

Call for papers

Special issue Political Psychology:

Adult Belief Change: New Theoretical and Empirical Perspectives

Guest editors:

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Recent examples of rapid and widespread adult belief change abound: people expressing beliefs in new and evolving conspiracy theories; people becoming disaffected with politics, as testified by anti-government protests; and rapidly changing public attitudes towards institutional racism, as evidenced by global Black Lives Matter movements. These sudden belief changes cannot simply be explained by cohort or generational shifts. Therefore, belief changes must occur on an individual level.

Belief change in later life is understudied as it goes against the well-established idea that political attitudes are formed early on in life and remain stable thereafter. Recently, some studies have emerged that address adult belief change. However, these are mostly descriptive and offer relatively little insight into how, for whom, and under which conditions adult belief change takes place. In this light, we invite papers for a special issue on the topic of adult belief change that addresses new theoretical and methodological perspectives and sets the agenda for future research on this highly relevant theme. Contributions to the special issue should improve upon existing research in the fields of Psychology, Political Science and Sociology, and the interdisciplinary field of political socialization. We especially invite contributions that address one of the following questions: first, the theoretical question of why some beliefs are more likely to change than others. Also, we are interested in papers that take a country-comparative approach to adult belief change, which allows for studying which contextual conditions affect the likelihood of adult belief change. Furthermore, we are interested in contributions that address adult belief change in the global south; and we welcome contributions that specifically study psychological characteristics to understand why some adults are more likely to change their beliefs than others.

The submission deadline for full papers is September 15th 2024. All papers must be submitted through the ScholarOne system to be able to enter the regular peer review procedure. For expressions of interest and/or questions about the special issue, please contact the guest editors: Dr Katerina Manevska (email: katerina.manevska@ru.nl) and Dr Kaat Smets (kaat.smets@rhul.ac.uk).