



New Section of the JPOR: Subject-Specific Studies

Peter C. M. Molenaar

Distinguished professor of Human Development & Psychology at Pennsylvania State University

Email address:

pxm21@psu.edu

To cite this article:

Molenaar, P. C. M. (2015), New section of the JPOR: Subject-specific studies. *Journal for Person-Oriented Research*, 1(3), 113. DOI: 10.17505/jpor.2015.12.

The announcement by the editors Lars Bergman and Lars-Gunnar Lundh that the *Journal for Person-Oriented Research* (JPOR) will henceforth include a special section for subject-specific studies is a very important initiative. Subject-specific research is closely related to idiographic approaches and to the best of our knowledge there is no other scientific journal which explicitly covers this venerable psychological methodology. Moreover, subject-specific data analysis enables testing of all key principles underlying person-oriented theory (Molenaar, 2015) and therefore constitutes a powerful component of person-oriented methodology. Last but not least, subject-specific methodology and research is quickly gaining in importance within psychological science. Subject-specific methodology is necessary to obtain results that not only apply at the population level, but also at the level of individual subjects (Molenaar, 2004). Subject-specific research is undergoing revolutionary changes because of the application of new (telemetric) measurement devices and the increasing use of intensive longitudinal designs such as ecological momentary assessment.

I consider it an honor to be invited as editor of JPOR's section for subject-specific studies. In that capacity I would like to emphasize that the label "subject-specific" should be interpreted in the widest sense possible. It not only includes traditional idiographic research and single-subject time series analysis, but also intensive longitudinal studies involving time series data of many persons. Reports of studies of all kinds of psychological processes are eligible for publication in this section, ranging from psychophysiological to personality and family processes. Purely methodological papers also are eligible if sufficient attention is given to explaining technical concepts for the general readership of JPOR. In particular, I welcome didactic papers explaining relevant technical concepts associated with subject-specific methodology and analysis, as well as critical discussions of important topics. Reviews of relevant new

books also are welcome.

It is important that the review process is quick and constructive. That will be my first priority. Authors should receive the review reports within 6 weeks, but preferably earlier.

In closing I hope and expect that JPOR will become the leading journal in person-oriented research, including subject-specific approaches as described above. The time is ripe to put the person back in the center of psychological science and JPOR intends to play a leading role in that endeavor.

Manuscripts intended for the section on subject-specific studies should be submitted to:

subject-specific@person-research.org

References

- Molenaar, P.C.M. (2004). A manifesto on Psychology as idiographic science: Bringing the person back into scientific psychology, this time forever. *Measurement: Interdisciplinary Research and Perspectives*, 2, 201-218. DOI: 10.1207/s15366359mea0204_1
- Molenaar, P. C. M. (2015), On the relation between person-oriented and subject-specific approaches. *Journal for Person-Oriented Research*, 1(1-2), 34-41. DOI: 10.17505/jpor.2015.04

