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DESCRIPTION

The *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology (JESP)* aims to publish articles that extend or create conceptual advances in social psychology. As the title of the journal indicates, we are focused on publishing primary reports of research in social psychology that use experimental or quasi-experimental methods, although not every study in an article needs to be experimental. We also would like to encourage submissions explaining methodological or statistical considerations that are relevant to the kind of research published here, and that are usable by the typical person who carries out and evaluates social psychology research. Finally, we encourage authors to submit reports of replication studies in experimental social psychology that meet the high standards at JESP (for guidance, see Brandt, IJzerman et al., 2014).

Before submitting your paper please review the guidelines [here](#)

The aim of these guidelines is to share with you some criteria that the journals editors employ when evaluating manuscripts. The guidelines cannot address all substantive issues, but we do want to emphasize that, unless its methods, theory and evidence are all exceptionally strong, typically one research study leaves many questions unanswered and this is an important reason why papers that include more than one study are preferred by *JESP* editors.

JESP editors start from an attitude that is positive about efforts to advance the field, but rigorous in terms of evaluating evidence supporting a submitted papers conclusions. With this attitude in mind the following points may help authors to decide what points to address when preparing their manuscripts for *JESP*.

The guidelines also reflect the editors experiences with having to reject papers, or engage authors in lengthy and uncertain revisions, for the reasons mentioned below. Thus, the guidelines aim to spell out some basics in order to let authors know what kind of methods and reporting choices will give them the best chance at a favourable evaluation at *JESP*.

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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Types of contribution

The *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* is devoted to the publication of theoretically grounded experimental research on social interaction and related phenomena, including attitudes; social cognition, perception, emotions and motivation; interpersonal relationships; and intragroup and intergroup processes. However, this is not an exhaustive list, and the Journal seeks to publish significant work reflecting the entire breadth of the field of experimental social psychology. It is anticipated that most published manuscripts will report results of empirical research that advances social psychological theory. However, other types of papers, such as methodological comments, are also encouraged if they contribute significantly to an understanding of social processes.

The *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology* considers three types of articles: **Full length research article** (no length restrictions, but normally consist of 30-40 pages of text, around 10,000 words), **Reports** (no longer than 5000 words of main article text, excluding abstract, footnotes and references) and **Registered Reports** (guidance for authors and reviewers [here](#)).

Before submitting, please also read the guidelines found [here](#) describing some criteria that the journal's editors employ when evaluating manuscripts.

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.

Most of the journals production requirements can be met by following the most recent Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA). Otherwise, detailed information about manuscript preparation requirements can be found below.

Submit your article

Please submit your article via <https://www.evise.com/profile/api/navigate/JESP>.

Pre-submission information

Please be aware that a number of questions will be asked automatically during the JESP submission process. Preparing your manuscript to meet these questions and having answers ready will help ensure a smooth experience.

The following questions will be answered with check-boxes and text entry in the submission process.

1. Role of the funding source. You are requested to confirm that, in the author notes of the article, you identify any sources of financial support for the conduct of the research and/or preparation of the article. If such a funder exists, then in the cover letter, 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 then this should be stated.

2. Submission declaration. You are requested to confirm that the article submitted, to the knowledge of all authors, has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint, see <https://www.elsevier.com/postingpolicy>), 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 including electronically in the same form, in English or in any other language, without the written consent of the copyright-holder. For further information on ethics in publishing and ethical guidelines for journal publication see <https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics> and <https://www.elsevier.com/journal-authors/ethics>.

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4. Human and animal rights. Authors are asked to confirm that all empirical research with human participants submitted for consideration has been conducted in a manner consistent with the [American Psychological Association's Ethical Principles in the Conduct of Research with Human Participants](#) (2010), and that any experiments involving animals, which are rare but not unprecedented in JESP, were carried out in accordance with appropriate APA guidelines for animal research.

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6. Reporting guidelines. Authors will also have to indicate, in lines with points 1 and 2 of the editorial guidelines, agreement with these two statements, or reasons why agreement is not possible:

The text of the article contains a statement asserting that all measures, manipulations, and exclusions in the study are disclosed, as well as the method of determining the final sample size (with particular reference to whether collection was continued after data analysis). Please give the page number of the first of these disclosure statements. The article reports effect sizes, exact p-values, means, standard deviations, and inter-variable correlations relevant to the analyses, either in text or in Supplementary Materials. **Sensitivity power analysis.** Each original empirical study with existing data should report, for its key hypothesis tests, a *sensitivity power analysis* (available in the free software GPower; Faul, Buchner, Erdfelder & Lang, 2017). This should assume an alpha significance criterion (normally .05, two-tailed), and a standard power criterion (normally 80%), and report the minimum effect size. Any assumptions in addition to N that are required to calculate power (for example, mean or median correlation among repeated measures) should be reported and justified as part of the analysis. See the [policy announcement](#) for details and explanation. **Mediation analysis.** In line with a recent article in JESP about these concerns ([Fiedler, Harris & Schott, available online](#)), we will now require any report of mediation analysis to either explain why the causal model used is preferred to others, or use cautious language, reporting the mediation analysis as compatible with only one of several models possible. See the [policy announcement](#) for details and explanation. Also, please read our [previous guidelines](#) about the unnecessary use of mediation analysis.

7. Authors must report whether any data in the paper was part of a previous submission to JESP. Please note that JESP will not consider resubmissions of previously considered research unless substantive new evidence is added in a way that directly addresses the concerns of the previous editor. We strongly advise that authors make their case for how the new evidence improves the paper in the cover letter, referring to specific points in the previous editor's decision.

Statcheck

Journal of Experimental Social Psychology has started a pilot to encourage authors to use the program [statcheck](#) on manuscripts submitted to the journal, in order to improve the accuracy of their statistical reporting in text.

For all manuscripts that are deemed to fit within the [Aims and Scope](#) of the journal, the editorial team will be using statcheck as part of their initial triage of manuscripts. For any manuscripts found to have important discrepancies in reporting, we will ask authors to resolve these in the manuscript before they can be sent on for further review. The pilot is intended to help editors and authors to work together to decrease the number of errors in published articles in the journal.

Before submitting, authors are invited to run a HTML or PDF version of their APA-formatted manuscript through statcheck prior to submitting their manuscripts, via this link: <http://statcheck.io/>. This will be the same portal that the JESP Editorial Team will be using.

Statcheck is a program that checks for errors in statistical reporting in APA-formatted documents. It was originally written in the R programming language. [statcheck/web](#) is a web-based implementation of statcheck. Using [statcheck/web](#), you can check any PDF for statistical errors without installing the R programming language on your computer. To use [statcheck/web](#), simply upload a PDF or HTML file of your APA-formatted document. The output will identify any errors in statistical reporting from the manuscript text, based on apparent discrepancies among degrees of freedom, test statistic, and p-value. (For a summary of what statcheck can and cannot do, see [the statcheck manual](#)).

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Things that statcheck counts as inconsistent

$p = .000$ (according to APA style, you should report $p < .001$) Note: there is an argument in the `statcheck` function to turn this off and not automatically count $p = .000$ as inconsistent one-tailed tests that are not identified explicitly with the words "one-tailed", "one-sided", or "directional" results that are inconsistent due to statistical corrections for multiple testing/post-hoc testing/violations of assumptions E.g., often when a Bonferroni correction is used, the p-value is multiplied by the number of tests performed. This makes the reported result internally inconsistent.

Common sources of inconsistencies

Wrong rounding When reporting a correlation, reporting the sample size instead of the degrees of freedom Reporting $p < .042$ when in fact $p = .042$ Copy-paste errors: copying a previously reported result as a "template", but forgetting to change one or more of the numbers

Statistics that statcheck cannot read

not reported exactly according to APA style, e.g.: degrees of freedom in subscripts square brackets instead of parentheses semi-colons instead of commas effect size in between test statistic and p-value statistics reported in table tests other than t, F, χ^2 , r, or Z

Additional Materials

Authors may submit additional material with their documents that they would like reviewers to consider. Examples may include the summary of additional statistical analyses not reported in the original document, a fuller description of the procedure or a summary of additional conditions or dependent variables not considered essential in the published document. Supplementary material is not required but, if submitted, may be subject to reasonable limits at the discretion of the Editor (e.g., 10,000 words). If the manuscript is accepted for publication, the supplementary material will not appear in print, but in the journal online only. See further guidelines for style and formatting below.

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PREPARATION

Specific Notes on Preparation

For ease of reading and productions, authors should submit their articles in a format corresponding to the most recent Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, following the guidelines on content, style and presentation. However, we do encourage authors to include tables, figures and footnotes on the main text instead of at the end of the manuscript, for ease of reading by editors and reviewers.

Peer review

This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. [More information on types of peer review.](#)

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Highlights are mandatory for this journal. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that convey the core findings of the article and 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). You can view [example Highlights](#) on our information site.

Abstract

Abstracts should be no more than 250 words.

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Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view [Example Graphical Abstracts](#) on our information site.

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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, please include the following sentence:

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

Mathematical formulae

Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

Artwork

Electronic artwork

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- 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.
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A detailed [guide on electronic artwork](#) is available.

You are urged to visit this site; some excerpts from the detailed information are given here.

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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.

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Ensure that each illustration has a caption. In the final submitted version, 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.

References

Data references

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