

## Editorial

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Our new editorial team assumes a continuing mission, stated succinctly by Walter Mischel (2001) as this century began: “The editor’s task . . . is to nurture this journal’s tradition as the primary venue for major theoretical advances in all of scientific psychology and retain the standards of excellence that have given *Psychological Review* its special distinction for more than a century” (p. 3). Ten years later, John Anderson (2011) began his own editorial by quoting Mischel. Like those who filled this position before me, I aim to continue a tradition that traces back to the birth of the science of psychology at the end of the 19th century, when articles by such pioneers as William James and John Dewey appeared in our pages.

I am very pleased that our new editorial board, which includes Associate Editors Nicholas Epley, Susan Gelman, Michael Kahana, Laurence Maloney, and Elke Weber, collectively provides expertise spanning a broad spectrum of research areas. As the preeminent theoretical journal of psychology, *Psychological Review* seeks articles that “connect the dots” to make sense of the empirical advances in the field, setting the stage for future developments. Because of the journal’s generality (increasingly rare in an era of continued fractionation of disciplines and subdisciplines), the articles appearing in our pages implicitly define the scope of scientific psychology.

We encourage articles that draw connections among multiple research areas, both within psychology and across its porous borders. Aply characterized as a “hub science,” psychology is increasingly interwoven with allied disciplines as diverse as neuroscience, genetics, artificial intelligence, linguistics, philosophy, education, and cultural anthropology. *Psychological Review* welcomes interdisciplinary articles, as long as a compelling case is made for their core contribution to psychology. Along with other types of contributions, the journal offers an outlet for theoretical work in cognitive and social neuroscience—papers that integrate neural and behavioral evidence to constrain theories of cognition, perception, development, psychopathology, emotion, and motivation.

The central focus of *Psychological Review* is on articles that advance novel and testable theories, striving to establish a “new

frontier.” We recognize that the relevant frontier can be located in different places for different research areas. *Psychological Review* often publishes papers that lay out elegant formal models of a mathematical or computational nature, and indeed, some research areas have developed to the point where a theoretical advance is necessarily formal in nature. But there are other equally important research areas, especially those that have emerged relatively recently, where a less formal theory can constitute a major contribution.

The journal (despite its name) does not focus on review papers, but on theoretical articles; however, in some instances, we may publish an integrative review article that clarifies important theoretical questions. Although the journal is not an appropriate outlet for papers that are primarily empirical in nature, we recognize that reporting new data will often strengthen theory-driven articles by testing the new theory against competitors. Although brevity is always a virtue, our journal is able to offer sufficient space to describe a new theory and place it in its intellectual context, and to review (and perhaps report) evidence to help assess it.

Authors should strive to make their articles accessible and relevant to scientists who are not specialists in their own microfield. We endeavor to respond to submissions as quickly as possible (although reviewers naturally require more time for longer papers). We ask authors of accepted papers to make data-analysis software or model simulations available as supplemental online material. Our publisher, the American Psychological Association, provides “Online First” publication. In general, our goal is to identify manuscripts that make important theoretical advances, help authors improve their clarity, and make the final papers available as quickly as possible to a wide readership.

A journal editor, especially for a theoretical journal of the stature of *Psychological Review*, must first and foremost serve as a “good listener” for the entire field. Our editorial team will respond to what the field produces, striving to help authors articulate their unique visions, with the aim of amplifying the signal provided by psychology’s best work.

### References

- Anderson, J. R. (2011). Editorial. *Psychological Review*, 118, 1–2. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/a0022225>
- Mischel, W. (2001). Editorial. *Psychological Review*, 108, 3. <http://dx.doi.org/10.1037/0033-295X.108.1.3>

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