

# Instructions to Authors

Experimental Psychology

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*Experimental Psychology* publishes innovative, original, high quality experimental research. The scope of the journal is defined by experimental methodology and thus papers based on experiments from all areas of psychology are welcome. To name just a few fields and domains of research, *Experimental Psychology* considers manuscripts reporting experimental work on learning, memory, perception, emotion, motivation, action, language, thinking, problem-solving, judgment and decision making, social cognition, and neuropsychological aspects of these topics. Apart from the use of experimental methodology, a primary criterion for publication is that research papers make a substantial contribution to theoretical research questions.

For research papers that have a mainly applied focus, *Experimental Psychology* is not the appropriate outlet.

## ***Experimental Psychology* Publishes the Following Types of Articles**

Research Articles, Short Research Articles, Theoretical Articles, and Registered Reports.

### **Types and Lengths of Manuscripts**

The word counts below include the title page, abstract (200 word limit), text, references and any notes, appendices, tables, and figures. The raw data and the electronic supplemental material (ESM) do not count for the word limit. In case the word limits do not allow for a comprehensive report of methods, analyses, and results, additional electronic supplemental materials (ESM) can be provided to help disseminate the research and support replication of the reported studies. Note that an allowance for any tables and figures should be deducted from the total word count depending on their size (approx. 200 words per quarter print page / 1 print page = approx. 800 words). Replication studies should be submitted as a Registered Report.

#### **Research Articles and Short Research Articles**

Research Articles and Short Research Articles report original experimental research. Research Articles reporting a series of two or more experiments may contain up to 10,000 words.

#### **Short Research Articles**

Short Research Articles reporting one experiment should not exceed 5,000 words.

#### **Theoretical Articles**

Theoretical Articles provide expert reviews of a relevant field of research, integrative accounts of ongoing research programs, or presentations of innovative theories and models in

experimental psychology. Theoretical Articles can also focus on methodological issues and statistical innovations that are particularly relevant for experimental psychologists. Theoretical Articles should not exceed 10,000 words, but extensions are possible if the complexity of the topic requires more space.

### **Registered Reports**

Registered Report submissions are research proposals detailing the theoretical background, method, and data analysis for a planned but not yet conducted experiment. Editorial decisions about in-principle acceptance are based on the (peer-reviewed and revised) proposal and therefore outcome-independent. Following initial acceptance, the study protocol is publicly pre-registered in an independent institutional registry (e.g., <http://osf.io>) before data collection and analysis, which are to proceed in accordance with the accepted protocol. Results are published regardless of the direction or statistical significance of the outcome. Word limits depend on the number of experiments in a Registered Report (i.e., 5,000 words for a single experiment; 10,000 words for two and more experiments). Manuscripts will be reviewed in two stages:

#### *Stage 1*

- At Stage 1, the manuscript must contain an Introduction section that describes the theory and the specific hypotheses to be tested in the proposed experiment. The manuscript must explain the theoretical significance of the proposed experiment. Successful submissions will use established methodologies to test existing theories. The Registered Report is not well-suited for methodological innovations or exploration. It is a mechanism for confirming or disconfirming theoretical predictions.
- The Stage-1 submission should report previous related experiments. If the proposed experiment follows up on the authors' previous work (e.g., exploratory studies), at least a brief description of this work should be given. If the proposed research uses an adaptation of an established methodology, or if the researcher is new to the field, pilot studies may be required to demonstrate the effectiveness of the proposed methodology and/or the effect size of the proposed manipulation. The Registered Report category welcomes multiple-study submissions. A Stage-1 manuscript may report a series of non-registered studies on which the to-be-registered study is based. In this case, the manuscript (as well as the final article) must clearly distinguish between initial nonregistered studies and the final registered study (i.e., the section describing the final registered study must be titled "Registered Experiment").
- The Stage-1 submission must contain a Method section that provides a detailed description of the proposed research (e.g., specify experimental conditions precisely enough to allow for replications; specify all the independent and dependent variables in the experiment, even if not deemed important). In case word limits do not allow for a comprehensive description, authors may provide supplementary materials (e.g., in-depth methodological

detail, digital study materials, description of methods, etc.) that help reviewers and readers scrutinize the study protocol and the results. The research proposal must explicitly justify the proposed number of observations and participants (e.g., by way of statistical power analysis). To ensure that the results are informative regardless of outcome (e.g., by keeping both Type-I and Type-II error probabilities comparably small), high statistical power or precision will typically be required. Authors are required to confirm that the proposed research has not been conducted at the time of Stage-1 submission.

- The Stage-1 submission must contain a Data Analysis section that specifies in detail the data analysis procedures that will be used. The manuscript must describe the variables to be tested, the statistical tests or procedures to be conducted, as well as the anticipated patterns of results along with their interpretation with regard to hypotheses. Rules for data elimination (e.g., exclusion criteria, outlier trimming) must be specified a priori.

### *Stage 2*

- After a Registered Report submission is accepted at Stage 1, the accepted protocol must be publicly preregistered (see above) and the research conducted according to the protocol. The Stage-2 revision should contain essentially the same Introduction, Method, and Data Analysis sections as the Stage-1 submission, plus the pre-registration link and the new Results and Discussion sections. Additional post-hoc analyses may be included but must be clearly distinguishable from the registered analyses.
- Stage-2 submissions will be evaluated with regard to their adherence to the accepted Stage-1 protocol. Any unforeseen deviations from the approved protocol should be noted in the cover letter and the manuscript. Substantive deviations will lead to rejection as a Registered Report.
- Stage-2 submissions will be evaluated with regard to whether the conclusions follow from the results. The preliminary acceptance at Stage 1 guarantees the publication of some version of the manuscript, given that the study and analysis were conducted as proposed. However, Stage-2 submissions may be subject to one or more rounds of revisions to ensure that the Results and Discussion sections are adequate and balanced.

## **Reporting Standards**

At *Experimental Psychology*, we understand that transparency is an essential part of the scientific method. Submissions are required to adhere to the following standards:

### **Recognition and Citation**

In recognition of other researchers' theoretical and empirical contributions to an author's work, these contributions must be appropriately cited in the manuscript, preferably using DOIs. This requirement also extends to data, program code, and other methods used in a study.

## **Design and Analysis**

Study design and data analysis must be reported transparently (i.e., including all manipulations and measures used; how sample size was determined; which data were excluded, if any).

## **Methods and Materials**

Authors are encouraged to make available the materials and methods used to conduct the research (including the code used in data analysis). Authors must indicate in the manuscript (e.g., in a footnote) whether they share materials for purposes of replicating the procedure or reproducing the results, and where any shared material will be available (e.g., e-mail address; URL at public repository; or ESM file to be published with the electronic article, see below).

## **Preregistration**

To transparently document the confirmatory nature of a Registered Report, the proposal accepted at Stage-1 must be publicly pre-registered in an institutional registry, and the link to this public preregistration must be included in the published article.

## **Data Sharing**

Experimental Psychology expects authors to make the raw data underlying the main findings reported in the article available to the public (open data). Manuscripts must therefore include a permanent URL pointing to a file located in a public repository containing the data and a codebook of the data entries. Repositories are appropriate, as long as DOIs or accession numbers are provided and the data are at least as open as CC BY (for a list of repositories see <http://www.re3data.org/>). It is not necessary, but highly recommended, to provide the raw data during manuscript submission. However, a manuscript will only be accepted for publication when it contains a permanent URL to the raw data. Exceptions to this rule could be made in special cases (e.g., data security) upon request.

## **Manuscript Submission**

Manuscripts and electronic supplementary material (ESM) files can be submitted electronically at <http://www.editorialmanager.com/exppsy>. Submission of manuscripts is taken to imply that neither the manuscript nor any component of it has already been published or is currently under consideration by another journal. 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).

## Manuscript format

Manuscripts should be prepared according to the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association* (7th ed.). In particular, statistical and mathematical copy, as well as references and their text citations, should conform to the Publication Manual. In the reference list make sure to provide the DOIs (Digital Object Identifier) of the cited journal articles.

The **Title Page** of each paper or article should include, in the following order: Title of the article; Author name(s) (preceded by first names, but with no academic titles given); Name of the institute or clinic (if there is more than one author or institution, affiliations should be indicated using superscript Arabic numerals); an address for correspondence (including the name of the corresponding author); and the author note (including acknowledgments, disclosures, and funding sources). A template for the title page is available on the journal's website at <http://www.hgf.io/ep>.

We encourage the inclusion of a section headed **Authorship** which outlines the contributions of the individual authors to the paper using relevant CrediT roles, formatted as in the following example with author order as on the article:

Philipp Yang, conceptualization, methodology; Ina Smith, funding acquisition;  
Sun Cheung, writing – review & editing.

Please refer to <https://credit.niso.org/> for the contributor roles.

**Figures and tables** should be numbered using Arabic numerals. 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. Figures must be supplied in a form suitable for reproduction: preferably vector graphics files (e.g., .svg) or high-resolution bitmaps (e.g., .jpg or .tiff, 600 dpi).

## Open Data and Electronic Supplementary Material (ESM)

Authors may submit study data, analysis scripts, and other study materials for manuscripts that involve new data as Electronic Supplementary Materials (ESM). In general, may contain materials that were used to carry out the research (e.g., participants' instructions, audiovisual stimuli, software for presentation or analysis, video footage of the experimental setup) or other relevant items that cannot be reproduced in printed form. 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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Please ensure that any ESM submitted with the article is in compliance with the EU General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

### **Submission**

The number of ESM files you submit should be limited to 10. The file size should be kept as small as possible, not exceeding 10 MB in total. All file formats are accepted with the exception of executable files (e.g., .exe, .com, or .msi). Commonly used file formats that are accessible by most readers are preferred. Following the online instructions, submit the ESM files in a single zip file separate from the other files that are part of your submission.

### **Citation in Manuscript**

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. Example:

For more information, listen to the audio file in Electronic Supplementary Material 1.

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

or: (the audio file is provided in Electronic Supplementary Material 1)

If appropriate, you may combine several ESM elements into a single file. For example:

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). Please note that only the title and the description will appear in the article; the file name will not. It is for reference purpose only. Follow the example:

*ESM 1.* Audio file (.mp3). (= title and file name)

This audio file contains utterances of the study participants. (= description of file)

*ESM 1.* Tables 1–3 (.xlsx). (= title and file name)

The tables show additional *p*-values, weather variables, and demographic characteristics.

(= description of file)

### **Review Process**

Manuscripts are usually reviewed by 2 or 3 reviewers. There are four kinds of decisions: accept, accept conditionally on minor changes, reject with an encouragement to resubmit, and reject. The entire review process is completely reliant on electronic communication in order to ensure efficient processing. Revised papers will be treated as new submissions if they are resubmitted more than 6 months after the editorial decision. Stage-2 submissions of Registered Reports

that have been accepted at Stage 1 will be treated as new Research Article submissions if they are resubmitted more than 12 months after the editorial decision (extensions may be granted by the editors upon request).

## **Proofs**

PDF proofs will be sent to the corresponding author. Changes of content or stylistic changes may only be made in exceptional cases in the proofs. Corrections that exceed 5% of the typesetting costs may be invoiced to the authors.

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