

Authors: Social Cognition

Information for Authors

Social Cognition seeks to advance understanding of the role of cognitive processes in social psychology and behavior. The journal emphasizes three broad concerns: the processes underlying the perception, judgment, and memory of social stimuli; the effects of social and affective factors on the processing of information; and the behavioral and interpersonal consequences of cognitive processes. Within these broad concerns, the journal does not specify appropriate topics for publication. Rather, the journal seeks to publish significant work from any domain that is relevant to the themes described above. Thus, research on intrapersonal, interpersonal, intragroup, and intergroup processes all are welcome.

Moreover, *Social Cognition* seeks research conducted with a broad range of methodologies, including, but not limited to, behavioral, psychophysiological, and neuroscientific approaches. It is anticipated that most published manuscripts will report original empirical research. However, other types of papers, such as theoretical analyses, literature reviews (see below), and methodological comments are welcome if they further an understanding of the cognitive processes underlying social psychology and behavior.

Manuscript submission

Manuscripts must be submitted online at <http://socog.msubmit.net>. Submitted papers must be written in English, must fit the mission of the journal, must not have been published in whole or in substantial part elsewhere, and must not currently be under review. All research must have been conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association.

Manuscripts may be submitted as Articles, Reports, or Reviews. Articles have no specific length limitation. Reports and Reviews may be no longer than 4,000 words of text, including footnotes, but excluding the abstract, references, tables, and figures.

For manuscripts submitted as Reports or Reviews, the word count, as indicated by any standard word processor, should be listed on the title page. Papers submitted as Reviews should serve as brief updates on recent research on a specific topic, rather than as comprehensive reviews of a whole literature (which may be submitted as Articles). Authors may contact the Editor to inquire about the appropriateness of Review topics.

All manuscripts should conform to the style and format guidelines set forth in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.), and should include an abstract of fewer than 150 words. The cover page should include contact information, including an address, phone number, fax number, and e-mail address. A cover letter should accompany the manuscript. This letter should confirm adherence to the submission guidelines and discuss any special considerations relevant to the research or review process.

Manuscripts are not ordinarily given blind review unless this is specifically requested in writing.

The corresponding author of an accepted manuscript will be asked to promptly review and return page proofs and copyright releases, and to notify the editor of any substantive errors in the work that are discovered after publication.

There are no fees or charges associated with publishing in the journal.

Transparency and Openness Promotion (TOP) Guidelines

Social Cognition is a signatory to the TOP Guidelines for open science: <https://cos.io/top/>. Adherence to the journal's standards must be confirmed at submission via a checklist (see below). The journal's standards are as follows:

Citation Standards

All data, program code, and other methods must be appropriately cited. Such materials are recognized as original intellectual contributions and afforded recognition through citation.

1. All data sets and program code used in a publication must be cited in the text and listed in the reference section.
2. References for data sets and program code must include a persistent identifier, such as a Digital Object Identifier (DOI). Persistent identifiers ensure future access to unique published digital objects, such as a text or data set. Persistent identifiers are assigned to data sets by digital archives, such as institutional repositories and partners in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS).
3. Data set citation example:
Campbell, Angus, and Robert L. Kahn. American National Election Study, 1948. ICPSR07218- v3. Ann Arbor, MI: Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research [distributor], 1999. <http://doi.org/10.3886/ICPSR07218.v3>

Data, Analytic Methods (Code), and Research Materials Transparency

The policy of *Social Cognition* is to publish papers only if the data, methods used in the analysis, and materials used to conduct the research are clearly and precisely documented and are maximally available to any researcher for purposes of reproducing the results or replicating the procedure.

1. Authors reusing data available from public repositories must provide program code, scripts for statistical packages, and other documentation sufficient to allow an informed researcher to precisely reproduce all published results.
2. Authors using original data must:
 - a. Make the data publicly available.
3. Include all variables, treatment conditions, and observations described in the manuscript.
4. Provide a full account of the procedures used to collect, preprocess, clean, or generate the data.
5. Provide program code, scripts, codebooks, and other documentation sufficient to precisely reproduce all published results.
6. Provide research materials and description of procedures necessary to conduct an independent replication of the research.
7. Data, program code, research materials, and other documentation of the research process should be made available through a trusted digital repository. Trusted repositories adhere to policies that make data discoverable, accessible, usable, and preserved for the long term. Trusted repositories also assign unique and persistent identifiers. For example, these services are offered by partners in the Data Preservation Alliance for the Social Sciences (Data-PASS) and most institutional repositories. Author-maintained websites are not compliant with this requirement.

Dissemination of these materials may be delayed until publication. Under exceptional circumstances, editors may grant an embargo of the public release of data for at most one year after publication, if requested.

In rare cases, despite authors' best efforts, some or all data or materials cannot be shared for legal or ethical reasons. In such cases, authors must inform the editors at the time of submission. It is understood that in some cases access will be provided under restrictions to protect confidential or proprietary information. Editors may grant exceptions to data and material access requirements provided authors:

1. Explain the restrictions on the dataset or materials and how they preclude public access.
2. Provide a public description of the steps others should follow to request access to the data or materials.
3. Provide access to all data and materials for which the constraints do not apply.

Design and Analysis Transparency

The policy of *Social Cognition* is to publish papers in which authors follow standards for disclosing key aspects of the research design and data analysis. At manuscript submission, authors must confirm via checklist (see below) that they followed those standards in the manuscript.

Preregistration of Studies and Analysis Plans

There is no requirement of preregistration. However, *Social Cognition* encourages preregistration. Preregistration of studies involves registering the study design, variables, and treatment conditions. Including an analysis plan involves specification of sequence of analyses or the statistical model that will be reported. Preregistration is most compelling when it is entered into an independent, institutional registry.

If preregistration is reported, authors must:

1. Confirm in the text that the study was registered prior to conducting the research with links to the time-stamped preregistration(s) at the institutional registry, and that the preregistration adheres to the disclosure requirements of the institutional registry.
2. Report all pre-registered analyses in the text, or, if there were changes in the analysis plan following preregistration, those changes must be disclosed with explanation for the changes.
3. Clearly distinguish in text analyses that were preregistered from those that were not, such as having separate sections in the results for confirmatory and exploratory analyses.

Replication

The policy of *Social Cognition* is to encourage submission of replication studies. The journal is particularly interested in publishing conceptual replications of previously published results. Conceptual replications test the same theoretical ideas using different sets of operations to establish the generality of the effects. For more details, see “[**New Publication Initiatives for Social Cognition**](#),” Vol. 37, No. 4, August 2019.

Research Disclosure Checkboxes

Submission to the journal requires completion of a set of check-boxes related to the policies described above that are designed to promote sound research practices and enhance the informational value of the research published in the journal.

For each study reported in your manuscript, you must answer the following questions in order to proceed to editorial evaluation; by doing so, authors actively declare that they have disclosed all of the required information for each study within the submitted manuscript. **Any exceptions must be explained:**

1. Are data, program code, and other methods appropriately cited?
2. Are data, analytic methods (code), and research materials publicly available? If not, why? Do you agree to share this information upon request? This information must be included in your manuscript.
3. Are (a) the total number of excluded observations, (b) the reasons for making these exclusions, (c) how they were distributed across conditions, and (d) the effects of these exclusions reported in the Method section(s)?
4. Are all independent variables or manipulations, whether successful or failed, reported in the Method section(s)?
5. Are all dependent variables or measures that were analyzed for this article's target research question reported in the Methods section(s)?
6. Are (a) how sample size was determined and (b) your data-collection stopping rule reported in the Method section(s)?
7. Have you reported procedures in sufficient detail to allow close replication by an independent lab?
8. Are inferential tests (e.g., p-values), effect sizes, and confidence intervals reported for all analyses?
9. Has all research has been conducted in accordance with the ethical guidelines of the American Psychological Association?

Notes on Disclosure Checkboxes

The focus of Item 5 is on dependent variables (DVs) or measures that were analyzed to address the target research question posed in the current submission. It is not uncommon for researchers to include one or more “exploratory” measures in a given study and to distinguish these from the “focal” DVs that represent the crux of the investigation. Item 5 is written to convey our trust in researchers to report all analyzed measures that relate to the target research question at stake in a particular submission.

There is no definitive rule for determining adequate power, and Editors may judge that other considerations (e.g., novelty, difficulty) partially offset low power.

Effect sizes will not be held to an absolute standard, but are being requested to aid future meta-analysis and comparative interpretation.

Details pertaining to some aspects of procedures, research materials, and analytic methods may best be described in Appendices and/or Supplemental Materials.

Evaluation Criteria

There are several criteria that increase the likelihood that a manuscript will be favorably evaluated. Specifically, the paper should (1) reflect a substantive advance in our understanding of social cognition and social psychology, (2) be likely to influence an area of research, (3) present new ideas or creative methods, (4) be theory driven, and extend current theory, (5) demonstrate that the major finding can be replicated by including two or more studies, (6) use multiple measures in addition to self-reports, (7)

employ sophisticated methodologies, and (8) rigorously and appropriately analyze the data.

A publication decision on any specific manuscript depends on much more than the above guidelines, and individual Editors may stress some points more than others. Nonetheless, all else being equal, submissions that comply with the Research Disclosure Checkboxes and that meet the Evaluation Criteria will be more likely to be published than submissions that do not.

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Manuscript formatting

Authors should consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.) for rules on format and style. All research papers submitted to the *Social Cognition* must conform to the ethical standards of the American Psychological Association (APA). Articles should be written in nonsexist and bias-free language.

Tables should follow APA style, 7th edition. They may be submitted in Excel or formatted using Microsoft Word's table function. (Tables should not be submitted using tabs, returns, or spaces as formatting tools.)

Tables should be provided at the end of the manuscript text, or as separate Word or Excel files. All tables must be referenced in text, in sequential order.

Figures must be submitted as separate files (not embedded in the manuscript). All figures will be published in grayscale.

Figures should be submitted in one of the following formats: .tif, .jpg, .eps (.bmp, .png, and .gif files are not recommended). PDFs are not accepted. Figure text should be 8–10 pt. sans serif type.

A list of figures with captions, keys, and credits should be provided at the end of the manuscript text. All figures must be referenced in text, in sequential order.

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It is recommended that authors host supplemental materials in an online data repository or institutional repository. A persistent link (i.e., a link that will not change or expire) where readers can find the supplemental materials should be included in the manuscript.

The manuscript must include call-outs for all figures and tables within the supplemental material.

References: Authors should consult the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.) reference format and style. Any manuscripts with references that are incorrectly formatted will be returned to the author for revision.

Publication ethics

Disclosure of conflicts of interest

Social Cognition requires that authors disclose all potential conflicts of interest. Any interest or relationship, financial or otherwise, that might be perceived as influencing an author's objectivity or exerting an undue influence on the presentation of their work is considered a potential conflict of interest. These may include, but are not limited to financial, professional, contractual, or personal relationships or situations.

Authors should include a statement in the title page detailing all potential conflicts of interest. If the manuscript has multiple authors, all contributing authors must disclose conflicts of interest.

For additional guidance, refer to the recommendations in the Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (7th ed.).

Sample wording for your disclosure statement: "Author A is employed at company B. Author C owns shares in company D and is on the Board of Company E. Author F has received grants from [name of grantor] to support the research described in this article."

If no conflicts of interest exist, the declaration should state “The authors declare no conflicts of interest.”

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Sample wording for your funding statement: “This research was supported by an award from the National Institute of Mental Health (grant number XXXX).”

Grants held by different authors should be identified as belonging to individual authors. For example: “This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health (Author A, grant number XXXX), (Author B, grant number YYYY).”

Where no specific funding has been provided for research, authors should state “The author(s) received no specific funding for this work.”

Authorship

Social Cognition refers to the **American Psychological Association (APA) guidelines for authorship** and the **APA Ethics Code**.

Individuals who have made a substantial contribution to the article as defined in the **APA guidelines** should be listed as authors. Contributions that do not meet the criteria for authorship may be recognized in an Acknowledgment note.

Upon acceptance of the article for publication, each author must confirm in writing that they approve the authorship order and agree to the responsibilities of authorship.

Ethics statement

The manuscript must include an ethics statement in the following format:

This study was reviewed and approved by [full name and affiliation of ethics committee], and the procedures followed were in accordance with the Helsinki Declaration as revised in 2013. The patients/participants provided their written informed consent to participate in this study.

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Scientific or publishing misconduct

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Social Cognition may publish a correction notice if a published article is found to contain a significant error or omission—for example, an omitted author name or a misprinted figure. An erratum will be published in the next available issue of the journal and will be made freely available online.

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