

Facilitating the Publication of Theoretical Articles in EJSP

The new editors of EJSP want to facilitate the publication of theoretical articles in its pages to emphasize the importance of theorizing in our discipline (Ellemers, 2013; Kruglanski, 2001; Van Lange, 2013; Van Zomeren, 2016). EJSP therefore **invites 3-page proposals for theoretical articles** --- defined broadly as articles that aim to build, develop, contest, advance, or more generally put in perspective new and/or existing theories of social-psychological phenomena (McGuire, 2004). This is important for the field, as stronger theories provide a more precise input and interpretation for any confirmatory test in social-psychological research. Furthermore, exploratory research often helps to develop new theories, which may offer new interpretative lenses in need of further theoretical and empirical calibration.

It is important to note that the theoretical articles we seek are **not** review or overview articles of published lines of research --- for this type of article, the *European Review of Social Psychology* is the more suitable outlet. Indeed, EJSP theoretical articles add value to the social-psychological literature *without (necessarily) adding or reviewing new data*, and thus should be strong and convincing in terms of argumentation, conceptualization, and the explicit consideration of definitions and assumptions underlying one's (or others') theorizing. Put differently, theoretical articles for EJSP should be about new or different ideas and interpretations of social-psychological phenomena, which need to be functionally linked to existing theory and research about social-psychological phenomena. Furthermore, they should provide some concrete output, such as the generation of new hypotheses or applications.

Procedure and Criteria

Because writing a theoretical article is certainly not the most common thing in social psychology (e.g., Kruglanski, 2001), criteria for evaluating theoretical articles are not always clear and explicit. As this may in fact prevent authors from writing theoretical articles in the first place, we created a new procedure with clear criteria that should facilitate writing a theoretical article for EJSP in a focused way. This procedure entails that we invite, without any fixed deadline, 3-page proposals that should make clear how the contribution will fulfill the following criteria:

- Content: Clear core of, and connection with, existing social-psychological literature(s)
 - o The topic of the article should connect to social-psychological phenomena.
 - o Theoretical links with work from other disciplines may be valuable as long as the intent is to apply insights from such an 'external' literature to social psychological theorizing
 - o 5-10 core references should be provided to allow an evaluation of which literature(s) will be used

- Aims: Moving beyond description or review of existing work, for instance through:
 - o Theoretical specification (of one theory/model), outlining the next step and ways to test it
 - o Theoretical integration (of different theories/models), outlining how seeming contradictions between theories can be solved or contrasted, or how isolated theories can cross-fertilize each other
 - o Adversarial collaboration as a means to explore solutions for seemingly contradictory theories in the field is encouraged
- Concrete outcomes of achieving this aim, for instance through:
 - o Development of specific hypothesis/es that future research can test
 - o Development of research agenda consisting of a set of concrete research questions
 - o Applications of the new theory, such as a new intervention or other concrete practical implications

Proposals should be sent directly to the editors (ejsp@easp.eu). We aim to provide feedback **within 14 days** of receipt, together with a green (or red) light to submit a full-fledged theoretical article. Such an article will go through the same rigorous peer-review process as an empirical article. Evaluation of the full-fledged theoretical article will occur on the following 10 criteria:

- 1 - Clear and explicit delineation of topic/content of the paper (e.g., which literature)
- 2 - Clear and explicit aims of the paper
- 3 - Clear and explicit evaluation of added value/contribution of the paper
- 4 - Clear and explicit definitions of key concepts used
- 5 - Clear and explicit assumptions underlying one's and/or other theoretical perspective
- 6 - Clear and explicit link and feedback to, and where relevant legitimate differentiation from, previous theorizing and research on-topic
- 7 - Clear and explicit (research and real-life) examples and illustrations of the perspective(s) discussed
- 8 - Clear and explicit discussion of strengths and weaknesses of different perspectives
- 9 - Clear and explicit identification of implications of the theoretical advance (e.g., reinterpretation of previous findings; practical or societal implications)
- 10 - Clear and explicit concrete outcomes of the theoretical article (e.g., generating new testable hypotheses)

We are very much open to any questions or other inquiries before the proposal is submitted, so please contact us (ejsp@easp.eu) if you want us to clarify what we are looking for in theoretical articles for EJSP.

References

- Ellemers, N. (2013). Connecting the dots: Mobilizing theory to reveal the big picture in social psychology (and why we should do this). *European Journal of Social Psychology*, 43(1), 1-8.
- Kruglanski, A. W. (2001). That "Vision Thing": The state of theory in social and personality psychology at the edge of the new millennium. *Journal of Personality and Social Psychology*, 80(6), 871-875.
- McGuire, W. J. (2004). A perspectivist approach to theory construction. *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 8(2), 173-182.
- Van Lange, P. A. (2013). What we should expect from theories in social psychology: Truth, abstraction, progress, and applicability as standards (TAPAS). *Personality and Social Psychology Review*, 17(1), 40-55.
- Van Zomeren, M. (2016). From self to social relationships: An essentially relational perspective on social motivation. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press.

