

Dear Divison-8 members,

We hope we find you in good health and that none of you nor your family members are quarantined or sick. These are challenging times for everyone.

In light of the global COVID-19 pandemic, we wish to inform you about the following call for a special issue in *Applied Psychology: Health and Wellbeing* on the subject of: **COVID-19 and Health: Psychosocial and Behavioral Perspectives**

Background

A newly emerging coronavirus, SARS-CoV-2 (previously known as 2019-nCoV) which can cause coronavirus disease (COVID-19), a severe respiratory illness like SARS and MERS, originated from Wuhan, Hubei Province, China at the end of 2019. By March 18, 2020, a total of 81,102 cases in China and 212,616 cases around the globe have been reported. In responses to COVID-19 outbreak, WHO has declared a public health emergency of international concern and the Chinese government has urged scientists to conduct research on the infectious disease.

During the past two months, hundreds of academic papers about COVID-19 have been published by global researchers from diverse disciplines, e.g:

Ghinai, I., McPherson, T. D., Hunter, J. C., Kirking, H. L., Christiansen, D., Joshi, K., ... & Fricchione, M. J. (2020). First known person-to-person transmission of severe acute respiratory syndrome coronavirus 2 (SARS-CoV-2) in the USA. *The Lancet*.

Wu, Z., & McGoogan, J. M. (2020). Characteristics of and important lessons from the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) outbreak in China: summary of a report of 72 314 cases from the Chinese Center for Disease Control and Prevention. *JAMA*.

Meanwhile, abundant on-going research projects are being implemented and evaluated. We searched major both English and Chines electronic databases and found that the majority of existing literature have focused on medical aspects of COVID-19 and few ones tapped on psychosocial and behavioral sides. However, there are at least 40 online survey and intervention projects managed by psychologists and related social science researchers in China and beyond with our preliminary estimation. It might foresee that more manuscripts on psychological aspects of COVID-19 would be written in the near future.

Special Issue Aims

The goal of this special journal issue is to bring together a set of the latest articles on psychological, behavioral, and socio-medical aspects of the COVID-19. We aim to showcase the importance of behavioral and psychological approaches to adapt with such a ferocious epidemic, and thus, to improve wellbeing of individuals who have been affected and infected. Specially, we are looking for studies conducted worldwide during the COVID-19 epidemic period. Interdisciplinary research is valued. Their participants could be the general public, the segregated, the infected, or health professionals. Research topics include but are not limited to:

- Evidence-based interventions to improve preventative behaviors
- Interventions for psychological wellbeing improvement
- Determinants and prediction of changes of preventative behaviors and psychological wellbeing
- Differential impacts of indoor activities on health and wellbeing
- Examination of health behavior theories
- Impact of social media use on cognitive, behavioral, and psychological outcomes

- New and innovative data-collection methods on diverse indicators of behavior and wellbeing
- Monitoring changes in cognitive, behavioral, and psychological responses over time
- Behavioral and psychological responses in special populations
- Impact of policies
- Social inequity and social impacts of the epidemic
- Cross-cultural comparisons

The special issue welcomes the following manuscript submission formats:

- Longitudinal studies
- Intervention studies
- Quantitative, qualitative and mixed-method studies
- Cross-sectional studies with population-based and national representative samples

Manuscript Submission

Manuscripts must be prepared according to Author Guidelines located at <https://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/page/journal/17580854/homepage/forauthors.html>. Prospective authors should submit an electronic copy of their complete manuscript through the journal manuscript submission portal via <https://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/aphw> by June 15, 2020. All submitted manuscripts will undergo the editorial review, and those meeting criteria will be referred for masked peer review. The editors look forward to receiving manuscripts.

Guest Editors

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Another important initiative going on is the foundation of the Behavior and Health Professional Committee under the Chinese Psychological Society

In order to promote the development of behavioral and health psychology in China and the exchange and cooperation of researchers in this area of expertise, it is urgent and mandatory to establish a professional academic organization focusing on behavioral promotion based on psychological knowledge and theory. The Chinese Behavioral and Health Professional Committee (Preparatory committee) began its preparation in spring 2019 and was approved by the executive committee in January 2020. The Secretariat is attached to the School of Psychological and Cognitive Science of Peking University.

The Behavior and Health Professional Committee (Preparatory committee) is composed of professional researchers engaged in basic and applied research in behavior and health psychology. The Committee is composed of 32 members from 23 Chinese universities, composed of influential senior experts and young academic backbones. Its main purpose is to promote good health behavior habits based on psychological knowledge and theory to the public, and to achieve the national health

strategy goal to popularize healthy lifestyles.

The scope and tasks of the Behavioral and Health Psychology Professional Committee:
Organize training, academic seminars and other activities;
Increase the communication and cooperation with the International Applied Psychology Association and the American Psychological Association Health Branch;
Use theories and practices of psychology to serve social practice, promote the development and reform of public health and medical systems, by implementing researches results;
Publish teaching materials, establish a training base for graduate students, in behavior and health psychology, establish a docking mechanism with hospitals and communities, and build an internship platform;
Promote Chinese traditional health culture, such as Chinese medicine, yoga and Tai Chi, and conform the Chinese health culture resources.

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We hope that the current world crisis will soon be over.

Yours,

Sonia Lippke, president

Yiqun Gan, Secretary

Noa Vilchinsky, Communication officer