

## EDITORIAL

*Psychologica Belgica* has been present as a scientific journal for many years now. To be exact: this is the thirty-fourth year. Not a year of jubileations; just a year in which the editorship changes.

A new editorship calls for an editorial statement and we have a good reason to make a statement, because some new decisions on the publication policy have been taken:

1. From this year on *Psychologica Belgica* becomes unilingual: only articles in English will be accepted for publication. This does not apply to manuscripts that are already in review.
2. The volume of the journal will publish four issues each year instead of two, although the total amount of material published will remain approximately the same.
3. No major changes to the contents of *Psychologica Belgica* have to be expected, although an effort will be made to circulate more information about research in Belgium by publishing invited papers and thematic issues and by allowing for the publication of short papers.
4. From this volume on, Betty Vanden Bavière will act as *Book Review Editor*. Her function is to keep an eye on the quality and the style of the book review section.

**Language.** More than ever *Psychologica Belgica* wants to offer a forum for the exchange of ideas, methods, and findings in all subdisciplines of scientific psychology. *Psychologica Belgica* will continue to publish original theoretical, methodological, and empirical studies, but these articles will now be published in English. We are well aware of the problems young authors may face when writing their first manuscript in a foreign language. To alleviate these problems we will allow those authors to first submit their paper in Dutch or in French, and to translate their manuscript into English only after the paper is accepted. The English version will then be given a final check by the referees. We expect that, after one or two such experiences, young authors will be able to write their original manuscripts in English.

**Periodicity.** It is also clear that the publication lag has to be reduced. This is a general problem for most scientific journals but the situation was worse

for *Psychologica Belgica* because only two issues per year were published. We now impose a 6-week deadline on the reviewers to keep publication and revision lags as short as possible. But publishing 4 issues per year should help tremendously in that respect.

**Content.** In recent years, *Psychologica Belgica* has been publishing thematic issues on a regular basis. This policy of publishing thematic issues will be maintained, but with the new format and periodicity, these issues will be smaller, and may become less important.

On the other hand, we will regularly invite a person or a group of persons to provide a paper on a well defined topic when it appears that they have provided an outstanding contribution to the field. A special section will be devoted to those papers. In this section, we intend to publish, for instance, a number of papers by academics in charge of the Franqui lectures in the various Belgian Universities.

Short notes reporting preliminary data or ongoing research, will also be published. Again, a specific section will be created. The intention here is to be able to publish these reports with short publication lags. The length of such short notes should be restricted to 3-6 printed pages.

**The Belgian context.** To us the reference to Belgium in *Psychologica Belgica* remains significant. A priority will be given to norm studies. We would like to promote normative studies which are relevant to the Belgian cultural or linguistic situation. Very often it happens that an investigator adapts a set of materials for use in the Belgian cultural context. We believe it is worthwhile to publish such normative data, provided that the collection of the data meets normal scientific standards, and that the data are presented in such a way that they are useful to other investigators.

We are also willing to publish research that relates to some specific cultural particularities. Examples in point are provided by Seron's research concerning the usage of "septante" and "nonante" in the number system in the French speaking community, and the study by Brysbaert and d'Ydewalle on the size of Belgian coins. Authors who perform studies that are relevant in this sense, are invited to submit a short report on the topic.

**Book reviews.** We have also worked on a new policy regarding book reviews. The following general rules are maintained:

1. The books to be reviewed will be selected by the *Book Review Editor*.
2. Normally book reviews are short (about one page), give a very short summary of the book, and present clear and useful evaluations.

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3. Exceptionally a book reviewer may be asked to write a longer review for a book that is felt to be extremely important; occasionally, an important book may be reviewed by two or more reviewers independently, to highlight different points of view.
4. All book reviews are written in English.

The *Book Review Editor* may ask the author of a book review to revise his or her text to increase readability or even to shorten the text with the purpose of focusing on one point of criticism.

## TEXTS ON DISK OR BY E-MAIL

We live in an era of informatization. To keep the production price of *Psychologica Belgica* as low as possible without sacrificing printing quality, all authors will be requested to provide an electronic version of their text before publication (see *Notes for Authors*). The first version of the manuscript is submitted on paper in four copies. After acceptance of the final version of the paper, the author is required to provide the same version in electronic form, either on disk or by e-mail.

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