

New Editors 2008

*Cognition
& Emotion*

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Editorial

Cognition & Emotion

From 1 January 2008 onward, we will officially take over as editors of the journal *Cognition & Emotion*. In fact, together with a new team of associate editors, we have been handling incoming submissions for one year now as editors designate. During that period, several new initiatives have been taken. First and foremost, we have implemented measures to speed up the review process. As a result, the average time between receipt of a manuscript and delivery of the first action letter was reduced to eight weeks. When taking into account only papers that were sent out for review, the time between receipt and first action was ten weeks (range 1-20 weeks; 82% within 12 weeks; 95% within 14 weeks). We will do everything in our power to further reduce the turnover time. Whereas the review process has become significantly faster, the quality has not suffered. Authors receive at least two expert reviews together with a detailed cover letter from the action editor. Our standards for acceptance have also remained high. A substantial percentage of the received manuscripts (24%) were rejected without sending them out for review. The most important reason for rejection at that stage was that the topics addressed did not fall within the scope of the journal. Authors should therefore be aware that only papers that provide new information about the interplay between cognition and emotion are considered for publication. The second most important reason for rejection without review is that the paper did not provide enough new insights. Authors should therefore take great care in explaining what their paper adds to the literature. It is still too early to calculate the acceptance rate of those papers that were sent out for review. Given the current number of submissions and the current number of pages that we publish each year, we estimate that we can accept about one third of all papers that are sent out for review. Virtually all of these papers will have gone through at least one round of revisions. In sum, we are doing everything in our power to ensure that authors are given a first-class review process and that readers are provided with top-quality publications.



A second important improvement is that in press papers are now available online before they appear in the printed journal. Whereas the average time between acceptance and publication on paper is currently about 12 months, the average delay between acceptance and publication online is about 2 months. As such, this new initiative greatly speeds up the dissemination of ideas. The in press papers can be downloaded from the brand new website of the journal at www.psyppress.com/cogemotion where you can also find all the other information about the journal.

Another new feature is that we will start publishing invited review papers. The aim of this initiative is to give young promising researchers the chance to write papers that review the existing evidence on particular aspects of the interplay between cognition and emotion. These much-needed reviews should provide researchers and students with state-of-the-art overviews of the most important research topics in cognition and emotion research

Finally, we have launched an open call for special issues (see the journal website at www.psyppress.com/cogemotion under Aims & Scope). Special issues are an essential part of the journal. *Cognition & Emotion* has a strong tradition in this context, and we wish to continue this. To further ensure the publication of high-quality special issues, a more active policy will be

followed. Each year in January, we will select one proposal from all the proposals that have been received during the previous calendar year (until 31 December). Publication of the selected special issue is then scheduled in the year after its selection. We do encourage everyone to send in strong proposals. More information on the procedure and criteria can be found on the journal's website.

Cognition & Emotion provides a unique platform for researchers from various backgrounds who share a common interest in the interplay between cognition and emotion. As editors, we will try to make this platform as attractive as possible, so that each of you can use it to the fullest.

Jan De Houwer
Dirk Hermans

Editors, *Cognition & Emotion*

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