

Call for Papers

Psychology in the Digital Age

A Special Issue of *European Psychologist*

Guest Editor: Renato Gomes Carvalho^{1,2}

¹ Secretaria Regional de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia, Funchal, Portugal

² Ordem dos Psicólogos Portugueses, Lisbon, Portugal

The debate about the interface between psychology and technology has been receiving increasing attention both from researchers and practitioners. While the contingencies of the COVID-19 pandemic brought notoriety to the use of technology in professional practice, and made it to be seen now as a common, accessible option, the implications of digitalization in the field of psychology are extensive and of theoretical, practical, and research nature. In fact, the evolution of this debate is not only placed at the level of convenience, but involves the definition of the cross-cutting role of technological advancement in the provision of psychological services as an integral and expected part of them. If so, then a thorough discussion regarding the role of digital transformation in psychology is core for the advancement of our field.

Psychology, Technology, and Digital Transformation

With the widespread use of the Internet, the provision of psychological services through online platforms, for instance online consultations, chat, or asynchronous contacts, increased significantly and is now a common practice in psychology. The digitalization of everyday life and the advent of artificial intelligence have transformed this image though, as available new tools paved the way to different opportunities for research and practice, which are not superficial and may represent a new era, in which large amounts of data on people's actual behaviors can be sampled or extracted at real-time and modeled with sophisticated algorithms (Alexander et al., 2020; Rauthmann, 2020). This can, for instance, represent an opportunity for development and improvement of theories in psychology, and contribute to modeling of decision-making processes, and methods to refine clinical assessment and diagnostic criteria (Bartlett et al., 2023).

The array of possibilities brought by digitalization and the use of technology in psychology raises several questions. If the nature of the context and the tools used do not alter the need for compliance with the psychologists' professional ethical principles (Carvalho et al., 2020), one should take into account not only the opportunities, but also the challenges, the needs, and even the potential threats that arise from the use of digital tools (Bartlett et al., 2023; Fokkema et al., 2022; Iliescu & Greiff, 2019). This involves addressing several issues, from knowledge transfer from the research contexts to professional practice in a way that is useful to people and society, to the nature of the conceptual framework and methodological aspects that should be applied when it comes to using digital technologies in the field of psychology.

Addressing these issues is key for the advancement of psychological science and for the way psychological services can be provided to individuals, communities and society, in an ethical and efficient manner. Certainly, being aware of the specter of possibilities, integrating knowledge and current developments, and identifying cross-cutting themes in this sphere, namely on how technology can both serve and influence psychology, is a matter that deserves consideration by all psychologists and the professional, scientific associations representing them.

Special Issue Framework

It is within this context that we are interested in integrative, review papers that explore, discuss the interplay between psychology and technology and have the potential to inform and enlighten theory, research and practice. This may involve not only the impact of technology in psychology, and particularly the way psychological services are delivered, but also the role that psychology has in technology, for instance in influencing and informing its development

in a way that efficiently and effectively serves the purposes of psychology.

In this regard, authors can consider one or simultaneously various of the following lines of thought, as they are not mutually exclusive:

1. Issues regarding the conceptualization and design of psychological assessment and intervention, that is, discussing applications of technology in the delivery of psychological services. This involves the interplay between specific technologies (e.g., AI, virtual reality, Internet, mobile devices) and intervention processes (e.g., telepsychology and online counseling, web-based interventions, mental health apps, rehabilitation, psychological testing and assessment).
2. Ethical and deontological, institutional, political and social issues raised by the use of technology. This can include discussing topics such as the impacts for the profession, regulation of practice, social inclusion, privacy and data management, among others, and also which approaches are most effective in promoting a positive impact of technology, while reducing threats.
3. Multidisciplinarity and interdisciplinarity issues, namely the cooperation and collaboration between psychologists and other professionals (e.g., engineers, mathematicians, computer scientists, among others), while simultaneously considering professional boundaries and a two-way street in which technology impacts the delivery of psychological services, and psychology influences the design and implementation of technologies.
4. Challenges for the conceptualization of human development, social interaction, adaptability, and other psychosocial dimensions in a context of digitalization of everyday life.
5. Effective applications of technology in specific professional contexts of psychological intervention, including clinical and health, educational and vocational, social, organizational, among others. What tools and processes allow psychological science and profession to better serve communities and individuals in those contexts, taking into account their specific characteristics?

Deadline

Authors are invited to submit their manuscript until

April 15, 2024.

Submissions

Because *European Psychologist* privileges review, integrative articles, and which are of relevance for the European

context and particularly for the 350,000 psychologists represented by the 37 associations members of the European Federation of Psychologists' Associations (EFPA), manuscripts should take a broad, synthesizing view within the interface between psychology and technology, including directions for further research and developments in the field. All manuscripts will be peer-reviewed, and should be prepared in accordance with the journal guidelines.

Submissions should be submitted exclusively via the online submission system

<https://www.editorialmanager.com/ep>

Manuscript Preparation

Original articles should not exceed 7,500 words including abstract, references, figures, and tables, but may be allowed more space on a case-by-case basis. Manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the journal's author guidelines available on the journal's website at

<https://www.hogrefe.com/j/ep>

Contact Details

If you have any questions concerning editorial matters, please contact

- the Managing Editor of *European Psychologist*:
Kristen Lavalley
eo.europeanpsychologist@gmail.com, or
- the Special Issue Editor:
Renato Gomes Cavalho
renatoggc@gmail.com

Should you have any technical queries regarding the online submission system, please contact production@hogrefe.com.

Only papers that have not previously appeared in or are currently under consideration for another publication can be considered for publication. Manuscripts are subject to peer review and may be returned to authors for revision.

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Renato Gomes Cavalho

Secretaria Regional de Educação, Ciência e Tecnologia
Rua D. João n.º 57, Quinta Olinda
9054-510 Funchal
Portugal
renatoggc@gmail.com