

Call for submissions for a Special Issue for *Motivation and Emotion*

Advancing the Field of Basic Psychological Needs

Guest-editors

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Background

Since the introduction of the notion of basic psychological needs (Deci & Ryan, 2000; Ryan, 1995), the topic has received exponential attention from scholars in various disciplines of psychology and in the social sciences more generally. At the heart of Self-Determination Theory (SDT; Ryan & Deci, 2017) is the argument that individuals have a limited set of basic psychological needs, the satisfaction of which is essential for their flourishing and well-being. The frustration of these same needs is conversely predicted to increase risk for maladjustment and even psychopathology (Bartholomew et al., 2011; Vansteenkiste & Ryan, 2013).

Although the list of needs is open for additions, SDT-scholars have intensively studied individuals' need for *autonomy* (i.e., volition and ownership), *competence* (i.e., effectiveness and mastery) and relatedness (i.e., warmth and care). Since the millennium turn, substantial progress has been made in terms of both the conceptualisation and assessment of these psychological needs. For instance, because of conceptual advancements, researchers have increasingly focused on both need satisfaction and need frustration, with newly developed scales capturing the bright and dark sides of the needs. In terms of predictive validity, research has related these psychological need satisfactions to an increasing number of both growth-oriented phenomena (e.g., intrinsic motivation, prosocial behaviour, gratitude) and need frustration to phenomena reflecting poor functioning and even severe maladjustment (e.g., defiance, reduced self-control, aggression). New research in neuroscience is identifying the efficiencies and advantages of need satisfaction for cognitive functioning. Finally, increasing evidence has been garnered for the claimed universal benefits associated with need satisfaction, the way how social contexts can nurture and thwart individuals' needs and whether socializing agents can be trained to adopt a more need-supportive style.

Focus

This special issue aims to further advance this rapidly growing research field, while also maintaining synthesis and coherence. We welcome submissions that shed light on new and/or understudied questions relevant to the basic psychological needs. While replications of previously documented phenomena or applications of the basic psychological needs in specific domains are undoubtedly useful, for this special issue we primarily seek contributions targeting fundamental and innovative questions related to the dynamics involved in the basic psychological needs, their antecedents, and consequences. Need dynamics can be studied in single or multiple life domains. Relevant questions include (but are not limited to):

- (a) the question whether an additional need candidate may be added to the list (extension) and whether existing needs require differentiation at the facet level (refinement)
- (b) the question whether and how these psychological needs relate to physical needs (e.g., physical safety, sleep) and how psychological and physical needs in conjunction predict individuals' behaviour, affect, and cognition
- (c) the question whether these psychological needs function not only as essential nutrients for well-being and adaptive behaviour but also as motivators of behaviour (see Ryan & Deci, 2017; Sheldon, 2011)
- (d) the exploration of neurobiological and cognitive performance correlates of need supports and satisfactions
- (e) the question how individuals need satisfaction are affected by sociodemographic variables (e.g., age, socioeconomic status, and culture) and psychological characteristics (e.g., personality)
- (f) the question why and how developmental problems associated with need frustration or contextual need thwarting manifest in different ways in different

people (e.g., primarily in terms of externalizing problems or primarily in terms of internalizing problems)

- (g) the question whether new critical need-supportive and need-thwarting practices can be distinguished (extension) or whether existing conceptualizations deserve differentiation (refinement)
- (h) the question how individuals respond to need frustrating events, whether these responses vary as a function of contextual need support or individual differences (e.g., mindfulness), and how these responses, in turn, affect adjustment
- (i) the question whether interventions can either directly (e.g., through selection of need-relevant activities) or indirectly (i.e., via training of socializing figures' motivating style) promote greater need fulfilment or avoid the frustration of psychological needs, with resulting consequences for individuals' adjustment.

Procedure

The idea is to dedicate one of *Motivation and Emotion* to this topic, comprised of ten to twelve contributions. Each of the papers will be peer reviewed by us as guest-editors as well as by external reviewers. In a stepwise fashion, we would first send out an open call for papers, alongside a targeted call for papers from authors known to be active on the cutting edge. We will make use of a staggered system to handle incoming submissions.

In a first phase, interested authors would be asked to provide a brief proposal for their contribution which will be screened by us. In the proposals, it needs to be clear which objectives are pursued, which method is used and what the basic findings and conclusions of the conducted studies are. The proposal should be no longer than two pages, double spaced, new times roman letter type. Proposals will be evaluated based on (a) relevance for and fit with the topic of the special issue; (b) its innovative character, and (c) its methodological

rigor. Throughout this first screening process, we reject contributions due to a misfit with the purpose of the special issue, we encourage people with a promising abstract to submit a full paper, or we suggest certain authors to join forces. Then, in a second phase, we ask authors to submit full papers via the portal of the website of *Motivation and Emotion*. Manuscripts will then be formally reviewed by us and external reviewers. Thus, even when researchers' proposal gets accepted there is no guarantee that their paper is accepted for publication eventually as the paper needs to go through a formal review process.

As the guest-editors of the special issue, we intend to write an opening article ourselves introducing the special issue, reviewing the field and indicating a number of critical issue that deserve being investigated in the future.

Timing

- Deadline proposal: December 15th, 2017
- Evaluation proposals and informing authors: January, 15th 2018
- Submission of initial manuscript: May, 1st 2018
- Review manuscripts by: August, 1st 2018
- Submission revised manuscript: October, 1st 2018
- Review revised manuscript: December, 1st 2018
- Submission accepted manuscript: February, 1st 2019
- Publication special issue: April issue, 2019