

## EDITORIAL

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Incoming Editor, *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes*

It was the best of times, it was the worst of times, it was the age of wisdom, it was the age of foolishness, it was the epoch of belief, it was the epoch of incredulity, it was the season of Light, it was the season of Darkness, it was the spring of hope, it was the winter of despair, we had everything before us, we had nothing before us, we were all going direct to Heaven, we were all going direct the other way.

—Charles Dickens (1859), *A Tale of Two Cities*.

It seems that personality and social psychology is at a crossroads. My hope is that we will learn from past failings and fractures and begin to consolidate our most important lessons into a renewed sense of *shared* purpose and practice. As the incoming Editor of *Journal of Personality & Social Psychology: Interpersonal Relations and Group Processes (JPSP: IRGP)*, it is my mission to facilitate our collective effort in our common cause.

Scholarship is never done—we are always refining, reconsidering, and sometimes refuting, our best representation of what we know at any given time. This beautiful pursuit is fed by inclusive, civil, and principled discourse that is productive precisely because it is constructive. And, I see no brighter guiding lights for us than the joy in intellectual living and the beauty of its most central avenues—principled argument and evidence (Abelson, 1995). When our arguments and evidence are principled, we enable our own honest reporting and evaluation. And, we enable honest and principled assessment by others. Thus, as Incoming Editor, I ask all involved in peer review to express and explain the principles guiding their judgments and to be open to principled and civil disagreement. Guidance for reviewers can be found online at the American Psychological Association (APA) Journals Publishing Resource Center.

Social and personality psychology has stretched itself intellectually and methodologically to include an unprecedented range of behavioral and social science approaches. Our field is now neurological, physiological (and sometimes even cellular). It is economic and political, cultural and societal. It is longitudinal, dyadic, dynamic, group level, noded, and networked. At this very moment, our field is becoming a nexus for social-behavioral science on individuals in context and *JPSP: IRGP* is the outlet in which this can and should happen.

I wish to see the full range of social psychology topics and approaches rigorously pursued in the pages of *JPSP: IRGP*. The only thing necessary to publish in *JPSP: IRGP* is sufficient *principled* argument and evidence for the desired inference(s). Outside of the basic desire to see key results replicated, the evidence in a *JPSP: IRGP* article needs to be as comprehensive as the argument being made. Argument and evidence regarding ancillary (conceptual, methodological, or statistical) assumptions can be reported in targeted supplemental materials and simply mentioned in the main text.

### Conduct and Reporting of Research

Methods and statistics serve to guide (inherently uncertain) inference by working as forms of principled argument (Abelson, 1995). Power analysis, effect size, and confidence intervals are simply a shorthand for communicating this bigger, and deeper, point about making informed inferences in the face of unavoidable uncertainty (see Cumming, 2014). Indeed, these tools are meant to remind us of our inherent uncertainty and thus encourage us to be appropriately humble in our claims and in the evaluation of our evidence.

One way to directly engage the uncertainty inherent to research is to encourage more honesty and humility in our research aims and reporting. Editor Kitayama's (2017) editorial for *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Attitudes and Social Cognition* explains the importance of research reports addressing questions of generalizability and robustness head on. Another related way to engage uncertainty is to describe phenomena and the methods by which they are observed in more detail. This was

emphasized in Editor Cooper's (2016) editorial for *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology: Personality Processes and Individual Differences*. Greater use of multiple methods of observation and analysis is yet another way to engage the inherent uncertainty, which was emphasized in Cooper (2016) and in previous *JPSP: IRGP* Editor Kawakami's (2015) editorial. Together, the recent editorials for the three sections of *JPSP* provide a treasure trove of advice for submitting articles to any of the sections and to any journal in social and personality psychology.

At a more concrete level, our article submission guidelines remain much the same. Indeed, the journal has had an excellent set of standards for the principled conduct and reporting of research from the APA since 2008: Reporting Standards for Research in Psychology. The APA recently updated these standards for quantitative—Journal Article Reporting Standards for Quantitative Research in Psychology—and qualitative and mixed methods—Journal Article Reporting Standards for Qualitative Primary, Qualitative Meta-Analytic, and Mixed Methods Research in Psychology—research. Guidance for a whole host of issues is provided in these documents, including hypotheses, literature review, reporting requirements, power analysis, psychometrics, replication, and use of Bayesian statistics. More elaborate guidance for the conduct and reporting of power analysis is provided in a recent paper and guide by the Society for Personality & Social Psychology Power Analysis Working Group (Giner-Sorolla, 2019). It is important for all of us to remember that informative power analysis relies on a reasonable estimate of the effect size likely to be observed in one's studies as well as the unavoidable heterogeneity in observed effect sizes across studies (see Kenny & Judd, 2019).

I must also reiterate that "The APA Journals Program is committed to publishing transparent, rigorous research; improving reproducibility in science; and aiding research discovery [and . . .] offer[s] a range of resources to support our authors and advance open-science practices in psychological science." In addition, "APA has now made it easy to share your data publicly by offering our own repository, in partnership with the Center for Open Science." In fact, from January 2020 all three sections of *JPSP* will require the completion of an Open Practices Disclosure Form at initial article submission whereby authors can indicate their intention to make available the data, materials, and code for each of their studies or to explain why this is not possible or advisable. All author notes in published articles will now include a link to a trusted open-access repository containing all data and materials or an explanation of the exception.

### Text

Words matter. Thus, in addition to meeting the best practices for research and reporting, articles should be written in compelling and accessible language. As detailed copyediting for style and comprehension is no longer in the purview of most journals, it is all the more important for authors to take advantage of resources for writing from the APA, such as the Publication Manual and the online Journals Publishing Resource Center for authors as well as the APA Style webpages.

Many articles in social and personality psychology lag in accessibility and fluency partly because we remain wedded to old ways of presenting information graphically. Thus, we encourage best practices in graphics to convey information clearly and efficiently (see Cumming, 2014; Lane & Sándor, 2009). Much of the new graphics takes advantage of embodied cognition and human factors to use shape, size, and motion to better represent method, results, and process. Making better use of graphics will make articles more readable for experts and will make them more accessible to a wider audience.

### The Team

The journal is fortunate to have a new team of eight Associate Editors who have committed to serving the field by handling submitted articles and soliciting reviews from peers when appropriate:

Glenn Adams, University of Kansas, Lawrence, Kansas

Ximena Arriaga, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana

Gráinne M. Fitzsimons, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina

Stanley O. Gaines, Brunel University London, London, U.K.

Aarti Iyer, University of Sheffield, Sheffield, U.K.

Nickola Overall, University of Auckland, Auckland, New Zealand

Daan Scheepers, Universiteit Leiden/Universiteit Utrecht, Utrecht, the Netherlands

Sophie Trawalter, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, Virginia

Together, we have served 13 different times as Associate Editor of this or other valued journals in the field (including *Personality & Social Psychology Bulletin*, *Personal Relationships*, *Journal of Experimental Social Psychology*, *Social Psychology & Personality Science*). As a premier empirical outlet in social psychology, *JPSP: IRGP* has an outsize role in representing the rich and valuable diversity of people and approaches in the field. Thus, I am pleased to say that about half the team is based outside the United States, and many more have international experience or roots. In addition to gender, institutional, and national diversity we are also an ethnically, linguistically, and methodologically diverse team. Our aim is to maximize the benefits of our diversity by operating as a true team that complements each other's expertise to render decisions that are as considered and consistent as possible.

To facilitate our informed assessment of statistical power, appropriateness of analyses, and the plausibility of observed data and results, the Associate Editors and I will be assisted by an international team of Methods and Statistics Associate Editors who will provide advice (and reanalysis or simulation where appropriate) to guide our decision-making when necessary. These social and personality psychologists are:

Randi Garcia, Smith College, Northampton, Massachusetts

Dominique Muller, University Grenoble Alpes, Saint-Martin-d'Hères, France

Pablo Sayans Jimenez, Universidad de Almería, Almería, Spain

Further support will be provided by Graduate Editorial Assistant Katherine Zee, Columbia University, New York, New York.

I close by expressing my sincere gratitude to outgoing Editor Kerry Kawakami, the entire team of former Associate Editors, and the legion of regular reviewers who have served the journal and the field so well for so long. We will dedicate our collective enthusiasm and effort to build on your good work. And, perhaps we can all labor together to make this the best of times for personality and social psychology.

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