Child Abuse & Neglect is an international and interdisciplinary journal publishing articles on child welfare, health, humanitarian aid, justice, mental health, public health and social service systems. The journal recognizes that child protection is a global concern that continues to evolve. Accordingly, the journal is intended to be useful to scholars, policymakers, concerned citizens, advocates, and professional practitioners in countries that are diverse in wealth, culture, and the nature of their formal child protection system. Child Abuse & Neglect welcomes contributions grounded in the traditions of particular cultures and settings, as well as global perspectives. Article formats include empirical reports, theoretical and methodological reports and invited reviews.

For special issue proposals, contact chiabu@elsevier.com

Includes but is not limited to: Economists, Historians, Planners, Political Scientists, Ethicists, Legal Scholars, Political Theorists, Theologians Psychologists, Lawyers, Psychiatrists, Nurses, Social Workers, Sociologists, Public Health Workers, Law Enforcement, Educators, Pediatricians and Anthropologists.
ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING

PubMed/Medline
Embase
Research Alert
Caredata
PsycLIT
Adolescent Mental Health Abstracts
ASSIA
Current Contents - Social & Behavioral Sciences
Child Development Abstracts and Bibliography
Criminal Justice Abstracts
Current Index to Journals in Education
ERIC
Except Child Educ Abstr
Pascal Francis
PsycINFO
Social Work Research & Abstracts
Sociological Abstracts
ERA (Educational Research Abstracts Online)
Scopus
Social Sciences Citation Index

EDITORIAL BOARD

Editor-in-Chief
Christine Wekerle, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada

Special Content Editor
Nicole Racine, University of Ottawa, Ottawa, Ontario, Canada

Associate Editors
Tracie Afifi, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg, Manitoba, Canada
Sarah Brown, University of the Sunshine Coast, Maroochydore, Queensland, Australia
Shanta Dube, Wingate University, Wingate, North Carolina, United States of America
Clifton Emery, The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Hong Kong
Tonino Esposito, University of Montreal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada
Jennifer Fraser, The University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
Takeo Fujiwara, Tokyo Medical and Dental University, Bunkyo-Ku, Japan
Todd Herrenkohl, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America
Andreas Jud, Ulm University, Ulm, Germany
John Melville, Medical University of South Carolina, Charleston, South Carolina, United States of America
Linda C. Theron, University of Pretoria, Pretoria, South Africa
Meifang Wang, Capital Normal University, Beijing, China

Founding Editor
C. Henry Kempe

Editorial Board
Alhassan Abdullah, Flinders University College of Education Psychology and Social Work, Bedford Park, Australia
Richard Ammerman, Cincinnati Children's Hospital Medical Center, Cincinnati, Ohio, United States of America
Krysta Andrews, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
Elisabeth Backe-Hansen, Oslo Metropolitan University, Oslo, Norway
Yu Bai, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, United States of America
Erin Barnett, Dartmouth Hitchcock Medical Center, Lebanon, New Hampshire, United States of America
Rami Benbenishty, Bar-Ilan University, Ramat Gan, Israel
Jill Berrick, University of California Berkeley, Berkeley, California, United States of America
C Boyle, DRCB Consulting Inc, Los Angeles, United States of America
Shaquanna Brown, Brown University Warren Alpert Medical School, Providence, Rhode Island, United States of America
Ana Maria Buller Soto, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
Claudia Cappa, UNICEF, New York, New York, United States of America
Judith Cashmore, The University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia
| Ko Ling Chan | The Hong Kong Polytechnic University, Hong Kong, Hong Kong |
| Ruby Charak | The University of Texas Rio Grande Valley, Department of Psychological Science, Edinburg, Texas, United States of America |
| Yvonne M. Chase | University of Alaska Anchorage Human Services, Anchorage, Alaska, United States of America |
| Jingqi Chen | Peking University Health Science Center, Beijing, China |
| Annie Cossins | University of New South Wales, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia |
| Mark E. Courtney | The University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America |
| Theodore Cross | University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, Illinois, United States of America |
| Isabelle Daigneault | University of Montreal, Montréal, Quebec, Canada |
| Alan Dattalo | University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work, Houston, Texas, United States of America |
| Erinn Duprey | University of Rochester Medical Center, Department of Psychiatry, Rochester, New York, United States of America |
| Hanie Edalati | University of Montreal, Department of Psychiatry, Montréal, Quebec, Canada |
| Barbara A. Fallon | University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| Nicole Fava | Florida International University Robert Stempel College of Public Health and Social Work, Miami, Florida, United States of America |
| Candice Feiring | The College of New Jersey, Ewing, New Jersey, United States of America |
| Martin Finkel | Rowan University, Glassboro, New Jersey, United States of America |
| David Finkelhor | University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, United States of America |
| John Fluke | University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus School of Medicine, Aurora, Colorado, United States of America |
| Julian Ford | University of Connecticut School of Medicine, Farmington, Connecticut, United States of America |
| James Garbarino | Loyola University Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States of America |
| Robbie Gilligan | The University of Dublin Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland |
| Andrea Gonzalez | McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada |
| Gail Goodman | University of California Davis, Davis, California, United States of America |
| Muhammad Haj-Yahia | Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel |
| Stuart Hart | University of Victoria, Victoria, British Columbia, Canada |
| Kathryn L. Humphreys | Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tennessee, United States of America |
| Michael Hurlburt | University of Southern California Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, San Diego, California, United States of America |
| Philip D. Jaffé | University of Geneva Centre for Children's Rights Studies, Genève, Switzerland |
| Lisa Jones | University of New Hampshire, Durham, New Hampshire, United States of America |
| Melissa S. Jones | Brigham Young University, Department of Sociology, Provo, Utah, United States of America |
| Melissa Jonson-Reid | Washington University in St Louis, Saint Louis, Missouri, United States of America |
| Lucy P. Jordan | The University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, Hong Kong |
| Brooks R. Keeshin | The University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah, United States of America |
| Gretchen Kerr | University of Toronto, Toronto, Ontario, Canada |
| Julia Kobulsky | Temple University College of Public Health, , United States of America |
| David Kolko | University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, United States of America |
| Feng Kong | Shaanxi Normal University, Xi'an, China |
| Robin Kowalski | Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, United States of America |
| Kevin Lalor | Technological University Dublin, Dublin, Ireland |
| Rachel Langevin | McGill University, Department of Educational and Counselling Psychology, Montréal, Québec, Canada |
| Bong Joo Lee | Seoul National University, Department of Social Work, Seoul, South Korea |
| Shawna Lee | University of Michigan School of Social Work, Ann Arbor, Michigan, United States of America |
| Yanghee Lee | Sungkyunkwan University, Jongno-gu, South Korea |
| Roger Levesque | Indiana University Bloomington, Bloomington, Indiana, United States of America |
| Diane T. Levine | University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States of America |
| Terri Lewis | University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado, United States of America |
| Robert Lonne | University of New England, Armidale, New South Wales, Australia |
| Ben Mathews | Queensland University of Technology, Brisbane, Queensland, Australia |
| James McDonell | Clemson University, Clemson, South Carolina, United States of America |
| John McDowell | University of Colorado Anschutz Medical Campus, Aurora, Colorado, United States of America |
| John D. McLennan | University of Calgary Cumming School of Medicine, Calgary, Alberta, Canada |
| Scot McNary | Towson University, Towson, Maryland, United States of America |
| Laura Miller-Graff | University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, Indiana, United States of America |
| Beth Molnar | Northeastern University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States of America |
| Angela J. Narayan | University of Denver, Denver, Colorado, United States of America |
| Valentina Nikulina | Queens College, Flushing, New York, United States of America |
| Kate B. Nooner | University of North Carolina Wilmington, Department of Psychology, Wilmington, North Carolina, United States of America |
| Kim Oates | The University of Sydney, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia |
| Assaf Oshri | University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia, United States of America |
| Vincent Palusci | New York University, New York, New York, United States of America |
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Types of contributions

1. Research Article: Child Abuse and Neglect publishes quantitative, qualitative, and mixed-method research. Particular focus will be placed on thorough and appropriate methods, strong data analysis and discussion of implications for the field.

Abstracts should follow a structured format of no more than 250 words including the following sections: Background, Objective, Participants and Setting, Methods, Results (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance), and Conclusions. Download the template here.

2. Reviews: Authors with plans for proposed review articles (systematic, meta-analytic, scoping) are invited to first submit a draft outline to the EiC for review. Please visit our Support Center to send your enquiries. The editors may also commission reviews on specific topics. Reviews submitted without invitation or prior approval may be returned.

Abstracts should follow a structured format of no more than 250 words including the following sections: Background, Objective, Participants and Setting, Methods, Results (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance), and Conclusions. Download the template here.

3. Medical Report: Child Abuse and Neglect publishes clinically-relevant original research using a more structured medical format. Medical Reports should include a structured abstract of no more than 250 words including the following sections: Background, Objective, Participants and Setting, Methods, Results (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance), and Conclusions. Manuscript length is limited to 3,000 words (excluding the abstract, tables and figures, and references or appendices) and up to 5 figures or tables (additional figures or tables may be considered as online appendices). Medical reports should include the following sections: Introduction: In 1-2 pages, state the objective of the study and provide adequate background that a reader can determine whether they should read the paper in its entirety. Methods: Provide sufficient detail that the study could be repeated by another investigator. Results: Provide main and secondary results. Discussion: Summarize the most important results and provide the authors' interpretation of relevance in the context of any relevant prior literature. The discussion section should include a section on the article's strengths and limitations, and suggested next steps. Conclusion: In 1-2 sentences, summarize the authors' final conclusions. Medical Reports should include 2 sections highlighting the importance of the paper; `What is known? and `What this study adds?. Each section is limited to 40 words.

4. Discussion Article: Plans for proposed critical review discussion articles are invited to first submit a draft outline to the EiC. Please visit our Support Center. These may discuss a policy or legal / philosophical framework or a brief data report. The article must present a critical analysis of areas of gap in practice or research, current critical or emergent issues, with an expectation of utilizing an integration and discussion of empirical research.

Child Abuse and Neglect does not publish case reports or small case series in any of its article types. Please note: The Discussion type article requires an unstructured abstract that clearly outlines to issue or gap, the discussion approach, key messages and implications. It follows the same word length.

Contact details for submission
All correspondence, including notification of the Editor-in-Chief’s decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail and via the Author’s homepage, removing the need for a hard-copy paper trail.

For those authors unable to utilize the Editorial Manager system, or with questions about submissions, please contact the Editorial Office (chiabu@elsevier.com) for assistance.

SPECIAL ISSUE PROPOSALS
For special issue proposals, contact chiabu@elsevier.com

BEFORE YOU BEGIN
 Ethics in publishing
Please see our information on Ethics in publishing.
Studies in humans and animals

If the work involves the use of human subjects, the author should ensure that the work described has been carried out in accordance with The Code of Ethics of the World Medical Association (Declaration of Helsinki) for experiments involving humans. The manuscript should be in line with the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals and aim for the inclusion of representative human populations (sex, age and ethnicity) as per those recommendations. The terms sex and gender should be used correctly.

Authors should include a statement in the manuscript that informed consent was obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The privacy rights of human subjects must always be observed.

All animal experiments should comply with the ARRIVE guidelines and should be carried out in accordance with the U.K. Animals (Scientific Procedures) Act, 1986 and associated guidelines, EU Directive 2010/63/EU for animal experiments, or the National Research Council's Guide for the Care and Use of Laboratory Animals and the authors should clearly indicate in the manuscript that such guidelines have been followed. The sex of animals must be indicated, and where appropriate, the influence (or association) of sex on the results of the study.

Declaration of interest

All authors must disclose any financial and personal relationships with other people or organizations that could inappropriately influence (bias) their work. Examples of potential competing interests include employment, consultancies, stock ownership, honoraria, paid expert testimony, patent applications/registrations, and grants or other funding. Authors must disclose any interests in two places: 1. A summary declaration of interest statement in the title page file (if double anonymized) or the manuscript file (if single anonymized). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. 2. Detailed disclosures as part of a separate Declaration of Interest form, which forms part of the journal's official records. It is important for potential interests to be declared in both places and that the information matches. More information.

Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing

The below guidance only refers to the writing process, and not to the use of AI tools to analyse and draw insights from data as part of the research process.

Where authors use generative artificial intelligence (AI) and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process, authors should only use these technologies to improve readability and language. Applying the technology should be done with human oversight and control, and authors should carefully review and edit the result, as AI can generate authoritative-sounding output that can be incorrect, incomplete or biased. AI and AI-assisted technologies should not be listed as an author or co-author, or be cited as an author. Authorship implies responsibilities and tasks that can only be attributed to and performed by humans, as outlined in Elsevier's AI policy for authors.

Authors should disclose in their manuscript the use of AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by following the instructions below. A statement will appear in the published work. Please note that authors are ultimately responsible and accountable for the contents of the work.

Disclosure instructions

Authors must disclose the use of generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process by adding a statement at the end of their manuscript in the core manuscript file, before the References list. The statement should be placed in a new section entitled 'Declaration of Generative AI and AI-assisted technologies in the writing process'.

Statement: During the preparation of this work the author(s) used [NAME TOOL / SERVICE] in order to [REASON]. After using this tool/service, the author(s) reviewed and edited the content as needed and take(s) full responsibility for the content of the publication.

This declaration does not apply to the use of basic tools for checking grammar, spelling, references etc. If there is nothing to disclose, there is no need to add a statement.
Submission declaration and verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. It is important that you do not publish your article in any form other than listed previously prior to submission to the journal and during the time the journal considers your manuscript. If your manuscript is accepted for publication, you will be given the opportunity to consider the open access options that are available. You can then publish versions of your work in line with the policies for the type open access level that you have selected. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

Preprints
Please note that preprints can be shared anywhere at any time, in line with Elsevier's sharing policy. Sharing your preprints e.g. on a preprint server will not count as prior publication (see 'Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information).

Use of inclusive language
Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns (“clinicians, patients/clients”) as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns (“clinicians, patients/clients”) as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. When coding terminology is used, we recommend to avoid offensive or exclusionary terms such as "master", "slave", "blacklist" and "whitelist". We suggest using alternatives that are more appropriate and (self-) explanatory such as "primary", "secondary", "blocklist" and "allowlist". These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.

Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses
Reporting guidance
For research involving or pertaining to humans, animals or eukaryotic cells, investigators should integrate sex and gender-based analyses (SGBA) into their research design according to funder/sponsor requirements and best practices within a field. Authors should address the sex and/or gender dimensions of their research in their article. In cases where they cannot, they should discuss this as a limitation to their research's generalizability. Importantly, authors should explicitly state what definitions of sex and/or gender they are applying to enhance the precision, rigor and reproducibility of their research and to avoid ambiguity or conflation of terms and the constructs to which they refer (see Definitions section below). Authors can refer to the Sex and Gender Equity in Research (SAGER) guidelines and the SAGER guidelines checklist. These offer systematic approaches to the use and editorial review of sex and gender information in study design, data analysis, outcome reporting and research interpretation - however, please note there is no single, universally agreed-upon set of guidelines for defining sex and gender.

Definitions
Sex generally refers to a set of biological attributes that are associated with physical and physiological features (e.g., chromosomal genotype, hormonal levels, internal and external anatomy). A binary sex categorization (male/female) is usually designated at birth ("sex assigned at birth"), most often based solely on the visible external anatomy of a newborn. Gender generally refers to socially constructed roles, behaviors, and identities of women, men and gender-diverse people that occur in a historical and cultural context and may vary across societies and over time. Gender influences how people view themselves and each other, how they behave and interact and how power is distributed in society. Sex and gender are often incorrectly portrayed as binary (female/male or woman/man) and unchanging whereas these constructs actually exist along a spectrum and include additional sex categorizations and gender identities such as people who are intersex/have differences of sex development (DSD) or
identify as non-binary. Moreover, the terms "sex" and "gender" can be ambiguous—thus it is important for authors to define the manner in which they are used. In addition to this definition guidance and the SAGER guidelines, the resources on this page offer further insight around sex and gender in research studies.

Changes to authorship
Authors are expected to consider carefully the list and order of authors before submitting their manuscript and provide the definitive list of authors at the time of the original submission. Any addition, deletion or rearrangement of author names in the authorship list should be made only before the manuscript has been accepted and only if approved by the journal Editor. To request such a change, the Editor must receive the following from the corresponding author: (a) the reason for the change in author list and (b) written confirmation (e-mail, letter) from all authors that they agree with the addition, removal or rearrangement. In the case of addition or removal of authors, this includes confirmation from the author being added or removed. Only in exceptional circumstances will the Editor consider the addition, deletion or rearrangement of authors after the manuscript has been accepted. While the Editor considers the request, publication of the manuscript will be suspended. If the manuscript has already been published in an online issue, any requests approved by the Editor will result in a corrigendum.

Article transfer service
This journal uses the Elsevier Article Transfer Service to find the best home for your manuscript. This means that if an editor feels your manuscript is more suitable for an alternative journal, you might be asked to consider transferring the manuscript to such a journal. The recommendation might be provided by a Journal Editor, a dedicated Scientific Managing Editor, a tool assisted recommendation, or a combination. If you agree, your manuscript will be transferred, though you will have the opportunity to make changes to the manuscript before the submission is complete. Please note that your manuscript will be independently reviewed by the new journal. More information.

Copyright
Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' (see more information on this). An e-mail will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a 'Journal Publishing Agreement' form or a link to the online version of this agreement.

Subscribers may reproduce tables of contents or prepare lists of articles including abstracts for internal circulation within their institutions. Permission of the Publisher is required for resale or distribution outside the institution and for all other derivative works, including compilations and translations. If excerpts from other copyrighted works are included, the author(s) must obtain written permission from the copyright owners and credit the source(s) in the article. Elsevier has preprinted forms for use by authors in these cases.

For gold open access articles: Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a 'License Agreement' (more information). Permitted third party reuse of gold open access articles is determined by the author's choice of user license.

Author rights
As an author you (or your employer or institution) have certain rights to reuse your work. More information.

Elsevier supports responsible sharing
Find out how you can share your research published in Elsevier journals.

Role of the funding source
You are requested to identify who provided financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article and to briefly describe the role of the sponsor(s), if any, in study design; in the collection, analysis and interpretation of data; in the writing of the report; and in the decision to submit the article for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement, it is recommended to state this.

Open access
Please visit our Open Access page for more information.
Language (usage and editing services)
Please write your text in good English (only American usage is accepted, as dictated by APA style). Authors who feel their English language manuscript may require editing to eliminate possible grammatical or spelling errors and to conform to correct scientific English may wish to use the English Language Editing service available from Elsevier's WebShop (https://webshop.elsevier.com/language-editing/) or visit our customer support site (https://service.elsevier.com) for more information.

Submission
Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

Submit your article
Please submit your article via https://www.editorialmanager.com/chiabuneg/default.aspx

PREPARATION

Queries
For questions about the editorial process (including the status of manuscripts under review) or for technical support on submissions, please visit our Support Center.

Double anonymized review
This journal uses double anonymized review, which means the identities of the authors are concealed from the reviewers, and vice versa. More information is available on our website. To facilitate this, please include the following separately:
Title page (with author details): This should include the title, authors' names, affiliations, acknowledgements and any Declaration of Interest statement, and a complete address for the corresponding author including an e-mail address.
Anonymized manuscript (no author details): The main body of the paper (including the references, figures, tables and any acknowledgements) should not include any identifying information, such as the authors' names or affiliations.

Use of word processing software
It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. The text should be in single-column format. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. In particular, do not use the word processor's options to justify text or to hyphenate words. However, do use bold face, italics, subscripts, superscripts etc. When preparing tables, if you are using a table grid, use only one grid for each individual table and not a grid for each row. If no grid is used, use tabs, not spaces, to align columns. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). 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.

To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Length and Style of Manuscripts
Full-length manuscripts should not exceed 35 pages total (including abstract, text, references, tables, and figures), double spaced with margins of at least 1 inch on all sides and a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman) of 12 points (no smaller).

Article structure
Subdivision
Divide your article into clearly defined sections. Three levels of headings are permitted. Level one and level two headings should appear on its own separate line; level three headings should include punctuation and run in with the first line of the paragraph.

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.
**Essential title page information**

- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
- **Author names and affiliations.** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. You can add your name between parentheses in your own script behind the English transliteration. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Indicate all affiliations with a lower-case superscript letter immediately after the author's name and in front of the appropriate address. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the e-mail address of each author.
- **Corresponding author.** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. This responsibility includes answering any future queries about Methodology and Materials. **Ensure that the e-mail address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.**
- **Present/permanent address.** If an author has moved since the work described in the article was done, or was visiting at the time, a 'Present address' (or 'Permanent address') may be indicated as a footnote to that author's name. The address at which the author actually did the work must be retained as the main, affiliation address. Superscript Arabic numerals are used for such footnotes.

**Highlights**

Highlights are optional yet highly encouraged for this journal, as they increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the example Highlights.

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

Abstracts should follow a structured format of no more than 250 words including the following sections: Background, Objective, Participants and Setting, Methods, Results (giving specific effect sizes and their statistical significance), and Conclusions.

Please note: The Discussion type article requires an unstructured abstract that clearly outlines to issue or gap, the discussion approach, key messages and implications. It follows the same word length.

**Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using American spelling and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, 'and', 'of'). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

**Formatting of funding sources**

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

It is not necessary to include detailed descriptions on the program or type of grants and awards. When funding is from a block grant or other resources available to a university, college, or other research institution, submit the name of the institute or organization that provided the funding.

If no funding has been provided for the research, it is recommended to include the following sentence:

This research did not receive any specific grant from funding agencies in the public, commercial, or not-for-profit sectors.

**Footnotes**

The use of footnotes in the text is not permitted. Footnoted material must be incorporated into the text.
Table footnotes  Indicate each footnote in a table with a superscript lowercase letter.

Artwork
Electronic artwork
General points
• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Embed the used fonts if the application provides that option.
• Aim to use the following fonts in your illustrations: Arial, Courier, Times New Roman, Symbol, or use fonts that look similar.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Provide captions to illustrations separately.
• Size the illustrations close to the desired dimensions of the published version.
• Submit each illustration as a separate file.
• Ensure that color images are accessible to all, including those with impaired color vision.

A detailed guide on electronic artwork is available.
You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

Formats
If your electronic artwork is created in a Microsoft Office application (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) then please supply 'as is' in the native document format.
Regardless of the application used other than Microsoft Office, when your electronic artwork is finalized, please 'Save as' or convert the images to one of the following formats (note the resolution requirements for line drawings, halftones, and line/halftone combinations given below):
EPS (or PDF): Vector drawings, embed all used fonts.
TIFF (or JPEG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones), keep to a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Bitmapped (pure black & white pixels) line drawings, keep to a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPEG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale), keep to a minimum of 500 dpi.
Please do not:
• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); these typically have a low number of pixels and limited set of colors;
• Supply files that are too low in resolution;
• Submit graphics that are disproportionately large for the content.

Color artwork
Please make sure that artwork files are in an acceptable format (TIFF (or JPEG), EPS (or PDF), or MS Office files) and with the correct resolution. If, together with your accepted article, you submit usable color figures then Elsevier will ensure, at no additional charge, that these figures will appear in color online (e.g., ScienceDirect and other sites) regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. For color reproduction in print, you will receive information regarding the costs from Elsevier after receipt of your accepted article. Please indicate your preference for color: in print or online only. Further information on the preparation of electronic artwork.

Figure captions
Ensure that each illustration has a caption. Supply captions separately, not attached to the figure. A caption should comprise a brief title (not on the figure itself) and a description of the illustration. Keep text in the illustrations themselves to a minimum but explain all symbols and abbreviations used.

Text graphics
Text graphics may be embedded in the text at the appropriate position. If you are working with LaTeX and have such features embedded in the text, these can be left. See further under Electronic artwork.

Tables
Please submit tables as editable text and not as images. Tables can be placed either next to the relevant text in the article, or on separate page(s) at the end. Number tables consecutively in accordance with their appearance in the text and place any table notes below the table body. Be sparing in the use of tables and ensure that the data presented in them do not duplicate results described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells.

References
Citation in text
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.

Web references
As a minimum, the full URL should be given and the date when the reference was last accessed. Any further information, if known (DOI, author names, dates, reference to a source publication, etc.), should also be given. Web references can be listed separately (e.g., after the reference list) under a different heading if desired, or can be included in the reference list.

Data references
This journal encourages you to cite underlying or relevant datasets in your manuscript by citing them in your text and including a data reference in your Reference List. Data references should include the following elements: author name(s), dataset title, data repository, version (where available), year, and global persistent identifier. Add [dataset] immediately before the reference so we can properly identify it as a data reference. The [dataset] identifier will not appear in your published article.

Preprint references
Where a preprint has subsequently become available as a peer-reviewed publication, the formal publication should be used as the reference. If there are preprints that are central to your work or that cover crucial developments in the topic, but are not yet formally published, these may be referenced. Preprints should be clearly marked as such, for example by including the word preprint, or the name of the preprint server, as part of the reference. The preprint DOI should also be provided.

References in a special issue
Please ensure that the words ‘this issue’ are added to any references in the list (and any citations in the text) to other articles in the same Special Issue.

Reference management software
Most Elsevier journals have their reference template available in many of the most popular reference management software products. These include all products that support Citation Style Language styles, such as Mendeley. Using citation plug-ins from these products, authors only need to select the appropriate journal template when preparing their article, after which citations and bibliographies will be automatically formatted in the journal’s style. If no template is yet available for this journal, please follow the format of the sample references and citations as shown in this Guide. If you use reference management software, please ensure that you remove all field codes before submitting the electronic manuscript. More information on how to remove field codes from different reference management software.

Reference style

List: references should be arranged first alphabetically and then further sorted chronologically if necessary. More than one reference from the same author(s) in the same year must be identified by the letters ‘a’, ‘b’, ‘c’, etc., placed after the year of publication.


Examples:
Reference to a journal publication:

Reference to a book:

Reference to a chapter in an edited book:

**Video**

Elsevier accepts video material and animation sequences to support and enhance your scientific research. Authors who have video or animation files that they wish to submit with their article are strongly encouraged to include links to these within the body of the article. This can be done in the same way as a figure or table by referring to the video or animation content and noting in the body text where it should be placed. All submitted files should be properly labeled so that they directly relate to the video file's content. In order to ensure that your video or animation material is directly usable, please provide the file in one of our recommended file formats with a preferred maximum size of 150 MB per file, 1 GB in total. Video and animation files supplied will be published online in the electronic version of your article in Elsevier Web products, including ScienceDirect. Please supply 'stills' with your files: you can choose any frame from the video or animation or make a separate image. These will be used instead of standard icons and will personalize the link to your video data. For more detailed instructions please visit our video instruction pages. Note: since video and animation cannot be embedded in the print version of the journal, please provide text for both the electronic and the print version for the portions of the article that refer to this content.

**Data visualization**

Include interactive data visualizations in your publication and let your readers interact and engage more closely with your research. Follow the instructions here to find out about available data visualization options and how to include them with your article.

**Supplementary material**

Supplementary material such as applications, images and sound clips, can be published with your article to enhance it. Submitted supplementary items are published exactly as they are received (Excel or PowerPoint files will appear as such online). Please submit your material together with the article and supply a concise, descriptive caption for each supplementary file. If you wish to make changes to supplementary material during any stage of the process, please make sure to provide an updated file. Do not annotate any corrections on a previous version. Please switch off the 'Track Changes' option in Microsoft Office files as these will appear in the published version.

**Research data**

This journal requires and enables you to share data that supports your research publication where appropriate, and enables you to interlink the data with your published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings, which may also include software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.

Below are a number of ways in which you can associate data with your article or make a statement about the availability of your data when submitting your manuscript. When sharing data in one of these ways, you are expected to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

**Data linking**

If you have made your research data available in a data repository, you can link your article directly to the dataset. Elsevier collaborates with a number of repositories to link articles on ScienceDirect with relevant repositories, giving readers access to underlying data that gives them a better understanding of the research described.

There are different ways to link your datasets to your article. When available, you can directly link your dataset to your article by providing the relevant information in the submission system. For more information, visit the database linking page.

For supported data repositories a repository banner will automatically appear next to your published article on ScienceDirect.
In addition, you can link to relevant data or entities through identifiers within the text of your manuscript, using the following format: Database: xxxx (e.g., TAIR: AT1G01020; CCDC: 734053; PDB: 1XFN).

**Research Elements**

This journal enables you to publish research objects related to your original research – such as data, methods, protocols, software and hardware – as an additional paper in a Research Elements journal.

Research Elements is a suite of peer-reviewed, open access journals which make your research objects findable, accessible and reusable. Articles place research objects into context by providing detailed descriptions of objects and their application, and linking to the associated original research articles. Research Elements articles can be prepared by you, or by one of your collaborators.

During submission, you will be alerted to the opportunity to prepare and submit a manuscript to one of the Research Elements journals.

More information can be found on the Research Elements page.

**Data statement**

To foster transparency, we require you to state the availability of your data in your submission if your data is unavailable to access or unsuitable to post. This may also be a requirement of your funding body or institution. You will have the opportunity to provide a data statement during the submission process. The statement will appear with your published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

**Submission checklist**

The following list will be useful during the final checking of an article prior to sending it to the journal for review. Please consult this Guide for Authors for further details of any item.

**Ensure that the following items are present:**

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

- E-mail address
- Full postal address
- Phone numbers

All necessary files have been uploaded, and contain:

- Keywords
- All figure captions
- All tables (including title, description, footnotes)

Further considerations:

- Manuscript has been 'spell-checked' and 'grammar-checked'
- References are in the correct format for this journal
- All references mentioned in the Reference list are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Web)
- Color figures are clearly marked as being intended for color reproduction on the Web (free of charge) and in print, or to be reproduced in color on the Web (free of charge) and in black-and-white in print
- If only color on the Web is required, black-and-white versions of the figures are also supplied for printing purposes

For any further information please visit our customer support site at https://service.elsevier.com.

Authors are responsible for ensuring that manuscripts conform fully to the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (6th ed.), including not only reference style but also spelling (see, e.g., the hyphenation rules), word choice, grammar, tables, headings, etc. Spelling and punctuation should be in American English.

**AFTER ACCEPTANCE**

**Online proof correction**

To ensure a fast publication process of the article, we kindly ask authors to provide us with their proof corrections within two days. Corresponding authors will receive an e-mail with a link to our online proofing system, allowing annotation and correction of proofs online. The environment is similar to MS Word: in addition to editing text, you can also comment on figures/tables and answer questions from the Copy Editor. Web-based proofing provides a faster and less error-prone process by allowing you to directly type your corrections, eliminating the potential introduction of errors.
If preferred, you can still choose to annotate and upload your edits on the PDF version. All instructions for proofing will be given in the e-mail we send to authors, including alternative methods to the online version and PDF.

We will do everything possible to get your article published quickly and accurately. Please use this proof only for checking the typesetting, editing, completeness and correctness of the text, tables and figures. Significant changes to the article as accepted for publication will only be considered at this stage with permission from the Editor. It is important to ensure that all corrections are sent back to us in one communication. Please check carefully before replying, as inclusion of any subsequent corrections cannot be guaranteed. Proofreading is solely your responsibility.

Offprints
The corresponding author will, at no cost, receive a customized Share Link providing 50 days free access to the final published version of the article on ScienceDirect. The Share Link can be used for sharing the article via any communication channel, including email and social media. For an extra charge, paper offprints can be ordered via the offprint order form which is sent once the article is accepted for publication. Corresponding authors who have published their article gold open access do not receive a Share Link as their final published version of the article is available open access on ScienceDirect and can be shared through the article DOI link.

AUTHOR INQUIRIES
Visit the Elsevier Support Center to find the answers you need. Here you will find everything from Frequently Asked Questions to ways to get in touch.

You can also check the status of your submitted article or find out when your accepted article will be published.

© Copyright 2018 Elsevier | https://www.elsevier.com