

# Call for Papers

## “The Psychology of Forensic Evidence”

A Topical Issue of the *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*

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This topical issue focuses on one of the major challenges in criminal proceedings, namely the evaluation and application of forensic evidence. How information is gathered during criminal investigation has a direct influence on the nature and quality of evidence that is presented to key decision makers such as prosecutors and judges. Hence, the quality of evidence can make or break a case. Unfortunately, the collection and interpretation of forensic evidence are susceptible to contextual influences and cognitive biases. This is true not only for the so-called “soft” pieces of evidence such as alibis and witness statements, but also for the “hard” evidence such as fingerprints and DNA traces. Furthermore, it is becoming apparent that not all evidence is equal in terms of reliability and accuracy and that, in court, different types of evidence are assigned different weight, depending on early influences and occasionally premature interpretations. Interestingly, there often exists a mismatch in court between the perceived and actual quality of evidence. Therefore, the challenges and failures surrounding the collection and interpretation of evidence can shape the future of defendants and change the lives of those who come into contact with the legal system.

This topical issue aspires to reach out to researchers who examine the role, validity, and corruptive influences of different pieces of evidence and their interplay in criminal proceedings. We invite articles that advance our current knowledge by addressing new perspectives, theoretical frameworks, and methods related to:

- (a) the evidentiary weight of different types of evidence,
- (b) their interaction with other forms of evidence, and
- (c) cognitive and behavioral changes that the knowledge of and beliefs about such evidence might generate.

Articles may touch upon all players involved in the investigative process (e.g., eyewitnesses, suspects, police officers, forensic experts) and in court (e.g., attorneys, jurors, judges).

### How to Submit

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There is a *two-stage submission process*. Initially, interested authors are requested to submit only abstracts of their proposed papers. Authors of the selected abstracts will then be invited to submit full papers. All papers will undergo blind peer review.

Interested authors should submit a letter of intent including: (1) a working title for the manuscript, (2) names, affiliations, and contact information of all authors, and (3) an abstract of no more than 500 words detailing the content of the proposed manuscript to guest editor Anna Sagana ([anna.sagana@maastrichtuniversity.nl](mailto:anna.sagana@maastrichtuniversity.nl)). Feedback on whether or not the editors encourage authors to submit a full paper will be given by August 15, 2019.

**Deadline for submission of abstracts  
is June 23, 2019.**

**Deadline for submission of full papers  
is November 15, 2019.**

The journal seeks to maintain a short turnaround time, with the final version of the accepted papers being due by **February 22, 2020**. The topical issue is scheduled as issue 3 (2020).

For additional information please contact the guest editors.

For detailed author guidelines please see the journal's website at [www.hogrefe.com/j/zfp/](http://www.hogrefe.com/j/zfp/)

### About the Journal

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The *Zeitschrift für Psychologie*, founded in 1890, is the oldest psychology journal in Europe and the second oldest in the world. One of the founding editors was Hermann Ebbinghaus. Since 2007 it is published in English and devoted to publishing topical issues that provide state-of-the-art reviews of current research in psychology.