

Editorial

I am honored to have the opportunity to greet you as the new editor of *JPSP: PPID*. I am also excited to introduce the dynamic scholars who have agreed to lend their considerable gifts as associate editors, Jack Bauer, Wendy Berry Mendes, Veronica Benet-Martinez, Edward Chang, Cecelia Cheng, and William Fleeson, as well as those who have agreed to serve as consulting editors for the journal. I would also like to express my deep gratitude to Chuck Carver and his editorial team for their enormously conscientious efforts on behalf of our field. In this inaugural editorial, I hope to share a bit of my approach to the field of personality and the sensibility that will guide the journal for the next few years.

For most of my undergraduate career, I was an English literature major who nevertheless frequented the aisles of the Kenyon College library reading psychology journals. It was the experience of reading articles in the journals (typically *JPSP* and the *Journal of Personality*) that sold me on the scientific study of personality. This experience left me with a sense of the importance of our scholarly journals not simply as a place to publish science for scientists but as a way to attract scholars to the field and to inform the world more broadly about why the science of personality psychology is a vital one that is relevant to all people. This function might be important for all psychology journals, but it is particularly crucial for personality psychology. Even today, many students are introduced to our field through courses that review only classic theories in personality, courses that do not represent the science of the person as it currently exists. As such, I believe that the top journal in our field must be one that conveys the sheer interest and enthusiasm of its scholars for the person. Articles must contribute to knowledge in a real way, and they must be written with clarity and with a sense of that broad audience.

My vision for the *Personality Processes and Individual Differences* section of the *Journal Personality and Social Psychology* is my vision of the field of personality itself—broad, exciting, dynamic, and the hub of the field of psychology in general. The mission of personality psychology encompasses all of the other areas because we focus on the person—in whom the various developmental, cognitive, social, neuropsychological, and potentially pathological processes are manifest and whose behavior the field of psychology sets as its focus. The diversity among scholars who proudly declare themselves personality psychologists is stunning and surely a sign of the infinite complexity of the person. There is no question that varied individuals with interests ranging from traits to personology to cultural psychology to clinical psychology to behavior genetics to neuroscience all do personality psychology and all are personality psychologists. For all of our differences, we all revel in the complexities of the person. None of these approaches alone tells us about the whole person, and all of them (and some we have not even thought of yet) are necessary to understanding the person: That is how complex human beings and behavior are. My hope is that *JPSP* would reflect this breadth by welcoming high-quality work in its many forms.

I hope that authors will be courageous in the questions they ask in their research and embrace the complexities of personality and behavior (actual behavior). No strong scientific inquiry should ever be “too interesting” for *JPSP*. I encourage scholars to pursue research that contributes to our understanding of people (rather than, say, scales). I can assure you, at least, that such intellectual courage will be met with editorial courage. I want *JPSP: PPID* to be the outlet in which the very best, most exciting, most provocative, and most generative research in personality psychology is presented. I hope the journal will be viewed as exciting and dynamic in another respect as well: I have encouraged my associate editors to be decisive and to render decisions as expeditiously as possible.

I realize that many, many very good papers are ultimately rejected for publication in *JPSP*, and I would like to add a few words here to rejected authors from the perspective of someone who has collected her share of such rejections. I hope you recognize that by virtue of being rejected by *JPSP*, you have joined an esteemed group of outstanding scholars, many of whom have made substantial contributions to psychological science. A rejection should not be viewed as indicating that your contributions to personality psychology are not appreciated. Particularly to new scholars in the field, I want to say that persistence is key: Good ideas that are tested with rigorous methods will eventually find their place in the top journal in the field.

After hearing that I would be handed the reins of *JPSP: PPID*, I found myself once again walking the aisles where the psychology journals are shelved in the library. Perusing the volumes of *JPSP* (even back to when it was *JASP*), I was awestruck at the many luminary figures who have served as editor of the journal. It was a humbling experience, to say the least. Perhaps even more humbling was the realization that I am the first woman to hold this post, although I can scarcely imagine I am the first to be qualified to serve in this regard. In closing, then, I would like to dedicate this issue of the journal to the many women whose scholarly contributions to personality psychology paved the way for those women (myself included) who passionately pursue the science of personality psychology today. I feel extraordinarily privileged to serve in this capacity. As editor, I vow to be ever mindful of those young scholars who might happen upon the journal in the library or online and in it find the inspiration to embark on the scientific study of what is to me the most exciting and important topic in psychology: personality.—Laura A. King, Editor, *JPSP: PPID*