

Editor-in-Chief Transition Achievements and Future Plans

Dear colleagues, associate editors, members of the editorial board, ad hoc reviewers, contributors, and readers of *Journal of Media Psychology*!

It is time for a change and time to say “thank you!” Starting from January 1, 2015, I will hand over the responsibility of the Editor-in-Chief to my respected colleague Nicole Krämer and step back to join the team of Associate Editors. I am very happy and proud to announce that we achieved one of our major goals in 2014, the ISI listing and a preliminary impact factor, which is 1.051 (for 2013). This is a wonderful starting point for the journal to grow in influence and a great achievement for all who have worked so hard for this success during the last years, including the Associate Editors, the Editorial Board members, the ad hoc reviewers, and last but not least the contributors who submitted their excellent work and made the journal what it is now: A renowned and internationally recognized outlet for research in the field of media psychology. The submission rates have increased constantly over the last years and given the impact factor, we can expect submissions to further increase in the coming years.

Beyond all those people who made this success possible I wish to gratefully acknowledge the exceptional support I have received from the wonderful editorial team. My thanks go to Diana Rieger who did an outstanding job as scientific assistant to the Editor-in-Chief, handling the workflow and communications in a way which made my own work for the journal not only manageable but a real pleasure. Also I wish to express my gratitude to Monika Wegener who addressed formal and procedural issues and the communication with the publisher in a very professional and for everyone most agreeable manner. Last but not least I want to thank the publisher Hogrefe for its confidence in the success of *JMP*, and also the people at Hogrefe who supported our endeavours in such a professional and congenial way. In the name of the whole editorial team in Cologne I wish to thank Robert Dimpleby for being such a wonderful partner over the years and Regina Pinks-Freybott for guaranteeing a smooth workflow in the publishing process.

I wish the new Editor-in-Chief and the whole team all the best for the future and the journal to further grow in reach-out and scientific impact.

Sincerely,
Gary Bente

From my early days as a PhD student onwards, I have witnessed the development of the *Journal of Media Psychology* since it was launched as a new Hogrefe journal with Peter Vorderer as Editor-in-Chief, as *Zeitschrift für Medienpsychologie*. When Margrit Schreier took over the role of the Editor-in-Chief she led the journal to be accessible to an international community by establishing English as the journal’s language. Gary Bente, from 2009 onwards, further fostered the journal’s international visibility and finally succeeded in achieving the ISI listing as well as an impressive first impact factor. I thank all former editors for their amazing and successful efforts to ensure the positive development of the journal and feel very proud and honored to be handed the prestigious role of Editor-in-Chief of the *Journal of Media Psychology*. I aim to follow tradition by further advancing the international visibility and reputation of the journal and by maintaining the path of excellence which the previous editors have invested in.

The most important measure to achieve and foster positive developments will be an innovation with regard to the policy and submission procedure for the journal: Besides regular submissions, we now also welcome pre-registered studies. Here, the theoretical background, hypotheses, and methods of a study are reviewed before the data are collected. If the theoretical derivation of hypotheses as well as methods are evaluated as sound, the study receives an “in-principle” acceptance and can be conducted (potentially with some changes or additions suggested by the reviewers). Once the data are in, they will be published regardless of whether they match the hypotheses – although a further review will of course be necessary in order to assess the soundness of the results and discussion section, which might still result in major revision of the second part. This type of procedure has been proposed to hinder behaviors such as altering hypotheses/aims of scientific studies after data collection or cherry-picking data. Our new pre-registration mode is a second type of submission that is not intended to replace conventional full-report submissions, but offer authors an alternative. With this innovation, we hope that *JMP* will not only attract even more authors and increase its visibility, but will also contribute to a structural reform of scientific practice and support recent endeavors to improve the quality of research. In a brief survey, the majority of the editorial board of *JMP* welcomed this new idea, with 16 of the 19 participating board

members voting in favor of introducing the option of pre-registration. Board members felt that this measure “helps us to protect against the common rejection (and self-selected non-submission) of null results” and that it “will increase the publication of theoretically and methodologically sound null-findings.”

In addition, we will encourage submissions employing alternative types of analysis such as Bayesian statistics and will support authors wishing to engage in open data and open materials procedures. Moreover, we will be taking measures to further reduce the turnaround time for manuscript review. In order to support this, we will – once a year – issue reviewer certificates acknowledging the best 20% of reviewers, those who have both handed in their reviews in a timely manner and have also provided detailed reviews that were deemed particularly helpful, not only for the editors’ decision-making but also in terms of supporting the authors.

I am very happy that German Neubaum will support us in these ventures as editorial assistant. I thank him for the extensive preparations he has already made and look forward, with his assistance, to serving the journal and the media psychological community.

Nicole Krämer

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