language of the author’s choice (preferably in one of the 15 most spoken languages of the world). However, such abstracts are optional. Authors would need to supply such abstracts themselves, certify that they are a faithful translation of the official abstract, and they must be supplied in Unicode (see www.unicode.org for details), especially if they are using non-roman characters.

Conflict of interest

Authors are solely responsible for disclosing all financial and personal relationships between themselves and others that might bias their work. Authors must state explicitly whether potential conflicts do or do not exist. Authors are requested to describe the role of the study sponsor(s), if any, in study design, in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data, in the writing of the report and in the decision to submit the report for publication. If the supporting source had no such involvement, the authors should so state.

Manuscript submission

Submissions are only accepted online at www.editorialmanager.com/GeroPsych. Please follow the online instructions for submission. Should you have any queries regarding this process, please contact Stefan Schuepbach: geropsych@geronto.uni-erlangen.de

Submission of manuscripts is taken to imply that neither the manuscript nor any component of it has already been published or is currently under consideration by another journal.

Manuscript format

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). Once a manuscript is accepted for press, authors will have to prepare the manuscript format in full accordance with the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (5th ed.). Manuscript will not go to press unless fully meeting the criteria of the APA publication manual. If your manuscript was mask reviewed, please ensure that the final version for production includes a byline and full author note for typesetting.

Review process

Based on the title and abstract, two or more reviewers will be requested to review the manuscript. In the case of a research article, the reviewers will be asked to complete their review within three to four weeks. The acting editor makes an editorial decision and notifies the corresponding author of the result, usually within three working days of receiving the reviewers’ feedback. There are four kinds of decisions: accept, accept conditionally (on minor changes), revise & 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. Manuscripts, in this case, should be prepared to conceal the identity of the author(s). The cover page and footnotes that identify the author(s) should be omitted. Manuscripts not prepared in this manner will receive open review.