JOURNAL OF RESEARCH IN PERSONALITY

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DESCRIPTION

Emphasizing experimental and descriptive research, the *Journal of Research in Personality* presents articles that examine important issues in the field of **personality** and in related fields basic to the understanding of personality. The subject matter includes treatments of genetic, physiological, motivational, learning, perceptual, cognitive, and social processes of both normal and abnormal kinds in human and animal subjects.

Features:
• Papers that present integrated sets of studies that address significant theoretical issues relating to personality.
• Theoretical papers and critical reviews of current experimental and methodological interest.
• Single, well-designed studies of an innovative nature.
• Brief reports, including replication or null result studies of previously reported findings, or a well-designed studies addressing questions of limited scope.

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Introduction

The *Journal of Research in Personality* (JRP) publishes both theoretical and empirical work in the traditional areas of personality (including both trait and dynamic process-oriented approaches) and in related areas central to the study of personality. These areas include, but are not limited to, genetic, physiological, motivational, cognitive, cross-cultural, developmental, and social processes relevant to understanding both normal and pathological aspects of personality. JRP publishes integrated sets of studies addressing important theoretical or conceptual issues, as well as theoretical and methodological review articles that have the potential to advance the field. JRP also solicits, in a brief report format, theoretically grounded, well-executed replication and null result studies. Such studies-though often difficult to publish-play a crucial role in building a cumulative knowledge base within any discipline and in fostering valid generalized casual inferences, especially through meta-analysis.

In addition to encouraging substantively and theoretically novel papers, JRP encourages submissions that use strong and innovative methodologies, such as longitudinal studies, diary studies, experiments, or quasi-experiments, as well as those that use non-self-report data (e.g., other reports, implicit methods, narratives). To broaden the base of published research, JRP further encourages studies that include non-college students as participants.

Cross-sectional, self-report studies conducted among convenience samples can make important contributions to the literature. However, such studies are also relatively easy to conduct and have some important limitations. Although single-study papers that use these methods will be considered at JRP, we have somewhat higher expectations regarding the size and the novelty of the contribution that such studies can make. Papers that rely solely on cross-sectional designs and self-report questionnaire methods among convenience samples are often rejected without review.

In short, JRP seeks to continue its tradition of publishing top tier, traditional personality research, while establishing a lively forum in which well-done studies of a slightly riskier nature will find a comfortable home.

Types of articles:
Full-length articles

Full length articles are typically single-study or multiple-study papers focused on a topic of relevance to personality psychologists. There are no page or word limits for full length articles, though editors and reviewers will evaluate whether the length is appropriate for the material being presented. Authors are encouraged to be succinct, though they may use as many pages as necessary to adequately describe the theoretical rationale, and especially the methods and results. Potential authors are encouraged to look over recent tables of contents to get a sense of the typical length of papers at JRP.
Brief reports

The *Journal of Research in Personality* accepts brief reports of empirical studies. This forum is intended primarily for publishing soundly designed studies that address targeted questions can be described without excessive theoretical background, and that have methods that can be described relatively succinctly. The contribution of brief reports is often as large as those from full-length papers; they

simply address a more constrained question and can be described in fewer words. An author who submits a Short Communication must agree not to submit a full report based on the same data to another journal.

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Registered reports

Registered reports (click here for more details). These submissions undergo a two-phase review process in which study rationale and methodology are considered prior to the research being undertaken.

Replication Studies
The editors of JRP strongly believe that highly powered replication studies are essential to good science. We especially encourage authors to submit strong replication attempts of studies that were published in JRP.

Authors who conduct replication studies should assume that effect sizes will likely not be as large as those published in the original paper, and they should choose sample sizes that have more than adequate power to detect this expected effect. Furthermore, authors should calculate confidence intervals around their estimated effects and compare them to the original effect size and to the null hypothesis when reporting their results.

Authors who are planning replication studies are encouraged to use the registered report option for these studies. As noted above, registered reports use a two-stage submission process, in which authors submit an introduction and method sections (including analysis plan) for review prior to conducting the study. If the protocol is approved, authors conduct the study and continue to the second stage of review that includes the full results. Authors who wish to submit "direct" or "close" replications that have already been conducted to the journal should use a two-stage "results-blind" submission process that mirrors the registered report format. Specifically, authors should prepare their manuscript to report only a brief introduction, along with the methods and analytic plan. Reviewers will be asked to evaluate the fidelity to the original study and the relevance of the original study to personality research before seeing the results. If the paper passes this stage of review, the paper will receive an "in principle" acceptance and will be asked to provide a full manuscript with results and discussion. This second stage of review will primarily focus on whether the reported analyses match those described in the stage-one submission.

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Sample Size and Power

A major problem in the field has been small sample sizes and a general lack of power. This not only leads to problems detecting effects that actually exist, it also results in lower precision in estimates and systematically inflated effect sizes. Furthermore, some have argued that running large numbers of weakly powered studies increases the chance of obtaining artifactual results. For this reason, the editors of JRP are committed to increasing the power of studies published in the Journal. All submissions will be evaluated with respect to power before being sent out for review; submissions deemed to be severely underpowered will be rejected without review. Given the importance of power and precision, authors are strongly encouraged to consider these issues when planning studies and are required to discuss sample size decisions in submitted manuscripts. Specifically, authors should (a) discuss what size effect they expect to find, (b) defend this expectation by referring to relevant prior empirical work, and (c) estimate the power to detect the expected effect with the sample size that is planned. If no evidence exists to guide judgments about reasonable effect sizes, researchers should err on the side of larger samples and higher power to provide increased precision. For instance, researchers might want to plan studies that are adequately powered to detect effects of the size that

meta-analyses have suggested are typical within an area of research or within the field as a whole, or to identify a minimum effect size that they believe to be practically important, and power their study to detect it. The 2017 editorial provides more guidance on power discussions.

Increasing Transparency through open materials, code, and data

The editors of the Journal of Research in Personality believe that the data, methods used in the analysis, and materials used to conduct the research should be clearly and precisely documented and available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing the results, critically evaluating the conclusions of a report, or replicating the procedure. However, we also acknowledge that there are some situations where data and material sharing is not possible, either due to identifiable data, the use of proprietary data or instruments, or other similar circumstances. Accordingly, the policy of the Journal of Research in Personality is to require authors to make their data, materials, and code available to other researchers in a trusted digital repository unless there is a reason why this is not possible. If data and code cannot be shared, then such reasons must be provided at the time of submission and indicated in an acknowledgment or footnote. Badges for open data and open materials will be provided for those papers where these resources are made public.

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