



December, 2017

Dear *Editor Name*, Editor of *Journal Name*:

We are writing to you as members of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status (CSES), a committee that reports to the Board for the Advancement of Psychology in the Public Interest (BAPPI) and is charged by our Mission Statement to “act as a catalyst in the Association’s efforts to address issues of SES and promote appropriate attention to SES in psychological research and practice.”

Widespread empirical evidence has demonstrated that socioeconomic status (SES) is a consistent and reliable predictor of a vast array of outcomes, including physical and psychological health, well-being, and lifespan development for people all over the globe. In broad terms, SES encompasses not just income, but also educational attainment, occupational prestige, and subjective perceptions of social status and social class.

As part of an on-going and long-standing campaign, our committee is writing to encourage journal editors to adopt policies to have authors report participant characteristics related to SES to the greatest extent possible in all submitted manuscripts. Just as it is now normative for authors to report gender and ethnicity, we urge policies that will increase the inclusion of information on SES characteristics of research participants in order to facilitate proper contextualizing and interpretation of research findings. Such demographic data represent a fundamental characterization of sample participants and provide readers with a realistic way to assess the external validity of study findings and make comparisons to other samples of interest.

We are acutely aware that there is no one standard definition or measurement criteria for SES, social class, income, or other economic indicators. In fact, these indices are often not well measured, constrained to variables of convenience in large sample data sets, or potentially difficult to capture due to privacy concerns. Nonetheless, it is critical that researchers acknowledge their importance and report any available SES demographic characteristics in their manuscript submissions.

For additional information on these SES measurement issues, we refer you to a published article authored by former members of CSES: Diemer, M., Mistry, R., Wadsworth, M., Lopez, I., & Reimers, F. (2013). Best practices in conceptualizing and measuring social class in psychological research. *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, 13, 77-113. doi:10.1111/asap.12001. In addition, the CSES website hosts a webinar titled *Exploring the Conceptualization, Measurement and Reporting of SES in Social/Behavioral Research* featuring Nancy Adler, PhD and Robert Kaplan, PhD at (<http://www.apa.org/pi/ses/resources/webinars/index.aspx>).

In closing, we hope that you will take substantive measures to encourage authors submitting papers to your journal to report some form of demographic characteristics on SES. We thank you for your consideration, look forward to your response, and would be pleased to provide you with any additional information.

Sincerely,

Members of the Committee on Socioeconomic Status:

Darren Bernal, Ph.D., Rosario Ceballo, Ph.D., Ramani Durvasula, Ph.D.,
Patton Garriott, Ph.D., Ryan Pickering, Ph.D., and Wendy R. Williams, Ph.D.