Theory & Psychology

Impact Factor: **1.9**
5-Year Impact Factor: **1.5**

Submission guidelines

Submit manuscript

Please read the guidelines in full before submitting your manuscript.
Manuscripts not conforming to these guidelines may be returned.

Submit Manuscript

Sage is committed to upholding the integrity of the academic record. We encourage authors to follow Sage's Publication Ethics Policies and the Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals formulated by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

These resources describe ethical conduct and publication requirements for authors and editors to uphold accuracy, transparency, and disclosure – **including authors' appropriate disclosure of AI use as well as a list of prohibited uses of AI**.

Sage Publishing disseminates high-quality research and engaged scholarship globally, and we are committed to diversity and inclusion in publishing. We encourage submissions and peer review from a diverse range of authors and reviewers from across all countries and backgrounds.

Authors should familiarize themselves with Sage's Accessibility Guidelines to ensure their manuscripts meet recognized accessibility standards.

We encourage authors to refer to the Committee on Publication Ethics' International Standards for Authors.

This Journal is a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics.

Key information

Access: Subscription
Accepts preprints? Yes
Identity transparency: Double anonymized

Publishing fees and open access

There are no fees payable to submit or publish in this journal.

Optional open access publishing is available for a fee via the Sage Choice program, and Open Access agreements, where authors can publish open access either discounted or free of charge depending on the agreement with Sage. Find out if your institution is participating by visiting Open Access Agreements at Sage. Open Access agreement eligibility is determined by the corresponding author's affiliation matching an agreement at acceptance. For more information on Open Access publishing options at Sage please visit Sage Open Access.

For information on funding body compliance, and depositing your article in repositories, please visit Sage's Author Archiving and Re-Use Guidelines and Publishing Policies.

Preparing your manuscript for submission

Your article must be within the scope of the journal and be of sufficient quality. If not, it will not be reviewed. Please read the journal's Aims and Scope to see if your article is appropriate.

The manuscript must be your original work, you must have the rights to the work, and you must have obtained and be able to supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you, including figures, illustrations, tables, lengthy quotations, or other material previously published elsewhere.

Article types

iew our topical sections currently accepting submissions

Theory & Psychology is a bi-monthly journal devoted to scholarship with a broad meta-theoretical intent. It examines such issues as the conceptual frameworks and foundations of psychology, its historical underpinnings, its relation to other human sciences, its methodological commitments, its ideological assumptions, and its political and institutional contexts. It fosters dialogue among psychologists and other social scientists interested in psychological analyses.

IMPORTANT NOTE IN REGARDS TO USE OF AI AND CHATBOTS for T&P submissions: T&P has a specific AI usage policy that authors must follow when submitting:

Text generated from AI, machine learning, or similar algorithmic tools cannot be used in articles published in Theory & Psychology, nor can the accompanying figures, images, or graphics be the products of such tools, unless fully disclosed and explicit permission granted from the editors. Please ensure you have clearly disclosed any AI use during the submission process for the Editor and Editorial Office to consider. An AI program cannot be listed as an author of a Theory & Psychology article. Failure to appropriately disclose use of AI tools may be considered as scientific misconduct.

Theory & Psychology publishes exclusively in English. Papers must be original and not currently under review elsewhere. Normally articles are 5000-8000 words, but may be as long as 10,000 words (including abstract, footnotes, and references) depending on the subject matter. Papers that are longer than 10,000 words are returned to authors for trimming. Notes or comments should not exceed 2500 words. Abstract should not exceed 250 words.

Book Reviews: *Theory & Psychology* publishes two types of book reviews: Regular Book Reviews (approximately 1,000 words) and Review Essays (full length articles reviewing multiple books on a related topic). The journal reviews newly released monographs broadly relevant to theory in psychology and attempts to cover a diverse range of topics in the review section. Books chosen for review are deemed important or ground-breaking in some way. Moreover, specialists are asked to review in depth rather than describe contents superficially. Book reviews are typically solicited although we do invite suggestions for books to be reviewed as well as self-nominations of reviewers.Book reviews are typically solicited although we do invite suggestions for books to be reviewed as well as self-nominations of reviewers. If you know of a book that ought to be reviewed in Theory & Psychology, please contact our Book Review Editor, Jeffery Yen.

Special Issues: For information on proposing and editing special issues please click here.

Clinical trial registration

The journal conforms to the ICMJE requirement that clinical trials are registered in a WHO-approved public trials registry at or before the time of first participant enrollment as a condition of consideration for publication. The trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

AI generated text

IMPORTANT NOTE IN REGARDS TO USE OF AI AND CHATBOTS for T&P submissions: T&P has a specific AI usage policy that authors must follow when submitting:

Text generated from AI, machine learning, or similar algorithmic tools cannot be used in articles published in Theory & Psychology, nor can the accompanying figures, images, or graphics be the products of such tools, unless fully disclosed and explicit permission granted from the editors. Please ensure you have clearly disclosed any AI use during the submission process for the Editor and Editorial Office to consider. An AI program cannot be listed as an author of a Theory & Psychology article. Failure to appropriately disclose use of AI tools may be considered as scientific misconduct.

Reporting guidelines

Your manuscript **must** follow the relevant EQUATOR Network reporting guidelines, depending on the type of study. The EQUATOR wizard can help identify the appropriate guideline. You will need to upload the appropriate checklist with your submission.

Other resources can be found at NLM's Research Reporting Guidelines and Initiatives.

Formatting your manuscript

Accepted file types

The preferred format for your manuscript is Word. You do not need to follow a template, but please ensure your heading levels are clear, and the sections clearly defined.

Your article title, keywords, and abstract all contribute to its position in search engine results, directly affecting the number of people who see your work. For details of what you can do to influence this, visit How to help readers find your article online.

Title

Your manuscript's title should be concise, descriptive, unambiguous, accurate, and reflect the precise contents of the manuscript. A descriptive title that includes the

topic of the manuscript makes an article more findable in the major indexing services.

Abstract

Please include an unstructured abstract of 250 words between the title and main body of your manuscript that concisely states the purpose of the research, major findings, and conclusions. If your research includes clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract. Submissions that do not meet this requirement will not be considered.

For clinical trials, the trial registry name and URL, and registration number must be included at the end of the abstract.

Keywords

Please include a minimum of 4-5 keywords, listed after the abstract. Keywords should be as specific as possible to the research topic.

Artwork, figures, and other graphics

For guidance on the preparation of illustrations, pictures, and graphs in electronic format, please read Sage's artwork guidelines.

Figures supplied in color will appear in color online regardless of whether or not these illustrations are reproduced in color in the printed version. If you have requested color reproduction in the print version, we will advise you of the costs on receipt of your accepted article.

Please ensure that you have obtained any necessary permission from copyright holders for reproducing any illustrations, tables, figures, or lengthy quotations previously published elsewhere. For further information including guidance on fair dealing for criticism and review, please see the Frequently Asked Questions page on the Sage Journal Author Gateway.

Title page

To ensure fair and anonymous peer review, your manuscript must be fully anonymized. Please ensure any identifying information is removed from the main manuscript document and included on the Title Page instead. Do not include any author names in the manuscript file name and remove names from headers and footers. This version of the manuscript **will** be sent to the peer reviewers. The Title Page **will not** be sent to peer reviewers. See the Sage Journal Author Gateway for detailed guidance on making an anonymous submission.

The Title Page should include:

- Article title
- The full list of authors including names and affiliations of each
    - **The listed affiliation should be the institution where the research was conducted**. If an author has moved to a new institution since completing the research, the new affiliation can be included in a note at the end of the manuscript – please indicate this on the title page.
    - **All persons eligible for authorship must be included at the time of submission (please see the authorship section for more information)**.
- Contact information for the corresponding author: name, institutional address, phone, email
- Acknowledgments section
- Declaration of conflicting interest
- Funding statement
- Ethical approval and informed consent statements
- Data availability statement
- Any other identifying information related to the authors and/or their institutions, funders, approval committees, etc, that might compromise anonymity.

Acknowledgments

If you are including an Acknowledgements section, this will be published at the end of your article. The Acknowledgments section should include all contributors who do not meet the criteria for authorship. Per ICMJE recommendations, it is best practice to obtain consent from non-author contributors who you are acknowledging in your manuscript.

Writing assistance and third party submissions: if you have received any writing or editing assistance from a third-party, for example a specialist communications company, this must be clearly stated in the Acknowledgements section and in the covering letter. Please see the Sage Author Gateway for what information to include in your Acknowledgements section. If your submission is being made on your behalf by someone who is not listed as an author, for example the third-party who provided writing/editing assistance, you must state this in the Acknowledgements and also in your covering letter. **Please note that the journal editor reserves the right to not consider submissions made by a third party rather than by the author/s themselves.**

Statements and declarations

To ensure proper anonymization, please include a section with the heading 'Statements and Declarations' on your title page, after the Acknowledgements section [and Author Contributions section if applicable] including each of the sub-headings listed below. If a declaration is not applicable to your submission, you must still

include the heading and state ‘Not applicable’ underneath. Please note that you may be asked to justify why a declaration was not applicable to your submission by the Editorial Office. This information will be added to the end of your published paper.

Ethical considerations

Please include your ethics approval statements under this heading, even if you have already included ethics approval information in your methods section. If ethical approval was not required, you need to explicitly state this. You can find information on what to say in your ethical statements as well as example statements on our Publication ethics and research integrity policies page.

All papers reporting studies involving human participants, human data or human tissue must state that the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board approved the study, or waived the requirement for approval, providing the full name and institution of the review committee in addition to the approval number. If applicable, please also include this information in the Methods section of your manuscript.

Consent to participate

Please include any participant consent information under this heading and state whether informed consent to participate was written or verbal. If the requirement for informed consent to participate has been waived by the relevant Ethics Committee or Institutional Review Board (i.e. where it has been deemed that consent would be impossible or impracticable to obtain), please state this. If this is not applicable to your manuscript, please state ‘Not applicable’ in this section. More information and example statements can be found on our Publication ethics and research integrity policies page.

Consent for publication

Submissions containing any data from an individual person (including individual details, images or videos) must include a statement confirming that informed consent for publication was provided by the participant(s) or a legally authorized representative. Non-essential identifying details should be omitted. Please do not submit the participant’s actual written informed consent with your article, as this in itself breaches the patient’s confidentiality. The Journal requests that you confirm to us, in writing, that you have obtained written informed consent to publish but the written consent itself should be held by the authors/investigators themselves, for example in a patient’s hospital record. The confirmatory letter may be uploaded with your submission as a separate file in addition to the statement confirming that

consent to publish was obtained within the manuscript text. If this is not applicable to your manuscript, please state 'Not applicable' in this section.

Declaration of conflicting interest

The journal requires a declaration of conflicting interests from all authors so that a statement can be included in your article. For guidance on conflict of interest statements, see our policy on conflicting interest declarations and the ICMJE recommendations.

If no conflict exists, your statement should read: 'The author(s) declared no potential conflicts of interest with respect to the research, authorship, and/or publication of this article'.

Funding statement

All articles need to include a funding statement, under a separate heading, **even if you did not receive funding**. You'll find guidance and examples on our Funding page.

Data availability

The Journal is committed to facilitating openness, transparency and reproducibility of research, and has the following research data sharing policy. For more information, including FAQs please visit the Sage Research Data policy pages.

Subject to appropriate ethical and legal considerations, authors are encouraged to:

- Share your research data in a relevant public data repository
- Include a data availability statement linking to your data. If it is not possible to share your data, use the statement to confirm why it cannot be shared.
- Cite this data in your research

Reference style and citations

The journal follows the APA reference style. View the APA guidelines to ensure your manuscript conforms.

Every in-text citation must have a corresponding citation in the reference list and vice versa. Corresponding citations must have identical spelling and year.

Authors should update any references to preprints when a peer reviewed version is made available, to cite the published research. Citations to preprints are otherwise discouraged.

Theory & Psychology conforms to the publication style of the American Psychological Association. Authors are encouraged to consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association "(7th edition)". Type double-spaced, including notes and references, and without justification. Use double quote marks for quotations, single for quotations within quotations. Notes should appear as endnotes, not footnotes. On their identifying cover page, authors should supply a biographical note of about 100 words, outlining their areas of research and recent publications.

Supplemental material

This Journal can host additional materials online (e.g. datasets, podcasts, videos, images etc.) alongside the full text of the article. Your supplemental material must be one of our accepted file types. For that list and more information please refer to our guidelines on submitting supplemental files.

English language editing services

Authors seeking assistance with English language editing, translation, or figure and manuscript formatting to fit the journal's specifications should consider using Sage Author Services. Visit Sage Author Services for further information.

Submitting your manuscript

As part of the submission process you will need to confirm that this is your original work, that you have the rights in the work, that this is for first publication in this Journal, that it is not being considered for/has not already been published elsewhere, and that you have obtained and can supply all necessary permissions for the reproduction of any copyright works not owned by you.

Please see our guidelines on prior publication and note that the journal may accept submissions of manuscripts that have been posted on preprint servers.

Preprints

The journal will consider submissions of manuscripts that have been posted on preprint servers.

Please enter the preprint DOI in the designated field when submitting your manuscript. We advise that you inform the Journal Editorial office about your posted preprint at submission.

Note that you should **not** post an updated version of your manuscript on a preprint server while it is being peer reviewed.

Learn more about our preprint policy.

Submission site

Submit your manuscript online via Sage Track.

IMPORTANT: Please check whether you already have an account in Sage Track before trying to create a new one. If you have reviewed or authored for the journal in the past year it is likely that you will have had an account created. For further guidance on submitting your manuscript online please visit ScholarOne Online Help.

Manuscripts should only be submitted with the consent of all contributing authors. The individual responsible for submitting the manuscript should carefully check that all those whose work contributed to the manuscript are listed as authors.

Ensure you upload all relevant manuscript files, including any additional supplemental files (including reporting guidelines where relevant).

Authorship

Please view our authorship policies, which includes information on criteria for authorship, who should be the corresponding author and more.

AI programs cannot be listed as authors.

Files

- **Cover letter.** To help the Editor in their preliminary evaluation, please indicate why you think the manuscript suitable for publication.
- **Title Page** with all required identifying information as laid out in Preparing your manuscript for submission (above). This **will not** be sent to the peer reviewers. On their identifying cover page, authors should supply a biographical note of about 100 words, outlining their areas of research and recent publications.
- Your **manuscript**, properly formatted and anonymized according to all stipulations above, and within the scope of the journal. Any information that compromises the anonymity of the author(s) should be removed or anonymized and included on the Title Page instead. See above for more information on anonymization. This version **will** be sent to the peer reviewers.
- **Figures and images.**
    - All figures must be numbered consecutively in the order in which they appear in the text – they will appear in the published article in the order they are numbered.
    - Figure resolution is 300dpi. More information on figure/image preparation can be found here.

- **Supplemental material.** This journal can host additional materials online (e.g. datasets, podcasts, videos, images, etc) alongside the full-text of the article. Your supplemental material must be one of our accepted file types. For that list and more information please refer to our guidelines on submitting supplemental files.

Other information required for submission

- ORCID ID of the submitting author.
    - It is strongly encouraged that all co-authors ensure their ORCID IDs are linked to their accounts in the submission system prior to article acceptance, as this is the only way to have their ORCID ID present on the published article. **ORCID IDs cannot be added to manuscripts after acceptance/publication.** Please note that each co-author must log in to the submission system to add their own ORCID ID to their account. To add an ORCID ID, edit your account, click the link when prompted, and sign into your ORCID account to validate your ID. You will then be redirected back to the submission system and your ORCID ID will become part of your accepted publication's metadata.
    - Please create an ORCID ID if you do not already have one or visit our ORCID homepage to learn more.
- Complete list of authors, with their institutional affiliations.
    - The author information you enter at submission must exactly match what is included on your manuscript and/or title page, including full names, academic affiliations, and corresponding author contact details.
    - **The listed affiliation should be the institution where the research was conducted.** If an author has moved to a new institution since completing the research, the new affiliation can be included in a note at the end of the manuscript.
    - **All listed authors must meet the criteria for authorship (above).**
    - **All persons eligible for authorship must be included at the time of submission.**
    - All authors must have given consent for the manuscript to be submitted in its current form.
- Keywords: During submission, you may be asked to select or enter keywords for your manuscript. These keywords are used to match appropriate reviewers to your manuscript.
- The number of figures, tables, and words in your manuscript.
- Funder information: Name, grant/award number.
- You may be required to enter your declaration of conflicting interest as part of the submission process, in addition to listing it on your manuscript and/or title page. Please have it on hand.
- If you have posted your manuscript to a preprint server, you will be asked to supply the DOI (this does not prohibit submission, but no changes should be made to the preprint version while your manuscript is under evaluation in this journal). Please see our guidelines on prior publication. If the article is accepted for publication, the author may re-use their work according to the journal's author archiving policy. If your manuscript is accepted, you must include a link in your preprint to the final version of your published article.

Peer review policy

The following summary describes the peer review process for this journal:
Identity transparency: Double-anonymized
Reviewer interacts with: Editor, Associate Editor
Review information published: None

Your manuscript will undergo an initial evaluation. If it does not conform to the requirements laid out in these guidelines, it will be returned to you for amendments prior to peer review. Manuscripts may be desk rejected without peer review at this point if they are out of scope for the journal or otherwise unsuitable.

After passing the initial evaluation, your manuscript will then be peer reviewed. You can log in at any time to check the status of your manuscript. We will notify you when a decision has been reached.

The journal adheres to a rigorous double-anonymized reviewing policy in which the identity of both the reviewer and author are always concealed from both parties. Two independent reviews are required for a manuscript to reach a Revise or Accept decision

The following manuscript types may not require two independent reviews to be accepted: Editorials and Book Reviews.

To ensure the integrity of the peer review process we assign reviewers and cannot accept author recommendations.

All manuscripts are reviewed as rapidly as possible, while maintaining rigor. Reviewers make comments to the author and recommendations to the Editor who then makes the final decision on all manuscripts, including those appearing in a special issue or special collection. The Editor or members of the Editorial Board may occasionally submit their own manuscripts for possible publication in the Journal. In these cases, the peer review process will be managed by alternative members of the Board and the submitting Editor/Board member will have no involvement in the decision-making process.

The journal has an Editorial Board and Editorial Review Board who serve the journal as external peer reviewers. Each member of the Editorial Review Board and Editorial Board are active researchers in the field and selected based on strict criteria, ensuring they possess the necessary expertise and experience. The Editor(s) may use one Editorial Review Board member or Editorial Board Member as a reviewer for each manuscript, and will then reach beyond this pool to include additional reviewers to

meet the required number before a decision can be made. This ensures a comprehensive and robust peer review process, aligning with our commitment to publish the most credible and valid research. Care is taken not to invite any Editorial Review Board Member or Editorial Board Member that has any potential conflict of interest with any author of the paper.

As a COPE member we engage with multiple forms of post-publication discussion in line with wider guidance from Sage: Commentaries, Critiques and Responses.

You can view our complaints and appeals policy here.

Read Sage's complete peer review policy.

Plagiarism

The journal and Sage take issues of copyright infringement, plagiarism or other breaches of best practice in publication very seriously. Please read Sage's complete policy on plagiarism and the actions we may take.

After acceptance

Contributor's Publishing Agreement

Before publication, we require the author as the rights holder to sign a Journal Contributor's Publishing Agreement. Sage's Journal Contributor's Publishing Agreement is an exclusive license agreement which means that the author retains copyright in the work but grants Sage the sole and exclusive right and license to publish for the full legal term of copyright. Exceptions may exist where an assignment of copyright is required or preferred by a proprietor other than Sage. In this case copyright in the work will be assigned from the author to the society. For more information please visit the Sage Journal Author Gateway.

Preprints

If your manuscript was posted on a preprint server prior to acceptance, you must include a link in your preprint to the final published version of your published article.

Production

Your Sage Production Editor will keep you informed as to your article's progress throughout the production process. Proofs will be made available to the

corresponding author via our editing portal, Sage Edit, or by email, and should be returned promptly to avoid delaying publication. Authors are reminded to check their proofs carefully to confirm that all author information, including names, affiliations, sequence, and contact details are correct, and that Funding and Conflict of Interest statements, if any, are accurate. **This is the final opportunity to make changes to your manuscript. Further corrections will not be possible after publication. Changes to the author list are not permitted at this stage.**

Publication

OnlineFirst publication: This enables us to publish final articles online immediately, without waiting for assignment to a future issue of the Journal. This usually significantly reduces publication lead time. Visit the Sage Journals help page for more details, including how to cite OnlineFirst articles.

Access to your published article: We provide you with online access to your published article. The online access link is provided to the corresponding author for sharing with their co-authors.

Promoting your article

Publication is not the end of the process. Between us, we can ensure that your article is found, read, downloaded and cited as widely as possible. Many of the most effective tactics are those you can do quickly and easily to your network of contacts and peers. Visit the Promote Your Article page on the Sage Journal Author Gateway for numerous resources to help you promote your work.

Further resources

The Sage Journal Author Gateway has some general advice on how to get published, plus links to further resources. Sage Author Services also offers authors a variety of ways to improve and enhance your article including English language editing, plagiarism detection, and video abstract and infographic preparation.

If you have any questions about publishing with Sage, please visit the Sage Journals Solutions Portal.

You can view our complaints and appeals procedure.

ontact us

You can direct any questions to the journal's editorial office:

Thomas Teo,
Theory & Psychology,
Department of Psychology,
York University,
Toronto, Ontario,
Canada M3J 1P3
Email: tteo@yorku.ca

Browse journal

Current issue

OnlineFirst

All issues

Free sample

Journal information

Journal overview and metrics

Editorial board

Submission guidelines

Reprints

Journal permissions

Subscribe

Recommend to library

Advertising and promotion

Keep up to date

Facebook X LinkedIn YouTube RSS feed Email alerts

View all options

Also from Sage

CQ Library

Elevating debate

Sage Data

Uncovering insight

Sage Business Cases

Shaping futures

Sage Campus

Unleashing potential

Sage Knowledge

Multimedia learning resources

Sage Research Methods

Supercharging research

Sage Video

Streaming knowledge

Technology from Sage

Library digital services