DESCRIPTION

Social Science & Medicine provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for the dissemination of social science research on health. We publish original research articles (both empirical and theoretical), reviews, position papers and commentaries on health issues, to inform current research, policy and practice in all areas of common interest to social scientists, health practitioners, and policy makers. The journal publishes material relevant to any aspect of health from a wide range of social science disciplines (anthropology, economics, epidemiology, geography, policy, psychology, and sociology), and material relevant to the social sciences from any of the professions concerned with physical and mental health, health care, clinical practice, and health policy and organization. We encourage material which is of general interest to an international readership.

The journal publishes the following types of contribution:

1) Peer-reviewed original research articles and critical or analytical reviews in any area of social science research relevant to health. These papers may be up to 9,000 words including abstract, tables, and references as well as the main text. Papers below this limit are preferred.

2) Peer-reviewed short reports of research findings on topical issues or published articles of between 2000 and 4000 words.

3) Submitted or invited commentaries and responses debating, and published alongside, selected articles.

4) Special Issues bringing together collections of papers on a particular theme, and usually guest edited.

Please see our Guide for Authors for information on article submission.

AUDIENCE

Social scientists (e.g. medical anthropologists, health economists, social epidemiologists, medical geographers, health policy analysts, health psychologists, medical sociologists) interested in health, illness, and health care; and health-related policy makers and health care professionals (e.g. dentists, epidemiologists, health educators, lawyers, managers, nurses, midwives, pharmacists, physicians,
public health practitioners, psychiatrists, surgeons) interested in the contribution of the social sciences.

**IMPACT FACTOR**

2018: 3.087 © Clarivate Analytics Journal Citation Reports 2019

**ABSTRACTING AND INDEXING**

Current Contents
CINAHL
Research Alert
ASSIA
BIOSIS Citation Index
Current Contents - Social & Behavioral Sciences
Embase
Elsevier BIOBASE
Abstracts in Hygiene and Communicable Diseases
Geographical Abstracts
Hyg Abstr
Pascal Francis
Psychology Abstracts
Sociological Abstracts
Social Sciences Citation Index
Tropical Diseases Bulletin
PubMed/Medline
Scopus

**EDITORIAL BOARD**

*Co-Editors in Chief*
Ichiro Kawachi, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02115, United States
S.V. Subramanian, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, 677 Huntington Avenue, Boston, Massachusetts, 02115, United States

*Senior Editor, Medical Anthropology*
Catherine Panter-Brick, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States

*Associate Editor, Medical Anthropology*
Mark Eggerman, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, United States

*Senior Co-Editors, Health Economics*
Joanna Coast, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
Richard Smith, University of Exeter Medical School, Exeter, United Kingdom

*Senior Co-Editors, Social Epidemiology*
Ichiro Kawachi, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
S.V. Subramanian, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

*Editorial Associate, Social Epidemiology*
Alexander Tsai, Massachusetts General Hospital Cancer Center, Boston, Massachusetts, United States

*Senior Editor, Medical Geography*
Susan J. Elliott, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

*Editorial Assistant: Medical Geography*
Andrea Rishworth, University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

*Senior Editor, Health Policy*
Winnie Yip, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
**Associate Editors, Health Policy**
- **Kevin Croke**, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- **Ashley M. Fox**, University at Albany State University of New York, Albany, New York, United States
- **Margaret McConnell**, Harvard University T H Chan School of Public Health, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- **Rachel Robinson**, American University, Washington, District of Columbia, United States

**Editorial Assistant, Health Policy**
- **Linda Anderson**, La Trobe University, Bundoora, Victoria, Australia

**Senior Editor, Health Psychology**
- **Blair T. Johnson**, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, United States

**Associate Editor, Health Psychology**
- **Laura Richman**, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, United States
- **Lori A.J. Scott-Sheldon**, Brown University, Providence, Rhode Island, United States

**Editorial Associates, Health Psychology**
- **Rebecca L. Acabchuk**, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, United States
- **Emily Alden Hennessy**, University of Connecticut, Connecticut, United States

**Senior Editor, Medical Sociology**
- **Stefan Timmermans**, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States

**Editorial Assistant, Medical Sociology**
- **Zach Griffen**, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States

**Advisory Editors**
- **F. Aboud**, McGill University, Montréal, Quebec, Canada
- **N. Adler**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California, United States
- **H. Al-Janabi**, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, United Kingdom
- **M. Avendano**, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom
- **K. Barker**, University of New Mexico, Albuquerque, New Mexico, United States
- **G. Bauer**, Western University Department of Epidemiology and Biostatistics, London, Ontario, Canada
- **S. Birch**, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
- **G. Bloom**, University of Sussex, Brighton, United Kingdom
- **H. Bosma**, Maastricht University, Maastricht, Netherlands
- **T. Brown**, Queen Mary University of London, London, United Kingdom
- **C.J. Clark**, Emory University School of Public Health, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
- **M. Conner**, University of Leeds, Leeds, United Kingdom
- **A. Cooklin**, La Trobe University Judith Lumley Centre, Melbourne, Australia
- **L. Cornelsen**, London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine, London, United Kingdom
- **F. Cornish**, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom
- **V.A. Crooks**, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, British Columbia, Canada
- **D.K. Dalal**, University at Albany State University of New York, Albany, New York, United States
- **A. Das**, McGill University Department of Sociology, Montréal, Quebec, Canada
- **D.M. Dave**, Bentley University, Waltham, Massachusetts, United States
- **M. De Allegri**, Heidelberg University, Heidelberg, Germany
- **A. De Silva**, University of Peradeniya, Peradeniya, Sri Lanka
- **C. Dunkel Schetter**, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States
- **S. Eggly**, Wayne State University School of Medicine, Detroit, Michigan, United States
- **D. Evans**, World Health Organization, Geneva, Switzerland
- **E. Fleegler**, Boston Children's Hospital, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- **H. Fouts**, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tennessee, United States
- **K. Frohlich**, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
- **J. Gabe**, Centre for Criminology and Sociology, Egham, United Kingdom
- **B. Gardner**, King's College London, London, United Kingdom
- **B. Giles-Corti**, RMIT University, Melbourne, Victoria, Australia
- **S. Glantz**, University of California San Francisco, San Francisco, California, United States
- **K. Hadfield**, Queen Mary University of London School of Biological and Chemical Sciences, London, United Kingdom
- **C. Hadley**, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
- **M. S. Hagger**, University of California Merced, Psychological Sciences, Merced, California, United States
- **K. Hampshire**, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom
- **J. Harris**, Boston University, Boston, Massachusetts, United States
- **M.L. Hatzenbuehler**, Columbia University, New York, New York, United States
- **L. Hawkley**, University of Chicago, Chicago, Illinois, United States
J. Holt-Lunstad, Brigham Young University Department of Psychology, Provo, Utah, United States
D. Hunter, Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom
R.S. Jorgensen, Syracuse University, Syracuse, New York, United States
A. Jutel, Victoria University of Wellington, Wellington, New Zealand
T. Kershaw, Yale University School of Medicine, New Haven, Connecticut, United States
B. Knäuper, McGill University, Montréal, Quebec, Canada
B. Kohrt, The George Washington University, Washington, District of Columbia, United States
K. Kondo, Chiba University, Chiba, Japan
M. Lagarde, London School of Economics and Political Science, London, United Kingdom
J. Lewis, The University of Melbourne School of Social and Political Sciences, University Of Melbourne, Australia
T.T. Lewis, Emory University, Atlanta, Georgia, United States
K.-Y. Liu, University of California Los Angeles, Los Angeles, California, United States
W.W.S. Mak, Chinese University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China
J. Mata, University of Mannheim Graduate School of Economic and Social Sciences, Mannheim, Germany
D. McIntyre, University of Cape Town Faculty of Health Sciences, Observatory, South Africa
D. Mennin, Teachers College of Columbia University, New York, New York, United States
J. Merlo, Lund University, Faculty of Medicine, Malmö, Sweden
S. Negri, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, California, United States
S. Nettleton, University of York, York, United Kingdom
J. Niederdeppe, Cornell University, Ithaca, New York, United States
S.M. Noar, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, Chapel Hill, North Carolina, United States
E. Oberle, The University of British Columbia, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada
J. Pachankis, Yale University School of Public Health, New Haven, Connecticut, United States
T.J. Peters, University of Bristol, Bristol, United Kingdom
A. Pilnick, University of Nottingham, Nottingham, United Kingdom
L. Potvin, University of Montreal, Montreal, Quebec, Canada
A. Power, University of Southampton, Southampton, United Kingdom
C. Protogerou, University of Cape Town Department of Psychology, Rondebosch, South Africa
A. Reid, University of Massachusetts Amherst, Amherst, Massachusetts, United States
C. Rosenfeld Evans, University of Oregon Department of Sociology, Eugene, Oregon, United States
P. Santana, University of Coimbra, Coimbra, Portugal
U. Scholz, University of Zurich, Zürich, Switzerland
M. Schooling, City University of New York, New York, New York, United States
A. Scott, The University of Melbourne Melbourne Institute, Carlton, Victoria, Australia
S. Shostak, Brandeis University, Waltham, Massachusetts, United States
S. Skevington, University of Bath, Bath, United Kingdom
R. Street, Jr., Texas A&M University College Station, College Station, Texas, United States
K. Sweeney, University of California Riverside, Riverside, California, United States
S. Takao, Okayama University, Okayama, Japan
S. Tang, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, United States
J. Thrasher, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, United States
K.M. Walsemann, University of South Carolina, Columbia, South Carolina, United States
Y. Wang, Ball State University, Department of Nutrition and Health Science, Muncie, Indiana, United States
M. Warin, The University of Adelaide, Adelaide, South Australia, Australia
S.S. Willen, University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut, United States
C.L. Wu, National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan
N. Yanakoulious, McMaster University, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada
GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way
We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a 'correct format' for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.
To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

INTRODUCTION
Click here for guidelines on Special Issues.
Click here for guidelines on Qualitative methods.

Social Science & Medicine provides an international and interdisciplinary forum for the dissemination of social science research on health. We publish original research articles (both empirical and theoretical), reviews, position papers and commentaries on health issues, to inform current research, policy and practice in all areas of common interest to social scientists, health practitioners, and policy makers. The journal publishes material relevant to any aspect of health and healthcare from a wide range of social science disciplines (anthropology, economics, epidemiology, geography, policy, psychology, and sociology), and material relevant to the social sciences from any of the professions concerned with physical and mental health, health care, clinical practice, and health policy and the organization of healthcare. We encourage material which is of general interest to an international readership.

Journal Policies
The journal publishes the following types of contribution:

1) Peer-reviewed original research articles and critical analytical reviews in any area of social science research relevant to health and healthcare. These papers may be up to 9000 words including abstract, tables, figures, references and (printed) appendices as well as the main text. Papers below this limit are preferred.

2) Systematic reviews and literature reviews of up to 15000 words including abstract, tables, figures, references and (printed) appendices as well as the main text.

3) Peer-reviewed short communications of findings on topical issues or published articles of between 2000 and 4000 words.

4) Submitted or invited commentaries and responses debating, and published alongside, selected articles (please select the article type 'Discussion' when submitting a Commentary).

5) Special Issues bringing together collections of papers on a particular theme, and usually guest edited.

Due to the high number of submissions received by Social Science & Medicine, Editorial Offices are not able to respond to questions regarding the appropriateness of new papers for the journal. If you are unsure whether or not your paper is within scope, please take some time to review previous issues of the journal and the Aims and Scope at https://www.journals.elsevier.com/social-science-and-medicine/.

Submission checklist
You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

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
All necessary files have been uploaded:

**Manuscript:**
- Include keywords
- All figures (include relevant captions)
- All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
- Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

**Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files** (where applicable)

**Supplemental files** (where applicable)

Further considerations
- Manuscript has been 'spell checked' and 'grammar checked'
- All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
- Manuscript does not exceed the word limit
- All identifying information has been removed from the manuscript, including the file name itself
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet)
- Relevant declarations of interest have been made
- Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
- Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

For further information, visit our Support Center.

**BEFORE YOU BEGIN**

**Ethics in Publishing**

For information on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication see [https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics](https://www.elsevier.com/publishingethics) and [https://www.elsevier.com/ethicalguidelines](https://www.elsevier.com/ethicalguidelines).

Please note that any submission that has data collected from human subjects requires ethics approval. If your manuscript does not include ethics approval, your paper will not be sent out for review.

**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-blind) or the manuscript file (if single-blind). If there are no interests to declare then please state this: 'Declarations of interest: none'. This summary statement will be ultimately published if the article is accepted. 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.]

**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. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service [Crossref Similarity Check].

**Submission declaration and verification**

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of a conference abstract or as part of a published lecture or thesis for an academic qualification), 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. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection software iThenticate. See also https://www.elsevier.com/editors/plagdetect.

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. Articles should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader, should contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of race, sex, culture or any other characteristic, and should use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, for instance by using 'he or she', 'his/her' instead of 'he' or 'his', and by making use of job titles that are free of stereotyping (e.g. 'chairperson' instead of 'chairman' and 'flight attendant' instead of 'stewardess').

Author contributions
For transparency, we encourage authors to submit an author statement file outlining their individual contributions to the paper using the relevant CRediT roles: Conceptualization; Data curation; Formal analysis; Funding acquisition; Investigation; Methodology; Project administration; Resources; Software; Supervision; Validation; Visualization; Roles/Writing - original draft; Writing - review & editing. Authorship statements should be formatted with the names of authors first and CRediT role(s) following. More details and an example

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 is part of our Article Transfer Service. This means that if the Editor feels your article is more suitable in one of our other participating journals, then you may be asked to consider transferring the article to one of those. If you agree, your article will be transferred automatically on your behalf with no need to reformat. Please note that your article will be reviewed again 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 an 'Exclusive 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.](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed)

**Elsevier supports responsible sharing**
Find out how you can [share your research](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed) 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 articles; and in the decision to submit it for publication. If the funding source(s) had no such involvement then this should be stated. Please see [https://www.elsevier.com/funding](https://www.elsevier.com/funding).

**Open access**
Please visit our [Open Access page](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed) for more information.

**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.

**Language (usage and editing services)**
Please write your text in good English (American or British usage is accepted, 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](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed) available from Elsevier's Author Services.

**Submission**
Submission to this journal occurs online and you will be guided step by step through the creation and uploading of your files. Please submit your article via [http://ees.elsevier.com/ssm](http://ees.elsevier.com/ssm). The system automatically converts source files to a single PDF file of the article, which is used in the peer-review process. Please note that even though manuscript source files are converted to PDF files at submission for the review process, these source files are needed for further processing after acceptance. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, takes place by e-mail.

**Reviewers**
Please provide the names and email addresses of 3 potential reviewers and state the reason for each suggestion. Colleagues within the same institution and co-authors within the last 5 years should not be included in the suggestions. Note that the editor retains the sole right to decide whether or not the suggested reviewers are used.

**Additional information**
Please note author information is entered into the online editorial system (EES) during submission and must not be included in the manuscript itself.

**Social Science & Medicine** does not normally list more than six authors to a paper, and special justification must be provided for doing so. Further information on criteria for authorship can be found in [Social Science & Medicine, 2007, 64(1), 1-4](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed).

Authors should approach the Editors in Chief if they wish to submit companion articles.

Information about our peer-review policy can be found [here](https://www.elsevier.com/locate/socscimed).

Please note that we may suggest accepted papers for legal review if it is deemed necessary.

**PREPARATION**
NEW SUBMISSIONS
Submission to this journal proceeds totally online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.
As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.

References
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

Formatting Requirements
The journal operates a double blind peer review policy. For guidelines on how to prepare your paper to meet these criteria please see the attached guidelines. The journal requires that your manuscript is submitted with double spacing applied. There are no other strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.
If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.
Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

Peer review
This journal operates a double 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.

Double-blind review
This journal uses double-blind 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.
Blinded 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.

REVISED SUBMISSIONS
Use of word processing software
Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). 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.

Essential cover page information
The Cover Page should only include the following information:

• Title. Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible and make clear the article's aim and health relevance.
• **Author names and affiliations in the correct order.** Where the family name may be ambiguous (e.g., a double name), please indicate this clearly. 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. Ensure that telephone and fax numbers (with country and area code) are provided in addition to the e-mail address and the complete postal address. Contact details must be 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.

**Text**

In the main body of the submitted manuscript this order should be followed: abstract, main text, references, appendix, figure captions, tables and figures. Author details, keywords and acknowledgements are entered separately during the online submission process, as is the abstract, though this is to be included in the manuscript as well. During submission authors are asked to provide a word count; this is to include ALL text, including that in tables, figures, references etc.

**Title**

Please consider the title very carefully, as these are often used in information-retrieval systems. Please use a concise and informative title (avoiding abbreviations where possible). Make sure that the health or healthcare focus is clear.

**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 examples here: 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**

An abstract of up to 300 words must be included in the submitted manuscript. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. It should state briefly and clearly the purpose and setting of the research, the principal findings and major conclusions, and the paper's contribution to knowledge. For empirical papers the country/countries/locations of the study should be clearly stated, as should the methods and nature of the sample, the dates, and a summary of the findings/conclusion. Please note that excessive statistical details should be avoided, abbreviations/acronyms used only if essential or firmly established, and that the abstract should not be structured into subsections. Any references cited in the abstract must be given in full at the end of the abstract.

**Keywords**

Up to 8 keywords are entered separately into the online editorial system during submission, and should accurately reflect the content of the article. Again abbreviations/acronyms should be used only if essential or firmly established. For empirical papers the country/countries/locations of the research should be included. The keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

**Methods**

Authors of empirical papers are expected to provide full details of the research methods used, including study location(s), sampling procedures, the date(s) when data were collected, research instruments, and techniques of data analysis. Specific guidance on the reporting of qualitative studies are provided here.

Systematic reviews and meta-analyses must be reported according to PRISMA guidelines.
Footnotes
There should be no footnotes or endnotes in the manuscript.

Artwork
Electronic artwork
General points
• Make sure you use uniform lettering and sizing of your original artwork.
• Preferred fonts: Arial (or Helvetica), Times New Roman (or Times), Symbol, Courier.
• Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
• Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
• Indicate per figure if it is a single, 1.5 or 2-column fitting image.
• For Word submissions only, you may still provide figures and their captions, and tables within a single file at the revision stage.
• Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be provided in separate source files.

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
Regardless of the application used, 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 the font or save the text as 'graphics'.
TIFF (or JPG): Color or grayscale photographs (halftones): always use a minimum of 300 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Bitmapped line drawings: use a minimum of 1000 dpi.
TIFF (or JPG): Combinations bitmapped line/half-tone (color or grayscale): a minimum of 500 dpi is required.
Please do not:
• Supply files that are optimized for screen use (e.g., GIF, BMP, PICT, WPG); the resolution is too low.
• 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. 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.

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 at the end of the abstract. 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 (see below) 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.

References in special issue articles, commentaries and responses to commentaries
Please ensure that the words ‘this issue’ are added to any references in the reference list (and any citations in the text) to other articles which are referred to in the same 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.

The current Social Science & Medicine EndNote file can be directly accessed by clicking here.

Users of Mendeley Desktop can easily install the reference style for this journal by clicking the following link:
http://open.mendeley.com/use-citation-style/social-science-and-medicine
When preparing your manuscript, you will then be able to select this style using the Mendeley plug-ins for Microsoft Word or LibreOffice.

Reference formatting
There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the article number or pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct. If you do wish to format the references yourself they should be arranged according to the following examples:

Reference style
Text: All citations in the text should refer to:
1. Single author: the author's name (without initials, unless there is ambiguity) and the year of publication;
2. Two authors: both authors' names and the year of publication;
3. Three or more authors: first author's name followed by 'et al.' and the year of publication.

Citations may be made directly (or parenthetically). Groups of references can be listed either first alphabetically, then chronologically, or vice versa.

Examples: 'as demonstrated (Allan, 2000a, 2000b, 1999; Allan and Jones, 1999).... Or, as demonstrated (Jones, 1999; Allan, 2000).... Kramer et al. (2010) have recently shown ....'

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 journal publication with an article number:
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).

Mendeley Data
This journal supports Mendeley Data, enabling you to deposit any research data (including raw and
processed data, video, code, software, algorithms, protocols, and methods) associated with your
manuscript in a free-to-use, open access repository. During the submission process, after uploading
your manuscript, you will have the opportunity to upload your relevant datasets directly to Mendeley
Data. The datasets will be listed and directly accessible to readers next to your published article online.

For more information, visit the Mendeley Data for journals page.

Data statement
To foster transparency, we encourage you to state the availability of your data in your submission.
This may be a requirement of your funding body or institution. If your data is unavailable to access
or unsuitable to post, you will have the opportunity to indicate why during the submission process,
for example by stating that the research data is confidential. The statement will appear with your
published article on ScienceDirect. For more information, visit the Data Statement page.

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. Both corresponding and co-authors may order offprints at any time via
Elsevier's Author Services. 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