

## Editorial

This editorial marks the first 4 years of the current editorial period. It offers an opportunity to take stock, review trends, and describe editorial policies for the next 2 years. Psychology continues to shine and accumulate knowledge that scholars integrate, use in the development of theory, and examine to generate applications to real-world problems. The articles published in *Bulletin* during the last 4 years are a tribute to the vitality of our discipline.

### Research Synthesis and Meta-Analyses

*Bulletin* is the repository of research syntheses conducted in a manner appropriate for the subject matter. Considering all articles published in the history of the journal, 41% have reported meta-

analyses. During the current editorial period, about 64% of the articles have reported meta-analyses. Given advancements in methodology and the increasing recognition of the need for precision in the report and the synthesis of the research findings, the increased prevalence of meta-analysis represents a favorable trend. Clinical, developmental, social, health, cognitive, and organizational psychologists all embrace our current ability to synthesize research patterns in a quantitative fashion. A word cloud of titles published during this period appears in Figure 1A. With meta-analysis, integrative, model, behavioral, and measure as some of the most frequent words, the cloud hints at the diversity of the research that captures the attention of current generations of psychologists.

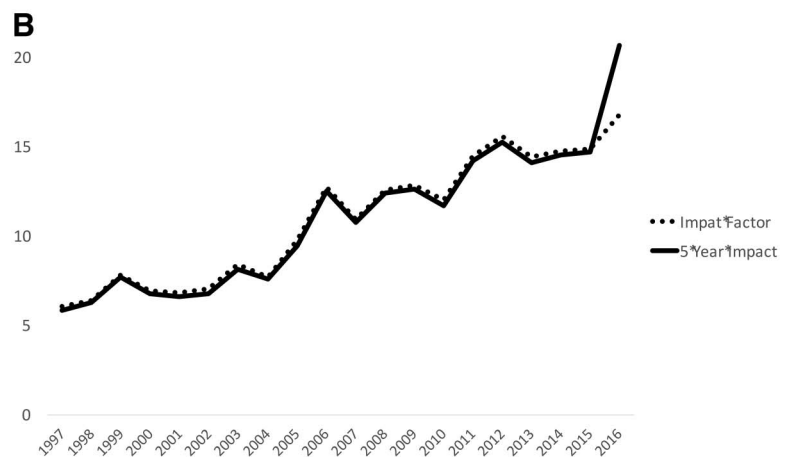
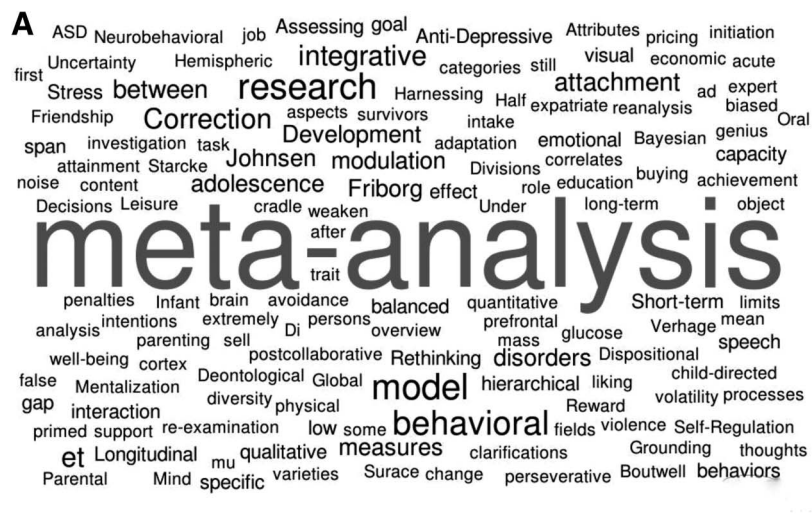


Figure 1. Psychological Bulletin topics and impact. (A) Word cloud from titles of published articles. (B) impact over time.

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## Journal Themes and Directions

Of all of the journals in the field of psychology, *Bulletin* is the one that best describes disciplinary progress, challenges, and opportunities. A perusal of *Bulletin* articles in the developmental domain during this period suggests a recent interest in the earliest years of life and in the legacy of early experiences. Characterizing normative-range developmental experiences, *Bulletin* featured meta-analytic reviews of both the intergenerational transmission and predictive significance of parent-child attachment quality along with strong commentary and countercommentary about the limitations of failing to separate shared genetic and environmental contributions to individual differences (Barbaro, Boutwell, Barnes, & Shackelford, 2017; Verhage et al., 2016, 2017). As for atypical development, important quantitative reviews on autism spectrum disorder focused on both its social (Mendelson, Gates, & Lerner, 2016) and cognitive/perceptual implications (Van der Hallen, Evers, Brewaeys, Van den Noortgate, & Wagemans, 2015), and the *Bulletin's* pages likewise reflected much concomitant interest in the neural bases of social behavior more generally (Grossmann, 2015).

Cognitive psychology is traditionally a field of narrative rather than quantitative reviews, which is reflected in our submissions. The journal would like to encourage more quantitative reviews; the more objective outlook that meta-analysis provides (including formal analysis of publication bias) is an excellent way in which to integratively and authoritatively review the literature within a subfield. Narrative reviews do have their place in cognitive psychology but will not be submitted for external review if they are not focused and reproducible, which often requires some degree of quantification. We recommend that, in conducting narrative reviews, authors use the systematic, reproducible literature search techniques that meta-analysis requires, as an attempt to preclude any conscious or unconscious bias in study selection. Where and whenever possible, theory should be unifying rather than controversial or divisive. The most successful submissions are those that are able to strike a balance between an author's point of view and a fair and thorough review of the field. The Editorial team explicitly encourages submissions that merge cognitive findings with knowledge about neural substrates.

An examination of articles published during our term reveals that *Bulletin* still has a strong core focus on cognitive processes. Articles by Norris (2017) and Abrahamse, Braem, Notebaert, and Verguts (2016) show that topics exploring the architecture and function of human cognition continue to be a dominant interest. However, a number of articles also examine what the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (2017) has called intra- and interpersonal competencies (e.g., the social, emotional, and motivational factors underlying memory and learning), as evident in work on attention to positive emotional stimuli (Pool, Brosch, Delplanque, & Sander, 2016). Finally, an emerging trend toward articles exploring educational topics is apparent, with articles on relational categories in education (Goldwater & Schalk, 2016) and predictors of achievement in higher education (Schneider & Preckel, 2017). The Editors look forward to receiving more submissions with educational relevance.

Various social psychological phenomena were reviewed during this period, including a sophisticated look at mere exposure (Montoya, Horton, Vevea, Citkowitz, & Lauber, 2017), a meta-analysis of the controversial effects of priming a concept on overt behavior (Weingarten et al., 2016), a meta-analysis of decisions based on reflective and intuitive thinking styles (Phillips, Fletcher, Marks, & Hine, 2016), an analysis of the implications of psychological distance (Soderberg, Callahan, Kochersberger, Amit, & Ledgerwood, 2015), and a review of affect diffusion within social networks (Peters & Kashima, 2015). A strong interest was also found in the area of gender, including penalties for women's expression of dominance (Williams & Tiedens, 2016) and in the areas of immigration and culture (Maertz, Takeuchi, & Chen, 2016). The Editors continue to encourage research synthesis in the area of social psychology and at the intersection between this and other subdisciplines.

Our understanding of clinical psychological processes associated with psychopathology has also seen much progress. These advancements are reflected in several articles analyzing, for example, the role of monitoring of goal progress (Harkin et al., 2016), sleep (Baglioni et al., 2016), positive emotionality (Khazanov & Ruscio, 2016), coping and emotion regulation (Compas et al., 2017), and inner speech (Alderson-Day & Fernyhough, 2015) in psychopathology. Several other articles have reviewed processes and theoretical models in specific mental health domains, such as psychopathy (Hoppenbrouwers, Bulten, & Brazil, 2016; Newman & Baskin-Sommers, 2016; Smith & Lilienfeld, 2015), the role of impulsivity (Emery & Levine, 2017), body dissatisfaction in eating-related pathologies and depression (Karazsia, Murnen, & Tylka, 2017), as well as friendship making in autism (Mendelson et al., 2016). Other authors have focused on psychological treatments for mental disorders, including the benefits of heightening therapists' understanding of clients and recognizing clients as agents of change within sessions (Levitt, Pomerville, & Surace, 2016) and how theorizing about memory retrieval and reconsolidation may improve exposure-based treatments (Kredlow, Unger, & Otto, 2016). Another piece suggested that the effects of the cognitive behavior therapy of depression have been falling over time (Johnsen & Friberg, 2015), although this evidence was disputed in peer commentaries (Cristea et al., 2017; Ljótsson, Hedman, Mattsson, & Andersson, 2017).

## Journal Impact

*Bulletin* continues to be the journal with the highest impact factor of all psychology journals. The data for the Impact Factor and the 5-year Impact Factor indexes appear in Figure 1B and show that the citations of articles published in *Bulletin* during the preceding 2 years have nearly tripled in the past 2 decades. Moreover, the citations of articles published in the past 5 years have nearly quadrupled in the past 2 decades. Furthermore, *Bulletin* has also become truly international. Based on reports about the county or region of the corresponding author, articles from the United States comprised 54% of the total entries in the prior period but only 17% in the current period. Along the same lines, authors, reviewers, and editors are diverse in gender, age, ethnicity, and disciplinary interests.

## Expectations and Requirements for Publication in *Bulletin*

The editorial that Albarracín (2015) published summarized the characteristics of reviews published in *Bulletin*. These characteristics continue to describe the current period, but a number of aspects have been refined during the last 4 years. Therefore, we present a description of current criteria that may be useful in deciding whether to submit a manuscript for publication in this journal.

**Criterion of generality.** *Bulletin* articles are written for a general psychology audience. The prose must be clear and engaging, and the content must be accessible to all psychologists. Editors who represent the general readership of *Bulletin*, rather than a specific area of expertise, often handle manuscripts. Selected reviewers often include at least one scholar who is not an expert in the subject matter but rather an interested psychologist who can shed light on the manuscript's appeal to a representative of the readership.

**Criterion of complete and reproducible coverage.** Articles published in *Bulletin* entail cohesive, authoritative, and complete syntheses of scientific evidence related to a question within the field of psychology. Even more narrative reviews must describe how the evidence was gathered (including the required flowchart of search procedures) and make all attempts at synthesizing parts of the evidence quantitatively. Manuscripts in which selective evidence is used to make a theoretical case are inappropriate for *Bulletin* and will not be submitted for external review.

**Criterion of focused research question.** Articles published in *Bulletin* ask questions or series of questions and offer intellectual solutions. Encyclopedic articles, typologies, and mere descriptions of a phenomenon are not good candidates for *Bulletin*.

**Criterion of contribution.** The soundness and novelty of the contribution are expected to be high. Authors who submit manuscripts should clearly describe the unique contribution along with innovation and differences from all relevant prior reviews.

**Criterion of complexity.** Solely reporting an average association or experimental effect is likely to fall short of the *Bulletin* publication standards, given the typical heterogeneity of reviews. Published reviews must represent the complexity of our generally complex phenomena.

**Criterion of bias consideration.** A review conducted rigorously and with the proper representation of the published and unpublished literature from national and international sources is well suited for *Bulletin*. Inclusive reviews that capture the gray literature and reports in all languages are routinely expected. Extensive analyses of publication biases are required for meta-analysis and are present in more than two thirds of the articles published during this period and 100% in the last year; qualitative reviews must be thorough and assess bias as well. A table of effect sizes (or summary findings in qualitative reviews) and moderators is required to allow readers to inspect individual results and for the field to fully benefit from a particular synthesis of the research. Adherence to this requirement is at around 90% for the current period and 100% since we introduced a checklist to emphasize these standards for authors.

**Criterion of appropriate reporting.** The methods of review and effect size calculation should also be rigorous, and all details about the coding process, intercoder reliability, and search and

analytic procedures must be reported. *Bulletin* follows American Psychological Association standards that the Journal Article Reporting Standards group developed for meta-analysis and other reviews.

## Self-Correcting Processes and Open Science

Figure 1A shows the word correction in the cloud of *Bulletin* titles, and it often signals various Errata published in *Bulletin* during this period. Five corrections were made in total, one of which altered some of the conclusions in the original article. Most of these corrections were based on errors that the authors noted (one based on an article flagged in PubPeer [pubpeer.com]); a small minority entailed errors that a reader identified. Overall, these corrections show the value of the field exercising a healthy degree of self-monitoring, and the will to promptly correct the scientific record when necessary. Furthermore, this process might be accelerated by expanding the capabilities of the R Statcheck (Epskamp & Nuijten, 2016) package and similar tools for capturing the most frequent nomenclatures in meta-analyses. Finally, *Bulletin* adheres to the notion of open data by default, and its editorial team will continue to require a report of effects and moderators included in a synthesis. In this spirit, we encourage authors to share data through all appropriate channels beyond the article or supplement, remaining mindful of the ethical regulations of the profession and of the authors' institution.

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