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Submission instructions

General information for preparing the manuscripts

International Review of Social Research publishes original research in one format, Article. We strongly encourage authors to write concisely and to adhere to the guidelines below.

Articles should ideally be no more than 11 typeset pages in length. As a guide, the main text (not including Abstract, Methods, References and figure legends) should be no more than 4,500 words. The maximum Article title length is 20 words. It should be specific, descriptive, concise, and comprehensible to readers outside the subject field (avoid abbreviations if possible). The Abstract — which must be no more than 300 words long and contain no references — should serve both as a general introduction to the topic and as a brief, non-technical summary of the main results and their implications. Generally, the abstract should: a) describe the main objective(s) of the study; b) explain how the study was done, without methodological detail; c) summarize the most important results and their significance.

For the main body of the text, there are no explicit requirements for section organization. According to the authors' preference, the text may be organized as best suits the research. As a guideline and in the majority of cases, however, we recommend that you structure your manuscript as follows:

- Introduction
- Methods
- Results (with subheadings)
- Discussion (without subheadings)

A specific order for the main body of the text is not compulsory and, in some cases, it may be appropriate to combine sections. Figure legends are limited to 350 words.

Authors must provide a competing financial interests statement within the manuscript file.

Submissions should include a cover letter, a manuscript text file, individual figure files, optional supplementary information files (such as tables, datasets etc.) and a signed and scanned 'Open Access License' file (the file can be downloaded prior submission from the

journal's webpage). The figures may be inserted in the text at the appropriate positions, or grouped at the end. Supplementary information should be combined and supplied as a single separate file, preferably in PDF format.

ONLY the following file types can be uploaded for Article text: doc. or docx.

In 2017, International Review of Social Research adjusted its submission instructions and it adhered to the APA academic writing style. Accordingly, we strongly suggest using APA writing style while preparing a manuscript for the International Review of Social Research.

International Review of Social Research is read by scholars from diverse backgrounds. In addition, many are not native English speakers. Authors should, therefore, give careful thought to how their findings may be communicated clearly. Although a shared basic knowledge of science may be assumed, please bear in mind that the language and concepts that are standard in one field may be unfamiliar to non-specialists. Thus, technical jargon should be avoided and clearly explained where its use is unavoidable.

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International Review of Social Research uses US English spelling.

Cover letter

Authors should provide a cover letter that includes the affiliation and contact information for the corresponding author. Authors should briefly explain why the work is considered appropriate for International Review of Social Research. Additionally, authors are required to: a) concisely summarize why their paper is a valuable addition to the scientific literature; b) briefly relate their study to previously published work; c) describe any prior interactions with International Review of Social Research regarding the submitted manuscript.

Format of manuscripts

In most cases we do not impose strict limits on word counts and page numbers, but we encourage authors to write concisely and suggest authors adhere to the guidelines below. For a definitive list of which limits are mandatory please visit the submission checklist page.

Articles should be no more than 11 typeset pages in length. As a guide, the main text (not including Abstract, Methods, References and figure legends) should be no more than 4,500 words. The maximum title length is 20 words. The Abstract (without heading) - which must be no more than 300 words long and contain no references - should serve both as a general introduction to the topic and as a brief, non-technical summary of the main results and their implications.

The manuscript text file should include the following parts, in order: a title page with author affiliations and contact information (the corresponding author should be identified with an asterisk). Each author should list an associated department, university, or organizational affiliation and its location, including city, state/province (if applicable), and country. If the article has been submitted on behalf of a consortium, all author names and affiliations should be listed at the end of the article.

The main text of an Article can be organised in different ways and according to the authors' preferences, it may be appropriate to combine sections.

As a guideline, we recommend that sections include an Introduction of referenced text that expands on the background of the work. Some overlap with the Abstract is acceptable. This may then be followed by Methods, Results (with subheadings), and Discussion (without subheadings). It is advisable that the introduction should: a) provide background that puts the manuscript into context and allows readers outside the field to understand the purpose and significance of the study; b) define the problem addressed and why it is important; c) include a brief review of the key literature; d) note any relevant controversies or disagreements in the field.

The main body of text must be followed by References, Acknowledgements (optional), Author Contributions (names must be given as initials), Additional Information (including a Competing Financial Interests Statement), Figure Legends (these are limited to 350 words per figure) and Tables (maximum size of one page). Footnotes are not used.

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Methods

Where appropriate, we recommend that authors limit their Methods section to 1,500 words. Authors must ensure that their Methods section includes, where applicable, adequate experimental and characterization data necessary for others in the field to reproduce their work. Descriptions of standard protocols and procedures should be given. Basically, this section should be written as clearly as possible to allow for potential future replication and understanding of how data were produced.

Results, discussion and conclusions

These sections may all be separate, or may be combined to create a mixed Results/Discussion section (commonly labeled "Results and Discussion") or a mixed Discussion/Conclusions section (commonly labeled "Discussion"). These sections should have a clear and concise language.

References

References will not be copy edited by International Review of Social Research. References will be linked electronically to external databases where possible, making correct formatting of the references essential.

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Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements should be brief, and should not include thanks to anonymous referees and editors, or effusive comments. Grant or contribution numbers may be acknowledged.

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Author contributions

International Review of Social Research requires authors to explicitly define their contribution to the manuscript. The contribution declaration should be included in the article file. Authors' names must be given as initials, while each author's contribution must be stated as briefly as possible (e.g. data collection; manuscript writing etc.). Author contributions should be inserted into the manuscript after the 'Acknowledgement' section.

To qualify for authorship, one should contribute to all of the following:

- Conception and design of the work, acquisition of data, or analysis and interpretation of data;
- Drafting the article or revising it critically for important intellectual content;
- Final approval of the version to be published;
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work.

Figure legends

Figure legends begin with a brief title sentence for the whole figure and continue with a short description of what is shown in each panel in sequence and the symbols used; methodological details should be minimised as much as possible. Each legend must total no more than 350 words. Text for figure legends should be provided in numerical order after the references.

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Please submit tables in your main article document in an editable format (preferably Word), and not as images. Tables that include statistical analysis of data should describe their standards of error analysis and ranges in a table legend.

General figure guidelines

Authors are responsible for obtaining permission to publish any figures or illustrations that are protected by copyright, including figures published elsewhere and pictures taken by professional photographers. The journal cannot publish images downloaded from the internet without appropriate permission.

Figures should be numbered separately with Arabic numerals in the order of occurrence in the text of the manuscript. When appropriate, figures should include error bars. A description of the statistical treatment of error analysis should be included in the figure legend.

Figure lettering should be in a clear, sans-serif typeface; the same typeface in the same font size should be used for all figures in a paper. Use 'symbols' font for Greek letters. All display items should be on a white background, and should avoid excessive boxing, unnecessary colour, spurious decorative effects (such as three-dimensional 'skyscraper' histograms) and highly pixelated computer drawings. The vertical axis of histograms should not be truncated to exaggerate small differences. Labelling must be of sufficient size and contrast to be readable, even after appropriate reduction. The thinnest lines in the final figure should be no smaller than one point wide. Authors will see a proof that will include figures.

Figures divided into parts should be labelled with a lower-case bold a, b, and so on, in the same type size as used elsewhere in the figure. Lettering in figures should be in lower-case type, with only the first letter of each label capitalized. Thousands should be separated by commas (1,000). Unusual units or abbreviations should be spelled out in full or defined in the legend. Scale bars should be used rather than magnification factors, with the length of the bar defined on the bar itself rather than in the legend. In legends, please use visual cues rather than verbal explanations such as "open red triangles".

Unnecessary figures should be avoided: data presented in small tables or histograms, for instance, can generally be stated briefly in the text instead.

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Figures that do not meet these standards will not reproduce well and may delay publication until we receive high-resolution images.

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Every article that contains statistical testing should state the name of the statistical test, the n value for each statistical analysis, the comparisons of interest, a justification for the use of that test (including, for example, a discussion of the normality of the data when the test is appropriate only for normal data), the alpha level for all tests, whether the tests were one-tailed or two-tailed, and the actual P value for each test (not merely "significant" or " $P < 0.05$ "). It should be clear what statistical test was used to generate every P value. Use of the word "significant" should always be accompanied by a P value; otherwise, use "substantial," "considerable," etc.

Data sets should be summarized with descriptive statistics, which should include the n value for each data set, a clearly labelled measure of centre (such as the mean or the median), and a clearly labelled measure of variability (such as standard deviation or range). Ranges are more appropriate than standard deviations or standard errors for small data sets. Graphs should include clearly labelled error bars. Authors must state whether a number that follows the \pm sign is a standard error (s.e.m.) or a standard deviation (s.d.).

Authors must justify the use of a particular test and explain whether their data conform to the assumptions of the tests.

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The statement included in the article file must be explicit and unambiguous, describing any potential competing financial interest (or lack thereof) for each contributing author.

Examples of declarations are:

Competing financial interests

The author(s) declare no competing financial interests.

Competing financial interests

Mr Alpha's work has been funded by A. He has received compensation as a member of the scientific advisory board of B and owns stock in the company. He also has consulted for C and received compensation. Ms Beta and Ms Gamma declare no potential conflict of interest.

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Experiments, statistics, and other types of analyses are performed to a high technical standard and are described in sufficient detail.

Conclusions are presented in an appropriate fashion and are supported by the data. The data presented in the manuscript must support the conclusions drawn. Submissions will be rejected if the interpretation of results is unjustified or inappropriate, so authors should avoid overstating their conclusions.

The paper is presented in an intelligible fashion and is written in standard English (US English spelling). The language in submitted articles must be clear, correct, and unambiguous. Papers that do not meet these standards may be rejected.

The article adheres to appropriate reporting guidelines and community standards for data availability. Authors must follow standards and practice for data deposition in publicly available resources. In other words, all data underlying the findings described in the manuscript should be made fully available without restriction. All data and related metadata must be deposited in an appropriated public repository, unless already provided as part of the submitted article or supporting information. If there are restrictions on the ability of authors to publicly share data, these reasons must be specified.