

# Call for Papers

## Personality and Crime

A Topical Issue of the *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*

Guest Editors: Isabel Thielmann<sup>1</sup> and Ingo Zettler<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup>Independent Research Group “Personality, Identity, and Crime”, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Crime, Security and Law, Freiburg, Germany

<sup>2</sup>Copenhagen Center for Social Data Science (SODAS) and Department of Psychology, both University of Copenhagen, Copenhagen, Denmark

### Focus of the Topical Issue, Aims, and Scope

---

The way in which people who commit crimes differ from those who do not is a perennial question across fields, including psychology. A key factor contributing to individual differences in crime is personality. This topical issue seeks to explore the intricate relation between personality and criminal behavior. We encourage submissions on all kinds of research on this topic, including how personality characteristics relate to crime, how personality characteristics interact with situational and/or environmental factors to influence crime, the role of personality in rehabilitation and recidivism, and cross-cultural and developmental perspectives on personality and crime. Given that the study of crime is an inherently interdisciplinary endeavor, we also appreciate research taking an interdisciplinary perspective.

Exemplary research questions that could be addressed in submissions are:

- Do specific personality traits, such as impulsivity or (a lack of) empathy, differentially predict the likelihood of engaging in different types of criminal activity?
- What are the mechanisms that relate personality to crime?
- Do personality traits interact with external factors like peer influence, socioeconomic status, or exposure to violence in explaining crime?
- Can personality interventions be used to prevent crime? Are there critical periods during which personality interventions are most effective in doing so?
- Do cultural contexts shape the expression of personality traits in relation to criminal behavior?
- How does the link between personality and crime develop over the life span?

For this topical issue, we seek original research articles, reviews, and theoretical papers that contribute to these and related questions, offering novel insights and implications for both theory and practice. Shorter Research Spotlights highlighting recent developments are also welcome. By bringing together diverse perspectives and methodologies, this issue aims to advance our understanding of how personality shapes criminal behavior and to inform interventions that can effectively address and mitigate crime from a personality perspective.

We highly appreciate and encourage submissions that adhere to principles of open science. In particular, authors are expected to provide access to their data, materials, code, and any other relevant resources to facilitate transparency and reproducibility of their research. If authors find it necessary to deviate from this, they must include a justification for this decision in their submitted manuscript.

### How to Submit

---

There is a two-stage submission process. Initially, interested authors are requested to submit only abstracts of their proposed papers. Authors of the selected abstracts will then be invited to submit full papers. Please note that the invitation to submit does not guarantee acceptance/publication in the topical issue. Invited manuscripts will be subject to the *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*'s usual review standards, including a rigorous peer review process.

#### Stage 1: Structured Abstract Submission

Interested authors should submit a letter of intent including (1) a working title for the manuscript, (2) names,

affiliations, and contact information for all authors, and (3) an abstract of no more than 1,000 words detailing the content of the proposed manuscript to the guest editors Isabel Thielmann ([i.thielmann@csl.mpg.de](mailto:i.thielmann@csl.mpg.de)) and Ingo Zettler ([ingo.zettler@sodas.ku.dk](mailto:ingo.zettler@sodas.ku.dk)).

The deadline for submitting structured abstracts is July 15, 2025.

## Stage 2: Full Paper Submission

Those who have been encouraged to submit a full paper must submit their manuscripts by November 15, 2025, through the online submission system of the journal at <https://www.editorialmanager.com/zfp>.

The journal seeks to maintain a short turnaround time, with the final version of the accepted papers being due by February 15, 2026. The topical issue will be published as issue 3 (2026).

For additional information, please contact: Isabel Thielmann ([i.thielmann@csl.mpg.de](mailto:i.thielmann@csl.mpg.de)) and Ingo Zettler ([ingo.zettler@sodas.ku.dk](mailto:ingo.zettler@sodas.ku.dk)).

## Guidelines for Article Preparation

- Only English-language submissions can be considered.
- Contributions must be original (not published previously or currently under review for publication elsewhere).
- Review and original articles should not exceed 45,000 characters and spaces in length, including references, figures, and tables (allowances for figures and tables should be deducted on the basis of

size – approximately 1,250 characters for a quarter-page figure/table).

- Reference citations in the text and in the reference list should be in accordance with the principles set out in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.) – see also any recent issue of the journal.
- For detailed author guidelines, please see the journal's website at <https://www.hogrefe.com/eu/journal/zeitschrift-fuer-psychologie>. Note also the Ethics and Research Transparency Form that all authors are expected to complete and submit with their manuscript: <https://www.hogrefe.com/eu/journal/zeitschrift-fuer-psychologie#author-text>

## Timeline

- Deadline for submission of abstracts is **July 15, 2025**.
- Invitation to submit full papers by **August 15, 2025**.
- Deadline for submission of full papers is **November 15, 2025**.
- Feedback on full papers to be provided by **January 15, 2026**.
- Final papers due by **February 15, 2026**.

## About the Journal

The *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*, founded in 1890, is the oldest psychology journal in Europe and the second oldest in the world. One of the founding editors was Hermann Ebbinghaus. Since 2007, it is published in English and devoted to publishing topical issues that provide state-of-the-art reviews of current research in psychology.