

Call for Proposals

Special Issue of *Social Psychology* on “Replications of Important Results in Social Psychology”

Guest Editors: Brian A. Nosek and Daniël Lakens

A signature strength of science is that the evidence is reproducible. However, direct replications rarely appear in psychology journals because standard incentives emphasize novelty over verification (for background information, see Nosek, Spies, & Motyl, 2012). This special issue on “Replications of Important Results in Social Psychology” alters those incentives. We invite proposals for high-powered, direct replications of important results in social psychology. The review process will focus on the soundness of the design and the analysis, not on whether the outcome is positive or negative.

What Are Important Results?

Importance is subjective but demonstrable. Proposals must justify the replication value of the finding to be replicated. To merit publication in this issue, the original result should be important (e.g., often cited, a topic of intense scholarly or public interest, a challenge to established theories), but should also have uncertain truth value (e.g., few confirmations, imprecise estimates of effect sizes). The prestige of the journal that published the original study is not in itself sufficient to justify replication value.

Which Replication Formats Are Encouraged?

Proposals should be for direct replications that faithfully reproduce the original procedure, materials, and analysis for verification. Conceptual replications that attempt to improve theoretical understanding by changing the operationalization of the constructs will not be considered for this special issue. Articles for this issue can take several forms:

1. *Registered replication.* Authors submit the introduction, methods, and analysis plan for a replication study or studies. These proposals will be reviewed for their importance and soundness. Once provisionally accepted, the results will be published without regard to the outcome, provided authors complete the study as proposed. Registered replication proposals might also include (1) collaborations between two or more laboratories independently attempting to replicate an effect with the same materials, (2) joint replication by the original laboratory and another laboratory, or (3) adversarial collaborations in which laboratories with competing expectations prepare a joint registered proposal and conduct independent replications. Only adequately powered tests of results with high replication value will be considered.
2. *Aggregation of existing replication attempts.* Authors submit a proposal to aggregate existing replication attempts from the proverbial drawer. Even if individual replication attempts are underpowered, aggregated results can increase the precision of estimates of an effect. Ideal proposals would aggregate replication attempts from multiple laboratories. They may also explore the impact of procedural variations, replicator expertise, or other factors on replication success.
3. *Other approaches.* Authors are encouraged to propose novel replication strategies or methods to improve the precision of estimates of important effects in social psychology.

How Do I Propose a Replication Project?

Interested authors should contact the guest editors Brian Nosek (nosek@virginia.edu) or Daniël Lakens (d.lakens@tue.nl) before preparing a formal proposal. These preproposal discussions will take place in late 2012

and early 2013, the special issue being scheduled for publication in 2014. Deadlines for the formal proposal and final manuscript depend on the type of project.

Registered replication proposals should be submitted by

February 28, 2013

to leave time for initial review, revision, provisional acceptance, data collection, manuscript preparation, final review, and acceptance of the final report.

Aggregation proposals or other manuscripts without new data collection should be submitted by

March 30, 2013

to leave time to aggregate existing evidence and for the full manuscript to undergo peer review during the fall of 2013.

Manuscripts are generally expected to follow standard guidelines of the journal *Social Psychology* (see <http://www.hogrefe.com/journals/sp/>). Papers that are acceptable for publication but cannot be published in this special issue may be considered for publication in a regular issue of *Social Psychology* unless authors explicitly decline this option.

References

Nosek, B. A., Spies, J., & Motyl, M. (2012). Scientific Utopia: II – Restructuring incentives and practices to promote truth over publishability. *Perspectives on Psychological Science*. Retrieved from <http://ssrn.com/abstract=2062465>