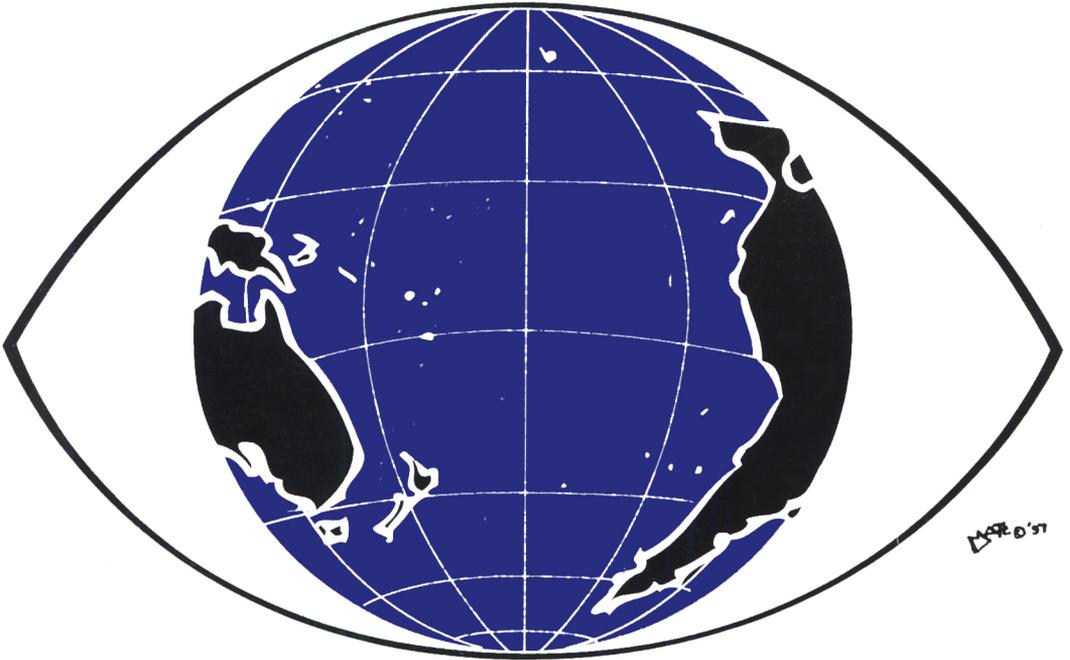# South Pacific

Journal of
Psychology

Publication Policy and Notes for Contributors

The twin aims of SPJP are to contribute towards development in the region, as well as in psychology itself as a discipline and profession within the South Pacific. In particular, this journal provides a forum for psychologists indigenous to the region, and serves as an archive for psychological studies especially germane to its development. To view such archives, see: **<http://www.comp.mq.edu.au/~pwatters/pacific/>**

Studies demonstrating how cultural conditions limit general psychological principles are welcomed, as are studies evaluating the applicability of psychological technologies, including therapies and measurements, with specific cultural groups. The journal welcomes contributions across theoretical orientations and is receptive to studies incorporating qualitative as well as quantitative methods. All suitable manuscripts submitted (3 copies) are fully peer-reviewed, must conform to APA style, and should be sent to **the Editor, Stuart C. Carr, Department of Psychology, Northern Territory University, NT 0909, Australia.**

SPJP will consider six types of unsolicited contributions. These are (a) full length articles; (b) qualitative research; (c) health/welfare and social/organisational case studies; (d) short papers; (e) papers at the interface between psychology and technology; and (e) book reviews (submit to Don Munro, <Munro@psychology.newcastle.edu.au>). Precise instructions for authors in each of special categories b to d are included overleaf. Especially welcome in all categories are papers about the effectiveness of community development projects within the region.

SPJP is published twice annually, and an annual subscription (including airmail) is US $ 50.00, AUD/NZ $ 50.00, or equivalent, with back issues available from the homepage. SPJP also seeks to publish special issues, under special editorship, relating to specific topic areas relevant to development in the South Pacific. Proposals to the Editor are always welcome.

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QUALITATIVE RESEARCH

Within the past two decades, psychology has demonstrated an increased interest in the use of qualitative research methods. This interest represents a significant change for psychology since much of its prior emphasis has been upon the use of quantitative research methods. The sources of this recent interest in qualitative research are, in themselves, a fascinating topic for discussion because they reside in the growing discontent with psychology's most basic and fundamental assumptions as a science. But even more fascinating are the implications this new interest may have for psychology's future development and directions.

Where is qualitative research going, and what is its likely impact to be on psychology? These are fundamental questions for all psychologists. Qualitative research is an important part of the empirical research tradition that has characterised psychology's development. Qualitative research acknowledges the context, meaning, and origins of knowledge from the perspective of both the researcher and the research participants. In this respect, it can be said to be more "scientific" (objective) than conventional quantitative methods that ignore the social perception process under the myth of detachment and impartiality. For this reason, qualitative research is likely to increase in popularity and to become a major moderator of psychological knowledge by enriching our insights and understanding of human behaviour, and by expanding our research horizons and capabilities.

For these reasons, the South Pacific Journal of Psychology encourages the publication of qualitative research in its pages, and invites manuscript submissions within this "new" tradition. The South Pacific Journal of Psychology also chooses to support this "new" tradition because the journal's primary mission is to publish articles with regional significance for the South Pacific. This region encompasses scores of emerging nations and hundreds of diverse cultural traditions, all of which have known the burdens of colonial oppression and the devaluation of their experience and lifestyles. Under these circumstances – that fully acknowledge the role of power and privilege in the generation and dissemination of knowledge - it is fitting and right that other journals join us in promoting research orientations and methods that illuminate the multiple realities of the people of the South Pacific.

CASE STUDIES

Case studies from practitioners in various fields of Psychology are invited for submission. It is the intention of the SPJP to give reasonable attention to the interests and concerns of the practitioners of Psychology. Publishing case studies is one way to achieve this. Since with real life case studies it is often difficult to implement a study design that is amenable to statistical analysis, or adequate control of variables that may affect clinical outcomes, a common focus of case studies tends to be clinical technique. Of course lessons can be learned from client responses whether they are precisely predictable in terms of established literature and clinical practice, or idiosyncratic. The editors do not wish to unnecessarily limit the kinds of studies that might be published, but envisage submissions from clinical, educational and organisational spheres. All case studies should present an adequate description of the

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background of the presenting problem, the methodology used, the outcomes and explanations for the outcomes observed.

SHORT PAPERS

The South Pacific Journal of Psychology is calling for short papers that interested researchers might like to submit for publication in this new up coming section in the Journal. The Journal recognises that the South Pacific is a diverse area both geographically, and culturally. However, there is a relative dearth in the concentration of research relevant to the region or even indeed a concentration of researchers in the region that might stimulate relevant research projects. In order to facilitate the research process in the region the Journal proposes to include a section on short papers.

The papers can be on any type of research that has relevance to the South Pacific. We would like to see short reports that authors may feel are not likely to be published as a full journal article, but which appears to offer intriguing, preliminary findings. We welcome both quantitative and qualitative research articles; pilot studies; non-trivial research assignments done by or set for students in the Pacific region; speculative papers that suggest a further avenue of research.

Guidelines for writing Short Articles for the South Pacific Journal of Psychology.

- The length should be between 500-1,500 words, including references.

- Citation and reference format to follow the same as that of full-length articles (APA).

- Since space is at a premium include core details that are required to help the reader understand the main thrust of the article. In an experimental write up, precise details in the methodology are not required (but made available by the author(s) on request).

- In the Results section report only those results that the article is going to comment on directly.

- However, particularly because the article has been kept short in detail in the methodology and results or because the research is exploratory and/or pilot research, the Discussion should mention possible flaws or alternative interpretations of the results, other than the main interpretation presented by the author(s). This is as much to indicate to the reader that the author(s) is/are aware of these possible flaws and alternative interpretations. It also serves to instruct potential researchers wishing to replicate the research, of some of these concerns.

PSYCHOLOGY AND TECHNOLOGY

The South Pacific Journal of Psychology is pleased to announce the introduction of a new section in the journal, "Psychology and Technology." In recent years, psychologists in academia and industry have become increasingly involved in the development of new technology, and in analysing the social impact of that technology in diverse settings, such as in education and in the workplace. This new section aims to incorporate both empirical studies and evaluations of new technologies in which psychologists have been involved. For example:

* instructional technology (computer-based teaching);
* human factors;
* human-computer interaction; and
* organisational and work psychology;

as well as reviews of the broader social implications of new technology. The focus of reviews and studies submitted for publication in this section should reflect the journal's focus on the South Pacific, either by stating how the technology is relevant, or how it might be relevant, particularly with respect to regional development issues.

Submissions in APA format may be made to the Section Editor, Paul Watters, via text or Uuencoded e-mail, at <Pwatters@ics.mq.edu.au>, or by post to: Paul Watters, 75 Dryden Avenue, Oakhurst, NSW 2761, Australia.

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Consultant Reviewers

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