EDITORIAL

Introduction From the New Editor

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The new editor of the *Journal of Latina/o Psychology* provides a brief review of the history and recent accomplishments of the journal and identifies a number of priorities for the next few years. These priorities include expanding the topics covered, soliciting special issues, and fortifying the editorial board. The editorial concludes with a list of recommendations for potential authors.

Keywords: editorial, commentary, priorities

It is a great honor to introduce myself as the next editor of the *Journal of Latina/o Psychology* (*JLP*). The role of editor is a significant responsibility, and I thank the National Latina/o Psychological Association (NLPA) and the selection committee for the trust they have placed in my ability to lead *JLP* over the next 5 years. I am excited about the future of the journal and am committed to helping continue the impressive trajectory it has established over the past 4 years. In this editorial, I provide a brief overview of the journal's recent history and successes over the past 4 years, share my vision for the direction of the journal, and provide guidance to authors as they navigate the publication process. I am also pleased to have my editorial accompanied by a thorough content analysis of *JLP*'s first 4 years, conducted by associate editor Dr. Edward Delgado-Romero and colleagues (Delgado-Romero, Stanley, & Oh, 2017).

JLP developed out of the vision of the leadership of the NLPA, who saw the need for a journal dedicated to advancing the science of Latina/o psychology (Delgado-Romero et al., 2017; Santiago-Rivera, Cardemil, Prieto, & Romero, 2013). The rapid growth in scholarship on Latina/o psychology highlighted the need for an outlet in which authors could thoughtfully explore questions of relevance to Latina/os, as well as receive feedback from experts in the field. With the support and collaboration of the American Psychological Association (APA), NLPA rallied behind its founding editor, Dr. Azara Santiago-Rivera, to launch *JLP* at the end of 2012. In the 4 years since the publication of the first issue, the journal has made impressive progress in terms of its visibility, financial stability, and depth and breadth of published research.

The speed with which *JLP* has achieved success in these different arenas is a testament to the hard work and commitment of Dr. Santiago-Rivera, who has been determined to see the journal succeed. I am particularly grateful to her, because as one of the original associate editors, I have benefited tremendously from her wisdom and mentorship over the years. Dr. Santiago-Rivera has supported and inspired many of us in this field, and her positive impact on the journal cannot be overstated. In addition, I would also like to acknowledge the hardworking and talented group of associate editors who contributed greatly over the past 4 years during the journal's critical launching period, including the original associate editor team of Drs. Loreto Prieto and Andrea Romero. Our current team includes Drs. Ignacio Acevedo-Polakovich, Consuelo Arbona, Edward Delgado-Romero, and Omar Gudiño. The expertise of these internationally renowned scholars covers an impressive range of topics central to Latina/o psychology, including mental and physical health, clinical practice and research, community-based

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participatory research, education, gender and sexuality, and advanced statistics. These topics nicely complement my own expertise in disparities in mental health and mental health care and provide the journal with a well-rounded team to continue supporting the upward trajectory of the journal. Finally, I want to express my sincere thanks to the many consulting editors, reviewers, and APA production staff who have provided invaluable feedback and support to the editors: Without their hard work, none of this would be possible. I very much look forward to continuing to work together during this exciting next stage of *JLP*'s development.

A Successful Launch and First 4 Years

Since its launch in 2012, the journal's performance has been strong and its visibility is growing. *JLP* is currently indexed in PsycINFO, OCLC's World Catalogue, and Thomson Reuter's Emerging Sources Citation Index, and we anticipate applying for a journal impact factor in the coming year. This visibility is reflected in the increasing number of manuscripts submitted for consideration: In 2016, *JLP* received the largest number of new submissions to date (over 80). Over this period, the rejection rate has averaged approximately 60%. As with most of the journals published by APA, the majority of institutional subscriptions occur through PsycARTICLES. NLPA membership, which includes a complementary subscription to the journal, constitutes the majority of individual subscriptions. The revenue from these subscriptions, together with revenue generated by electronic licensing through PsycARTICLES, has exceeded the journal's expenses in every year since 2013. This positive net revenue has resulted in *JLP* having an overall positive balance sheet by the end of 2015, an impressively short timeline.

With regards to scholarship, *JLP* has published 69 articles in 16 quarterly issues, including one special issue on Latina/o physical health (Ruiz, Campos, & García, 2016). As Delgado-Romero and colleagues (2017) detail in their content analysis, the diversity of topics, samples, and methods has been impressive. *JLP* has published articles on mental health, health psychology, identity, immigration, and many other topics relevant to Latina/o psychology. With regards to methodology, the diversity of sam-

ples has been striking, as the research has included Latina/os with origins from all across the Americas. I have been particularly pleased by the fact that *JLP* has published rigorous quantitative and qualitative research, as it underscores the complementary role that these two methodological approaches can play in advancing our science. Importantly, this research is getting noticed and cited with greater frequency.

Moving Forward: The Next 5 Years

Given *JLP*'s growing visibility, strong financial performance, and consistent track record in publishing high-quality work, we now move into the next stage of development, during which time the journal's existing strengths can be solidified and new opportunities for growth can be leveraged. *JLP* will continue to look for rigorous empirical and theoretical scholarship on topics that are germane to the mission of advancing the science of Latina/o psychology. As reviewed by Delgado-Romero and colleagues (2017), *JLP* has published somewhat fewer articles than might be expected on some topics that are of significant relevance to Latina/os, including immigration, discrimination, documentation status, and academic achievement. These topics have considerable salience and are very timely, given the current sociopolitical climate. Other less well-represented topics in *JLP* include religiosity and spirituality, LGBTQ issues, and multiethnic identity. In different ways, these topics represent opportunities for scholars to explore questions around intersectional identity that have tended to not get prioritized in mainstream research. *JLP* welcomes empirical and theoretical manuscripts on these topics.

In the coming years, we will continue to welcome proposals for special issues, with a goal of publishing one special issue per calendar year. Our upcoming 2017 special issue, "Evidence-Based Treatment for Latinos," edited by Dr. Martin La Roche and myself, will highlight work from several research teams that have systematically adapted therapeutic interventions to work more effectively with Latina/os. I hope to receive additional proposals for special issues on such topics as innovative methods, gender and sexual minority health, and disparities in health and health care. Special issues may include manuscripts that are solicited through in-

vitation, through open calls for submission, or some combination. Authors interested in editing a special issue should submit a written preliminary and formal proposal to the editorial team (i.e., associate editors and editor), who will review it for relevance, impact, and feasibility.

During the next 5 years, we plan to build upon the excellent editorial infrastructure already in place. In addition to managing the normal turnover of an editorial board, we will seek to expand it by recruiting additional members who can provide expertise in areas that are not currently well represented. In particular, we hope to recruit board members with expertise in such areas as statistical methods, epidemiology, public health, and school psychology, among others. We also hope to leverage the expertise of the board members to train the next generation of scholars and potential board members by finding ways to pair student reviewers with senior reviewers at different institutions. If you or a colleague have interest in serving as a reviewer or a board member or would like to participate in this pairing of student and senior reviewers, please contact us and express your interest.

Recommendations for Authors

In the first issue of the journal, Santiago-Rivera and colleagues (2013) provided important guidance for authors to help increase the likelihood of successful publication of their work in *JLP*. Given the continued relevance of these recommendations, I elaborate on them here.

First, it is critical that submitted manuscripts are clearly aligned with *JLP*'s mission of advancing the science of Latina/o psychology. Thus, we generally do not publish cross-ethnic comparison studies, unless the comparison and results explicitly inform our understanding of Latina/o psychology. Instead, we predominantly publish manuscripts with Latina/o-only samples. Comparative studies examining different Latina/o subgroups (e.g., national origin, generational status, acculturation levels), however, are highly encouraged. Similarly, given our focus on U.S. Latina/o populations, manuscripts utilizing international samples must have a clear connection to U.S. Latina/o psychology.

Second, manuscripts must have a coherent theoretical framework and use rigorous methods. Noting the growing Latina/o population or the absence of research with Latina/os is not a sufficient rationale for conducting a specific research study. Impactful research emerges through the use of clear theoretical frameworks that guide the particular research questions and make evident their relevance to Latina/os. Qualitative and quantitative methods continue to be welcome, and mixed-methods studies are particularly encouraged. For quantitative research, the psychometric properties of measures, including attention to their validity and reliability with Latina/o samples, must be addressed in the methods section.

Third, authors must clearly describe the demographic characteristics of the participants in their research. Given the diversity within the overall Latina/o population, we ask authors to report contextually informative data, such as national origin, language preference, generational status, acculturation, or socioeconomic status. Although there is not a "one size fits all" approach to collecting and reporting this information, the research question and sampling strategy of each study should guide the selection of these variables.

Finally, authors are expected to follow APA style guidelines and *JLP* author instructions in the preparation of manuscripts. We will continue to limit manuscripts to 30 pages; however, as recommended by Delgado-Romero and colleagues (2017), exceptions will be made for qualitative and mixed-methods research that require additional length. All manuscripts must include a Spanish translation of the abstract before a manuscript will be published.

On behalf of the associate editors, I thank you for your support of *JLP*. We are all excited to continue to build *JLP* into a journal that not only advances the science of Latina/o psychology but also shapes how the larger psychological literature conceptualizes and investigates questions of culture and context. We look forward to your manuscript submissions and encourage you to enjoy the articles in this issue.

Abstracto

El nuevo editor del *Journal of Latina/o Psychology* proporciona una breve resumen de la historia y los logros recientes de la revista e identifica una serie de

prioridades para los próximos años. Estas prioridades incluyen ampliar los temas cubiertos, solicitar ediciones especiales, y fortalecer el consejo editorial. El editorial concluye con una lista de recomendaciones para autores potenciales.

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