Introduction

Introduction from the new editor-in-chief

When I was offered to take over the position as editor-in-chief from Karl Schweizer I felt very honoured. At the same time I felt that this job certainly comes with a lot of challenges. Some of these challenges are probably still unknown to me and will reveal themselves in due time. Other challenges will be small problems because of the excellent support I am receiving from Karl Schweizer whom I want to thank at this point. Thinking about challenges I became aware of the fact that readers and potential authors of the European Journal of Psychological Assessment might also wonder what the change in editorship might mean for the journal in general and its mission statement in particular. So I want to use this website to state some of my guidelines regarding journal policy.

Major changes for the European Journal of Psychological Assessment at this point in time would be counterintuitive given its success in previous years. Therefore, large parts of the journal’s mission statement will hold true for the next period of years.

First of all I want to stress that submissions from all areas of psychological assessment are welcome. A recent analyses by Alonso-Arbiol and van de Vijver (2010) showed that a large share of papers published in the European Journal of Psychological Assessment have a clinical background. Considering the prominent role of clinical psychology there should be a strong demand for new measures or improvements in already existing measures manifesting itself in papers published in an assessment journal. Psychological assessment is also a vital part of other psychological research traditions such as educational psychology, I/O psychology or cross-cultural psychology. Because EJPA is committed to maintaining and improving assessment standards in all areas of psychology, the call for submissions from all areas of psychology is hereby renewed.

Second, studies reporting the construction of new measures will naturally still be welcome. If a submission deals with developments for existing measures it should go beyond just showing psychometric properties of test scores derived from translations, though.

Third, the mission statement explicitly calls for papers contributing to knowledge about the complete assessment process and including diverse methods. With regard to this many unanswered or only partly answered questions remain. For example, what actually happens when people answer questionnaire items? Some theoretical models do exist (e.g., Krosnick, 1999) but more research would be needed. Another example of high practical relevance is the question of how to integrate data from different methods (e.g., interview, test data, questionnaire, observation) to come up with individual decisions. Many more research questions are pressing and studies shedding light on them are welcome.

Finally, the field of psychological assessment has seen a lot of methodological advances over the past few years. Papers introducing such new methods are also welcome if they have a potential impact on assessment research or practice. A worked example outlining the advantages of the new method compared to existing approaches would help tremendously.

The next few years will be a great opportunity for the new editorial team. Fortunately, a lot of expertise remains on board helping to achieve a smooth transition. Maintaining the journals success in terms of high quality papers will be the upmost goal. Along with trying to further increase internationality and breadth of topics the set task will be quite challenging. Ultimately, the reader will have to decide. Any feedback regarding the journal is therefore always welcome and can be directed to ejpaeditor@gmail.com.

References
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