



Call for Papers

Special Issue on “Facing the limits of life”

GeroPsych is announcing a forthcoming special issue on how individuals confront, interpret, and adapt to the finitude of life. Across adulthood (and particularly in later life), people are increasingly confronted with the limits of time, health, and control. Experiences such as chronic illness, functional decline, bereavement, and shrinking future time horizons can result in salient mortality and life’s vulnerability. Yet, despite its fundamental and inevitable nature, coping with life’s finitude remains understudied in psychogerontological literature.

Public and scientific discourses on aging have primarily emphasized ideals of active aging, autonomy, and independence. While these perspectives have yielded important insights, they could be expanded to more fully encompass how individuals adapt to unavoidable losses and existential constraints. Such adaptation is not limited to planning or preparation as a classical proactive coping approach, but also includes processes of acceptance, meaning-making, reorientation, or even avoidance and withdrawal. This special issue is particularly interested in these diverse processes differently shaped by individual and contextual factors, and in how they result in distinct consequences for well-being, decision-making, and behavior.

In this special issue, we invite original manuscript submissions (including original quantitative and qualitative research, theory-driven clinical case reports, as well as conceptual or review papers) addressing how people cope with mortality, vulnerability, and the awareness of life’s limits, with a particular emphasis on adulthood and older age. We welcome contributions that examine heterogeneous coping patterns, their antecedents, and their implications for psychological functioning and everyday life.

Authors are invited to submit manuscripts by November 1st, 2026 via <https://www.editorialmanager.com/geropsych/>. Manuscripts must be prepared in accordance with the journal’s author guidelines (see <https://www.hogrefe.com/us/journal/geropsych>) and according to the APA publication manual (7th edition).

Authors are encouraged to consult the Guest Editors Yaeji Kim-Knauss via email at yaeji.kim@fau.de or Frieder Lang at frieder.lang@fau.de for advice and suggestions regarding submissions before the deadline above.

Manuscripts will undergo a full process of peer review in an appropriate turn-around time. Please go to the journal’s homepage at <https://econtent.hogrefe.com/journal/gro> for further information, free sample articles, and for instructions to authors.

Guest Editors

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