Political Psychology Call for Papers on “Advancing the Interface between Research and Practice in Sustainable Development” (Part of a Multi-Journal Special Issue- MJSI)

Editors: James H. Liu and Veronica Hopner

In a world threatened by existing problems like working poverty, income inequality, racial injustice, human rights violations, political instabilities, gender inequities, pandemics, and housing water and food shortages, academic silos are a luxury/vanity that none of us can afford. This is especially true as climate change threatens to exacerbate some of these issues. Psychology and Political Science are relatively fragmented, and like other social sciences are not yet focused on sustainability in the deeper and more interconnected sense. The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and its Common Agenda (see https://sdgs.un.org/goals or https://www.un.org/en/common-agenda) for achieving these are used as the framework for coordinating a Multi-Journal Special Issue, where each journal issues its own CFP, but communicates and coordinates with the others to advance the connections between research and practice across association and regional divides.

In Political Psychology, urgent advances are needed in the areas where research is involved in promoting peace, justice, and strong institutions necessary for human security and both group and individual flourishing (SDG 16). We call for papers that describe interfaces where research can work to document increased peace and justice (and/or reduced conflict), through such avenues such as redress for past injustices, negotiation or mediation, increasing equity or equality between individuals or groups, enhancing means for flourishing (including improving access to food, education, or other necessities), and improving institutional functioning. We ask that papers for this SI emphasize some feature of institutional context (be it at the local, regional, national, or international level), perhaps involving global, local, or organizational partnerships (SDG 17). We prefer papers that focus on action, even if the action has not been completed, or was not entirely successful. Papers with an intervention (or evaluation) and outcomes are desirable, but less structured efforts articulating processes of social change or case studies of practices in action are also encouraged. We welcome papers that address and theorize tensions between top-down and bottom-up attempts to increase peace, justice, and strengthen institutions conducive to human security and flourishing. We anticipate innovative efforts to describe new ways that research can function to produce, document, or bear witness to processes of social change for peace, justice, and institutional reform. In this context, less conventional methods are fully acceptable (e.g. interviews and dialogues, websites, etc). Articulating and theorizing human agency in the process of promoting peace, justice, and institutional change is an area of potential advance for submissions to this SI.

Papers can be connected to any of the 10 (out of 17 total) SDGs defined as relevant to social protection systems (see graphic below) for this CFP. Most important among these are SDG 16 (Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions), and SDG 17 (Global Partnerships for Sustainable Development: “Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development”).

Interested authors should submit a letter of intent to j.h.liu@massey.ac.nz or v.hopner@massey.ac.nz by Nov 1, 2023. The letter should include: (1) a tentative title, (2) a description (800 words or less) of the proposed submission, including anticipated methods, samples, and how this research advances the interface between research and practice; (3) names and affiliations of all anticipated authors; and (4) contact information of the corresponding author. We
will invite submissions of full manuscripts based on the letters of intent. Full manuscripts of invited submissions would be expected around April 1, 2024. These will be sent out for peer review.

To signal the urgency of highlighting innovative practices in this CFP, the following paragraph will be included as guidance to all reviewers for papers in this MJSI: "You are reviewing a paper for Multi-journal Special Issue (MJSI) on Advancing the interface between research and practice in sustainable development. We ask that you focus more attention on evaluating whether there are innovative, effective, and/or aspirational/inspirational interfaces between research, theory, and practice in this paper, rather than focusing more on traditional academic details."

From Page 29, Our Common Agenda (United Nations publication, 2021)