



Editors' Newsroom: Together, we can achieve more—Multinational collaboration in social psychology research

Yvette Lamb¹

¹Scientific Journal Publishers, New Zealand

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In our latest editorial, Associate Editor Dr. Yvette Lamb investigates general trends and benefits of multinational collaboration in social psychology research, and how these are being displayed in *Social Behavior and Personality: An international journal*. Yvette highlights the journal's increasing number of coauthored articles from multiple countries, emphasizing the value of shared expertise, diverse perspectives, and cross-cultural validation. Recent collaborations have addressed global issues such as sustainability, mental health, and technological change. Yvette also discusses the general importance of multicultural collaboration for social psychology and, more broadly, humanity.

Keywords

editors' newsroom, SBP, social behavior, personality, multinational collaboration, coauthorship

Since its founding in 1973, the editors of *Social Behavior and Personality: An international journal* (SBP) have sought to make academic publishing more accessible to emerging and established researchers across the globe. The word “international” was intentionally given a place in the journal name, and over the years we have seen a spread of countries represented in both journal authorship and readership. While the concept of *internationality* is difficult to define in respect to academic journals, consensus in the scientific community suggests important criteria include a language of publication that makes it universally understandable, online access, and a commitment to international publication standards (Buela-Casal & Zych, 2012).

Another potentially useful—and extensively researched—indicator of the internationality of a journal is multinational collaboration, as measured by coauthorship indices (Buela-Casal et al., 2006). Recently, we have observed a welcome trend of increased multinational collaboration in the articles we have published, with four examples in the current issue (Vol. 53, No. 11) alone (Jiang et al., 2025; Yang et al., 2025; Yao et al., 2025; Zhang et al., 2025). In 2023, we published 16 articles coauthored by researchers from at least two countries; in 2024, we published 34; and in the present year we have published 32 to date.

Over the course of this millennium, there have been calls for greater international collaboration in psychology, as well as recognition of its potential challenges (e.g., power differentials) and pitfalls (see, e.g., Cole, 2006; Petersen, 2016; van de Vijver, 2013). The increasing interdependence of people throughout the world and their shared concerns over common international issues have provided an impetus for greater scientific collaboration. International fellowships, doctoral and postdoctoral student exchanges, and increasingly available visiting professorships (Kliegl & Bates, 2011) have likely all contributed to increases in international collaboration across scientific disciplines. In recent years, the increasing use of online participant recruitment and testing, while being associated with certain notable limitations (e.g., selection biases, common method bias), has facilitated the rapid conduct of large-scale, and potentially cross-cultural, research (Obschonka et al., 2022).

From a practical standpoint, researchers can share specific expertise or skills, specialist equipment, and other resources when they collaborate across countries. Another benefit—sometimes a byproduct, rather than intentionally sought—is exposure to different perspectives and cultural understandings, which enriches the resulting research. The

internationalization of psychological research, which involves synthesizing cross-cultural data to create more inclusive and globally applicable theories and practices, is vital for the progress of psychology, and allows us to scientifically test the universality that is frequently assumed in mainstream psychology (van de Vijver, 2013).

Recent multinational collaborations in *SBP* have considered the applicability of Western theories or models to different cultural contexts, such as in studying despotic leadership in the Pakistani textile industry (Sheng et al., 2025) or emotional coping mechanisms in Korean workplaces (Hwang et al., 2025). Other recent publications have reported on the translation of various psychological instruments into different languages, such as the Intensive Care Unit Nurses' Alarm Fatigue Questionnaire (Ming & Tan, 2025) and the Personal Relative Deprivation Scale (Gui et al., 2025) into Chinese, and their validation in these populations.

Multinational collaboration has particular importance in the face of major global crises, where awareness of international perspectives and data is often crucial. For example, research on mental health consequences (e.g., depression, anxiety) became a global priority for the psychological research community during the COVID-19 pandemic (Obschonka et al., 2022). Our multinational collaborations published this year have addressed topics that transcend national borders, such as sustainability (e.g., He et al., 2025; Hussain et al., 2025; Wang et al., 2025), COVID-19 vaccination intentions (Zhan et al., 2025), technological advancements (e.g., Lin et al., 2025), and problematic contemporary phenomena such as smartphone addiction (e.g., Guo et al., 2025).

With interest, I noted that one of our recently published collaborations (Chen & Wong, 2025) explored the concept of a multicultural personality, characterized by traits that include openmindedness, cultural empathy, emotional stability, social initiative, and behavioral flexibility (Van der Zee & Van Oudenhoven, 2001). These so-called multicultural personality traits can predict cross-cultural adjustment (e.g., Van Oudenhoven & Van der Zee, 2002; Yakunina et al., 2012), tolerance of diversity (e.g., Gawali & Khattar, 2016; Korol et al., 2016), and constructive engagement in multicultural environments (e.g., Hofhuis et al., 2020). On a global scale, we will need effective collaborative processes—ideally characterized by a willingness to challenge one's own assumptions, the ability to tolerate uncertainty and ambiguity, and a flexible and forgiving attitude (Petersen, 2016)—if we are to address the formidable challenges now facing humankind.

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