

# Instructions to Authors

Journal of Media Psychology

Theories, Methods, and Applications

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*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).

*Theoretical Articles* provide state-of-the-art overviews of research in pertinent areas, or presentations of innovative theories and models for media psychology; they may also focus on methodological issues relevant for the discipline. The specifications are the same as for original research papers.

*Research Reports* will typically focus on methods, such as the development of a new questionnaire, or they may feature smaller empirical studies (incl. reporting of incidental findings, or findings that are potentially interesting but in need of robust replication and extension). Research reports may contain up to 4,000 words, again including abstract, text, references, notes, appendices, and an allowance for any tables and figures depending on their size (approximately 200 words per quarter print page). *Authors are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief about the editorial scope of research reports.*

*Replication Reports* present the results of studies conducted as either exact or conceptual replications of already published research. The original research to be replicated can have been published in any journal, including but not limited to *JMP*, and must feature a clear and important contribution to media psychology. Extensions to replicated studies (e.g.,

inclusion of additional independent or dependent, mediating or moderating variables) are permitted, but must not be the main element of the manuscripts. Submissions to the replication reports track should include a brief literature review that summarizes both the context of the research area and the original publication, and presents a clear rationale for the necessity of the replication work; this rationale should discuss the theoretical and/or practical consequences for the replication results (i.e., how a successful replication or a failure to replicate would inform scholarship in the relevant research area). Replication reports may contain up to 4,000 words, with other specifications similar to Research Reports (see above). Replication reports are evaluated primarily based on the rationale for the replication effort, methodological rigor (for exact replications, the extent to which the replication effort adheres to the original publication; for conceptual replications, the extent to which the replication effort reliably and validly extends the scope of the original publication), statistical power, analytical rigor, and a reflection of how the study results impact the focal research area. Discussion sections of replication reports must address theoretical perspectives (e.g., if a replication is motivated by changes in mainstream media ecologies and use, psychological-theoretical implications of such changes should be developed and discussed in the manuscript).

*Registered Reports:* As an alternative to the other submission categories, authors have the opportunity to “register” a research idea before data are collected. For this purpose, authors are called to submit a proposal for a scientific question (with a maximum of 6,000 words; including abstract, text, references, notes, appendices, as well as figures and tables), elaborating on the theoretical background, hypotheses, a detailed methodological and a complete analysis plan (including exclusion criteria, e.g., procedures for defining outliers). In the methodological section, planned sample sizes should be calculated based on power analyses. Moreover, authors are allowed to report results from pre-tests that were already conducted. Please submit any stimulus material, questionnaires and/or codebooks you wish to use in your research in an independent institutional registry (e.g., <https://www.psycharchives.org/>; <http://osf.io>). The content may be embargoed until the article is published. Note that this is supplementary material, not being part of the proposal with a maximum of 6,000 words.

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.

## Open Science Badges

*Journal of Media Psychology* has implemented the Open Science Badges recommended by the Center for Open Science (<https://www.cos.io/initiatives/badges>). At time of submission, authors can indicate whether their manuscript was pre-registered and whether their manuscript includes supplemental resources for sharing study materials and study data. Note that the pre-registered badge can still be claimed even if a manuscript was not submitted as a Registered Report through our system. *Authors are encouraged to contact the Editor-in-Chief about the eligibility requirements for Open Science Badges.*

## Manuscript Submission

All manuscripts should be submitted online at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/jmp>.

Please follow the online instructions for submission. Should you have any technical queries regarding this process, please contact Juliane Munson, Hogrefe Publishing (E-mail [production@hogrefe.com](mailto:production@hogrefe.com), Tel. +49 551 99950-422).

Please direct any editorial questions to the editorial office:

**[jmp.comc@ttu.edu](mailto:jmp.comc@ttu.edu)**

## Review Process

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.

## Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with conventions listed in the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.).

The first page should contain the title of the article, names of authors and affiliation(s), a running title, and an address for correspondence, including telephone and fax numbers and e-mail address. The second page should contain an abstract (not exceeding 250 words) which should be intelligible without recourse to the main text, and up to 5 keywords.

The rest of the manuscript should then follow in the order:

Introduction, Methods, Results, Discussion, Research Transparency Statement, References, Tables, Figures, and Legends.

**Tables** should be numbered using Arabic numerals and be given a brief descriptive title. Tables must be cited in the text (e.g., "As shown in Table 1, ..."). It is recommended that each table should also include a brief explanatory legend.

**Figures** should be numbered using Arabic numerals and be given a brief descriptive title and an explanatory legend, if required. Figures must be cited in the text. Care should be taken to ensure that lettering and detail will be legible after any size reduction necessary for publication. Figures must be supplied in a form suitable for reproduction: preferably high resolution bitmaps (e.g., jpg, 300 dpi). If these are not submitted together with the manuscript, they need to be supplied upon its acceptance.

**Electronic Supplementary Materials:** The Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM) will not be printed and is not included in the word count. Please follow the instructions below.

**References:** Authors are responsible for checking the accuracy of all references. Reference citations in the text and in the reference list proper should conform to the APA Manual. All references listed have to be cited in the text. In the reference list make sure to provide the DOIs (Digital Object Identifier) of the cited journal articles.

## Manuscript Format and Style

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). In particular, statistical and mathematical copy, reference citations in the text and the reference list proper should conform to the Publication Manual.

Each submission must include the following:

- (a) a main document including the manuscript which is subject to anonymous peer review.
  - Please make sure that all references to author names and affiliations have been removed from the manuscript and related documents (and the properties of the documents).
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- Please submit this document as “manuscript”;
- (b) a title page including names and affiliations of all authors and indicating the corresponding author by giving his/her name and complete address, including email.
- (c) an abstract (maximum length 250 words) and a maximum of 5 key reference terms.

Figures and tables (if any) should be numbered using Arabic numerals.

The number of figures and tables should be kept to a minimum and only be included to facilitate understanding of the text. The same information should not appear in both a figure and a table. Each table and figure must be cited in the text and should be accompanied by a legend on a separate sheet. Please note that online submission via the Editorial Manager allows text, figures, and tables to be submitted as separate files. Figures must be supplied in a form suitable for reproduction: preferably high resolution bitmaps (e.g., jpg, 300 dpi) or as vector graphics files. Figures will normally be reproduced in black and white only. While it is possible to reproduce color illustrations, authors are reminded that they will be invoiced for the extra costs involved.

After acceptance, authors will be asked to upload a brief biography (up to 50 words) and a photo of each author (.jpg format preferred, dimensions should be at least 5 x 5 cm with a minimum 300 dpi resolution). Failing to submit files in the proper format or dimensions can unnecessarily delay the production process. The content of these photos should include only the author's head, and we encourage photos with professional composure and neutral backgrounds. We encourage authors to consult prior issues of *JMP* for examples.

## Guidelines for Transparency and Openness Promotion

Please consider the following guidelines when preparing your manuscript.

**Citation standards.** All data, program code and other methods used in the submitted research should be appropriately cited. Such materials should be recognized as original intellectual contributions and afforded recognition through citation.

- a. All data sets and program code used in a publication should be cited in the text and listed in the reference section.
- b. References for data sets and program code should include a persistent identifier, such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Persistent identifiers ensure future access to unique published digital objects, such as a text or data set. Persistent identifiers are assigned to data sets by digital archives. Authors are offered the opportunity to publish their data and materials (i.e., stimuli and surveys) as Electronic Supplementary Material on the publisher's website at <https://econtent.hogrefe.com>
- c. Data set citation example:

Campbell, A., & Kahn, R.L. (1999). American National Election Study, 1948. ICPSR07218-v3. Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR07218.v3>

**Data, Analytic Methods (Code), and Research Materials Transparency.** *Journal of Media Psychology* publishes papers where authors indicate whether the data, methods used in the analysis, and materials used to conduct the research will be made available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure. In line with the Peer Reviewers' Openness Initiative, authors may be asked by reviewers to share their data and materials at any stage of the reviewing process.

As a part of the manuscript, authors must include a **Research Transparency Statement**, indicating if they will or will not make their data, analytic methods, and study materials available to other researchers. Authors may use the following statement:

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**Preregistration of Studies and Analysis Plans.** The policy of the *JMP* is to publish papers where authors indicate whether or not the conducted research was pre-registered with

an analysis plan in an independent, institutional registry (e.g., <http://clinicaltrials.gov/>, <http://socialscienceregistry.org/>, <http://openscienceframework.org/>, <http://ridie.3ieimpact.org/>; <http://egap.org/design-registration/>). Even if authors do not use the preregistration offer of *JMP* as described below, they need to acknowledge whether they opted for a pre-registration of the study at another independent institution. Preregistration of studies involves registering the study design, variables, and treatment conditions. Including an analysis plan involves specification of sequence of analyses or the statistical model that will be reported.

1. Authors must, in acknowledgments or the first footnote, indicate if they did or did not preregister the research with or without an analysis plan in an independent, institutional registry. Please add a **Preregistration Statement** to your manuscript, indicating: “The authors *have/have not* pre-registered this research *with/without* an analysis plan which is retrievable at: URL.”
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  - c. clearly distinguish in text analyses that were pre-registered from those that were not, such as having separate sections in the results for confirmatory and exploratory analyses.

**Replication.** The policy of the *Journal of Media Psychology* is to encourage submission of replication studies, particularly of research published in this journal.

## Electronic Supplementary Materials

Authors may submit study data, analysis scripts, and other study materials for manuscripts that involve new data as Electronic Supplementary Materials (ESM). In general, ESM may include items that cannot be produced in print form and may consist of material used to carry out the research (e.g., data sets, participant instructions, audiovisual stimuli, video footage of the experimental setup) or addition items that are not essential for inclusion in the full text but would nevertheless benefit the reader. ESM is not included in the word count. ESM will be published online as received from the author(s) without any conversion, testing, or reformatting. They will not be checked for typographical errors or functionality. The responsibility for the content and functionality remains entirely with the author(s).



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All ESM files must be referred to with in-text citations (as for tables, figures, and appendices) and should be numbered in the order in which they are cited in the text.

Follow the example:

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or:

– (listen to the audio file in Electronic Supplementary Material 1)

or:

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– See Tables 1–3 in Electronic Supplementary Material 1.

Include a section headed “Electronic Supplementary Material” at the end of your article before the reference section. List all files in the order in which they are cited in the text. Provide a title for each ESM file along with the file name. Optionally, you may also provide a short description for each file (max. 20 words). Follow the example:

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October 2021