

Call for papers for Special Issue in Personality Science

‘Towards an integration of personality research across psychology and biology’

The Special Issue ‘Towards an integration of personality research across psychology and biology’ features and stimulates the integration of psychological and biological approaches to personality.

Individual differences in behavioral patterns are a ubiquitous phenomenon, not only in humans but across the animal kingdom. Understanding personality variation across species will benefit from integrating insights and complementary conceptual and methodological strengths across fields. Joining approaches will also help to illuminate the species-generality versus species-specificity of personality. Commonalities and differences can be related to joint and distinct characteristics of the species’ biological and cultural evolution. They also open up new perspectives to define what, if anything, is uniquely human. In contrast to research on cognition, this potential remains largely untapped with respect to personality.

After a first wave (2000–2010) of animal personality research that was heavily influenced by personality psychology, interdisciplinary interactions became the exception. Animal personality research developed into a fully-fledged field with its own concepts and methods, encompassing strong evolutionary, physiological, genetic, and behavioral ecological backgrounds, as well as advanced statistical developments, such as (Bayesian) mixed effects or structural equation models. Meanwhile, personality psychology is itself undergoing a paradigmatic shift in how personality is conceptualized, assessed, and analyzed: The focus on a few broad latent trait factors (“The Big Few”) has given way to a more fine-grained, contextualized, and dynamic concept of personality. Self-report questionnaires have been complemented by behavioral assessment tools both in the field and in the lab. Novel statistical tools, such as multilevel structural equation modelling or dynamic network analyses, allowed grasping the complexities of multimodal personality dynamics. These key developments in biology and psychology largely happened in parallel and the potential of integrating them across fields remains to be leveraged. The time is ripe to initiate a new wave of cross-talk between the disciplines, and our vision is to catalyze this development through this Special Issue.

Covered Topics

The Special Issue will feature papers making important theoretical, methodological, empirical, and applied contributions – while implementing an interdisciplinary perspective bridging personality psychology and animal personality research. This might include, but is not restricted to, topics such as:

Theory

- Integrative theories (e.g., evolutionary, structural, dynamic approaches)
- Formal models (e.g., reconstructing broad behavioral tendencies from contextualized behaviors)

Empirical contributions and methods

- Analyses of the magnitude and dimensionality of behavioral differences within and between individuals as well as species
- Robustness of specific genetic, environmental, and gene x environment interaction effects
- Standardized designs and assessment tools to capture defined behavioral dimensions
- Integrative data- or theory-driven analyses of multimodal data across timescales

Predictors and outcomes

- Development and stability of personality across the lifespan and predictors of differential trajectories
- Consequences of personality (e.g., in social, health, or performance domains) and their moderation by the social, societal, and cultural context
- Development of effective approaches to personalization (e.g., interventions, animal welfare)

Paper formats and interdisciplinarity requirements

We envision the Special Issue to include a variety of paper formats, including **theory and review papers, methodological contributions, empirical studies, and comments**. Taking the interdisciplinary approach seriously, each paper will have to adopt an **interdisciplinary focus**. That is, optimally, authors team up with researchers from the neighboring discipline and leverage their complementary expertise, as well as comparative and integrative approaches, for an innovative interdisciplinary contribution.

Proposals

Contributions to the Special Issue will be considered based on proposals sent to the Guest Editors (see below). All proposals will be internally reviewed, and full articles may be invited for those proposals that fit well with the Special Issue theme, are well connected, and can make a strong impact. The invitation to a full article may be conditional upon considering feedback from the editorial team. Full articles should be prepared according to the Personality Science author guidelines including transparency and open science standards (for more information, see <https://journals.sagepub.com/author-instructions/PPP>). After an initial editorial screening, they will undergo a regular review process. The Special Issue will incorporate around 10 papers, so we will implement a competitive selection process based on each paper's fit to the theme, expected impact, and conceptual/methodological rigor.

Please send the following information **no later than 30 November 2025** in **one PDF file** (*max. 1.000 words*) to the Guest Editors:

- List of authors, affiliations, and email addresses (though the list may change later)
- Description of the type of article (e.g., conceptual/theoretical, methodological, empirical, comment)
- Outline/Summary of the content and relevance of the planned contribution (empirical contributions: indicate whether the research is thought to be exploratory or confirmatory, and provide a clear description of the methodology including information on sampling, procedures, measures, and open science practices)

Guest Editors

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Timeline

- Deadline for proposals: 30 November 2025
- Feedback on proposals and invitation for full articles: 31 December 2025
- Submission deadline for final manuscripts: 31 August 2026
- Review, revision, and decision process: September-December 2026
- Publication of Special Issue: January 2027