

European Psychologist

A Special issue on Democracy and Citizen Wellbeing
Call for Guest Editor Applications

1. Overview

European Psychologist is a multidisciplinary journal that serves as the voice of psychology in Europe, seeking to integrate across all specializations in psychology and to provide a general platform for communication and cooperation among psychologists throughout Europe.

European Psychologist is seeking applications for Guest Editors to lead the development and execution of a special issue on democracy. The Special Issue will be focused on systematic reviews and meta-analyses that explore the evidence base for the relationship between democratic values and citizen wellbeing. Our aim is for published articles to inform public policy at the European and national levels.

Questions to be considered for the Special Issue could include:

- What links, if any, are there in the psychological evidence between different forms of political system and the mental health and wellbeing of the citizens?
- Do geographical regional and national contextual factors show any differences in the mental health impact of democratic versus other political systems?
- Are democratic systems linked to a citizen preference for broader attitudes, mindsets and ways of communicating and organising in daily life?
- How / why are democracies losing citizen confidence as indicated in [The Democracy Index | Economist Intelligence Unit](#)? How does this affect mental wellbeing? Does the collective level of mental wellbeing affect how citizens perceive their political systems?

European Psychologist is an official journal of the [European Federation of Psychologists' Associations AISBL \(EFPA\)](#).

This Special Issue is being developed in partnership with EFPA to inform the readership on the topic in particular from a European Psychology perspective and offer an evidence base for European policy work in the area. A briefing and outline programme for the work developed in conjunction with EFPA will be provided on appointment as Guest Editors.

2. Guest Editor Qualifications

European Psychologist publishes articles after rigorous peer review and author revisions. To this end, some prior editing experience is necessary, and candidates should have current experience serving on the Editorial Board of an academic journal. This special issue in partnership with EFPA is intended to have a European focus and so we particularly welcome this time applications from countries within the [EFPA Full Membership](#). We welcome applications from scholars around the world and encourage both highly-experienced researchers and mid-career scholars to apply.

Below is a list of qualifications candidates should meet to apply:

- A current academic appointment in psychology
- Broad knowledge of the psychology field including current methodologies, trends and advances and a research track record in the specific topic of this special issue
- Experience writing, editing and reviewing scientific articles
- Strong administrative, communication and leadership skills
- Proficiency in English
- Experience serving on editorial boards (desirable)
- Experience with online submission system and peer-review management software

3. Guest Editor Responsibilities

The Guest Editors will lead all editorial activities for the Special Issue, and their work is integral to ensuring high-quality publications. In general, they are responsible for developing the Call for Papers, reviewing proposals ahead of manuscript submission, and facilitating the editorial review process of manuscripts.

The responsibilities include:

- Refining (if necessary and agreeing refinements with stakeholder) the topic of the special issue and issuing preparing a Call for Papers.
- Identifying papers based on review of submitted abstracts and inviting potential authors to submit manuscripts.
- In cooperation with the journal editorial office, executing a timeline for submission, review and final decisions for all contributions, and meeting the deadlines set.
- Managing the peer review process for all submissions to the special issue via the Editorial Manager system of *European Psychologist*. The final decision on whether a paper is accepted is made by the Journal's Editor-in-Chief.
- Working with the production office to finalize the running order of articles.
- Contributing an editorial to the special issue
- Helping to promote the special issue upon publication.

3.1 Ethical responsibilities

It is important to Hogrefe, EFPA and the Journal that all contributors adhere to the highest ethical standards. Guest Editors are required to meet the following ethical standards:

Fair play

Submitted manuscripts must be evaluated for their scientific and intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.

Confidentiality

Information about a submitted manuscript may not be disclosed by the journal editor or any editorial staff to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

Conflicts of interest and disclosures

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript may not be used in an editor's own research without the explicit written consent of the author(s).

Editorial decisions

The editors of a journal are responsible for deciding which of the submitted articles should be accepted for publication in that journal. The editors will be guided by the policies of the journal and its editorial advisers, will act in accordance with legal requirements regarding libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism, and may consult with other editors or reviewers in making relevant decisions.

4. How to Apply

We are seeking a diverse range of candidates and encourage all who meet the qualifications above to apply. Please submit a letter of intent that states or interest in the Guest Editor position. The Letter should outline your qualifications and describe how you believe you can contribute to fulfilling the vision for the special issue set out in this call. Please include a copy of your CV as well. **The deadline for applications is April 3, 2026.**

Letters should be addressed to the Editor-in-Chief, Prof. Dr. Christoph Steinebach and emailed to europeanpsychologist@hogrefe.com