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 journal’s 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 paper’s 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.

Journal of Experimental Social Psychology values inclusion and diversity across research, through its various lenses, be it authorship, reviewers, or editors. We are committed to maintaining gender inclusion, whilst additionally working to ensure the journal accurately reflects the geography, race & ethnicity, and age diversity of members of the field in which it sits. This commitment is in line with Elsevier’s broader ongoing inclusion & diversity efforts. Equity and inclusion in publishing is critically important for scientific excellence and innovation. The Editors believe passionately in the power of an inclusive publishing environment as it enriches us all.
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Past-Editor
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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; social communication; 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 report empirical research that advances social psychological theory. In keeping with the journal's title, we expect empirical manuscripts to include some amount of experimental approach, even if in only one of multiple studies. By "experimental" we mean: between-participants manipulations or interventions; within-participants comparisons between different contexts or stimuli; quasi-experiments where random assignment is not completely achieved; and "natural experiments" involving observations before and after a critical event. Research that is entirely correlational is probably more suited to another social psychology journal.

Non-empirical papers, in particular in the area of methodology, are also encouraged if they contribute significantly to an understanding of social psychology research. We do not normally consider literature review papers (unless they are quantitative, i.e. meta-analyses) or purely theoretical papers.

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), Case Reports (no longer than 5000 words of main article text, excluding abstract, footnotes and references) and Registered Reports (where rationale, methods and analysis plan are peer reviewed before data collection; for more information click, see the JESP Registered Reports Guidelines).

Submission

Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files, via https://www.editorialmanager.com/jesp/default.aspx.

Most of the journal's production requirements can be met by following the most recent Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (APA, 7th edition 2019). Most importantly, this edition specifically asks for figures, tables, and footnotes to be embedded in the body text of the manuscript, rather than put in separate sections at the end. Otherwise, detailed information about manuscript preparation requirements can be found behind this link.

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.

3. Competing interest. All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations within three years of beginning the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work. See also https://www.elsevier.com/conflictsOfInterest. Further information and an example of a Conflict of Interest statement can be found at: https://service.elsevier.com/app/answers/detail/a_id/286/supporthub/publishing.

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.

5. Keeping and disclosing data. Also in line with APA ethical standards, authors are asked to affirm that if the article is published, they will share data on request for scientific purposes, and will retain the raw data for five years after publication. Any reasons why these affirmations cannot be made should be noted.

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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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 rejected research unless explicitly allowed by the rejecting editor. Substantive new evidence should be added in a way that directly addresses the concerns of that 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.

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.

Language (usage and editing services)
JESP is an English-language journal. Either US or British/Commonwealth English usage is appropriate for manuscripts, but not a mixture of these. 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.

Between submission and publication

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.

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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’.

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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.

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**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 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
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Inclusive language and research reporting
JESP is committed to research reporting that acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal rights. This involves the following policies which will be checked upon submission and throughout the review process:
Manuscripts should refer to gender, sexuality, ethnicity, disability, religion, and other demographic differences using accurate and sensitive language. The APA 7th Edition Publication Manual contains useful guidelines from a United States perspective. When reporting research in or about other countries, language should balance local and international standards for respectful treatment. In particular, we request authors to refer to demographic groups wherever possible using "adjective + people" framed language instead of plain nouns (e.g., "Black people/participants" instead of "Blacks," "gay men" instead of "gays") especially in titles, abstracts, and Introductions. We encourage
the singular "they" as a pronoun to refer to people without specifying gender. To help readers assess representativeness and generalizability, Methods sections should identify participants' gender distribution, mean age, and the national context(s) from which participants were drawn. Where appropriate, we encourage reporting of other important demographics within the national context that would inform the social context of responses (e.g., racial identity, religion, citizenship). No single sample should be treated either as especially representative of humanity, or as needing special explanation for having been selected. We tell our editors and reviewers not to question samples purely on the basis of having been drawn from specific countries or demographics, and not to ask for more usual types of samples if a comparative point is not being made. Authors, especially those trained in the United States, should write with an international audience in mind. They should explain and contextualize nation-specific references, and recognize that characteristics of their nation (e.g., political party identification) may not be universal psychological concepts.

Elsevier Researcher Academy

Researcher Academy is a free e-learning platform designed to support early and mid-career researchers throughout their research journey. The "Learn" environment at Researcher Academy offers several interactive modules, webinars, downloadable guides and resources to guide you through the process of writing for research and going through peer review. Feel free to use these free resources to improve your submission and navigate the publication process with ease.

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.

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.

Use of word processing software

It is important that the file be saved in the native format of the word processor used. Some 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. 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.

Essential title page information

• Separate Title page. Due to our anonymous author policy for reviewers, all identifying information should appear on the title page only. Details in the manuscript that would identify the author or their institution should be redacted. Open science material such as preregistrations, materials, or data should also be free of identifying information and use anonymous links. Find out how to do this here.

• 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 lowercase 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.
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**Peer review.** This journal operates a double blind review process. Anonymization should preserve information about method and referencing that are necessary to evaluate the paper. Self-references should not be deleted. 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.

Citing unpublished papers from one’s own lab, or other materials not generally released, can reveal an author’s identity. This practice also tends to defeat a main purpose of citation, given that the content of a cited work cannot be checked by reviewers or readers. If it is absolutely necessary to cite unpublished works, author and institution names should be redacted from text and references, until final acceptance.

**Highlights**
Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help 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 be no more than 250 words.

**Graphical abstract**
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.

**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.
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
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. 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
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.

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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.

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