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ISSN: 2212-1447

### DESCRIPTION

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The *Journal of Contextual Behavioral Science* is the official journal of the [Association for Contextual Behavioral Science \(ACBS\)](#).

Contextual Behavioral Science is a systematic and pragmatic approach to the understanding of **behavior**, the solution of human problems, and the promotion of human growth and development. Contextual Behavioral Science uses functional principles and theories to analyze and modify action embedded in its historical and situational context. The goal is to predict and influence behavior, with precision, scope, and depth, across all behavioral domains and all levels of analysis, so as to help create a **behavioral science** that is more adequate to the challenge of the human condition.

*JCBS* welcomes **contextual behavioral analyses** of phenomena that are relevant to the aims and scope of the society's mission, which is to change behavior at an individual or cultural level, to alleviate human suffering, and to advance human wellbeing. *JCBS* is also a strategic approach to the analysis of human behavior that proposes the need for a multi-level (e.g. social factors, neurological factors, behavioral factors) and multi-method (e.g., time series analyses, cross-sectional, experimental...) exploration of contextual and manipulable variables relevant to the prediction and influence of **human behavior**. In addition it places a strong emphasis in theory development and the promotion of effective practices that link back to scientific principles.

The journal considers papers relevant to a contextual behavioral approach include empirical studies (without topical restriction - e.g., clinical psychology, psychopathology, education, organizational psychology, etc.), reviews (systematic reviews and meta-analyses are preferred), and conceptual and philosophical papers on contextual behavioral science. We are particularly interested in papers emphasizing the study of core behavioral processes that are relevant to a broad range of human problems, and thus not limited to certain populations. Conceptual papers selected for publication may address a broad range of topics but generally will focus on contextual and functional variables or the philosophical analysis of contextual behavioral science. Papers that challenge a contextual behavioral science approach are always welcome. Papers bridging different approaches (e.g., connecting behavioral approaches with cognitive views; or neurocognitive psychology; or evolutionary science) are particularly encouraged.

The journal publishes papers written by researchers, practitioners, and theoreticians from different intellectual traditions. What is distinctive is not a narrowly defined theory or set of applied methods but whether the methodology, conceptualization, or strategy employed is relevant to a contextual behavioral approach.

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## GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

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### *Types of article*

All manuscripts must clearly and explicitly be of relevance to CBS. You may find the JCBS article "[Contextual Behavioral Science: creating a science more adequate to the challenge of the human condition](#)" helpful in assessing whether your manuscript is likely to be of interest to readers of this journal.

Articles should fall into one of seven categories:

1. Empirical research (up to 6000 words)
2. Brief empirical reports (up to 3000 words)
3. Review articles (up to 10,000 words)
4. Conceptual articles (up to 6000 words)
5. In practice (up to 3000 words)
6. Practical innovations (up to 3000 words)
7. Professional interest briefs (up to 3000 words)

Word limits exclude references, tables and figures but include the abstract

1. Empirical research. JCBS welcomes manuscripts across a breadth of domains from basic behavioral science to clinical trials. Research concerning the measurement and testing of process of change is particularly welcome. Potential methodologies include but are not limited to: randomized controlled trials, single case experimental designs, cross-sectional and prospective cohort studies, mixed-methods designs, small scale analog studies. Papers reporting null findings are also welcome if their methodology is sound and their power sufficient. Authors of such papers will need to emphasize the implications of their findings for future research and practice.

2. Brief empirical reports. Manuscripts in this section may report preliminary, provocative or replicated results. Empirically sound methodology and adequate power remain important considerations.

3. Review articles. Manuscripts reviewing a wide range of topics are encouraged as long as their content is directly relevant to CBS. Systematic reviews and meta-analyses are particularly welcome. Authors are advised to consult relevant MARS ([www.apa.org/pubs/authors/jars.pdf](http://www.apa.org/pubs/authors/jars.pdf)) and PRISMA resources (<http://www.prisma-statement.org/>) when preparing such manuscripts.

4. Conceptual articles. Manuscripts in this section should address conceptual or theoretical issues relevant to CBS. This may include papers that discuss relevant philosophical assumptions and traditions, or conceptual papers which explore aspects of or inconsistencies in contextual behavioral theory and science.

5. In practice. Manuscripts in this section are designed to make CBS useful to practitioners from a wide variety of areas. Manuscripts must be written in an accessible style and should be easily understood by practitioners who are not experts in research or basic behavioral science. Manuscripts should provide both clear insights for new practitioners as well as stating the questions that remain to be answered by future research.

6. Practical innovations. Manuscripts in this section seek to apply the findings and applications of CBS to under-studied, under-served or novel areas. The scope of these manuscripts is limited only by the journal's broad mission: creating a science more adequate to the challenge of the human condition.

7. Professional interest briefs. Manuscripts in this section highlight professional issues of relevance to those working in the field of CBS. Examples include manuscripts related to training and supervision, assessment methods in professional settings or opinions on contemporary issues.

### *Contact details for submission*

To contact the Editor-in-Chief prior to your submission with any questions, please email [ciarrochij@gmail.com](mailto:ciarrochij@gmail.com)

## **BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

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(see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier: <http://www.elsevier.com/guidepublication>). Note that source files of figures, tables and text graphics will be required whether or not you embed your figures in the text. See also the section on Electronic artwork.

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## Article structure

### *Subdivision - unnumbered sections*

Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Each subsection is given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line. Subsections should be used as much as possible when cross-referencing text: refer to the subsection by heading as opposed to simply 'the text'.

### *Introduction*

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

### *Material and methods*

Provide sufficient detail to allow the work to be reproduced. Methods already published should be indicated by a reference: only relevant modifications should be described.

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A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

### *Results*

Results should be clear and concise.

### *Discussion*

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

### *Conclusions*

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

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If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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A concise and factual abstract is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself.

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Define abbreviations that are not standard in this field in a footnote to be placed on the first page of the article. Such abbreviations that are unavoidable in the abstract must be defined at their first mention there, as well as in the footnote. Ensure consistency of abbreviations throughout the article.

### **Acknowledgements**

Collate acknowledgements in a separate section at the end of the article before the references and do not, therefore, include them on the title page, as a footnote to the title or otherwise. List here those individuals who provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

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#### *Electronic artwork*

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### **References**

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Please ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full. Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list they should follow the standard reference style of the journal and should include a substitution of the publication date with either 'Unpublished results' or 'Personal communication'. Citation of a reference as 'in press' implies that the item has been accepted for publication.

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### Examples:

Reference to a journal publication:

Van der Geer, J., Hanraads, J. A. J., & Lupton, R. A. (2010). The art of writing a scientific article. *Journal of Scientific Communications*, 163, 51–59.

Reference to a book:

Strunk, W., Jr., & White, E. B. (2000). *The elements of style*. (4th ed.). New York: Longman, (Chapter 4).

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