

Editorial

2026 update: A growing landscape

Paul Sârbescu^{1*}

¹ Department of Psychology, West University of Timișoara, Romania

Address of correspondence: Correspondence regarding this article should be directed to Dr. Paul Sârbescu, Department of Psychology, West University of Timișoara, Bld. V. Pârvan nr. 4, Timișoara, 300233, Romania
E-mail: paul.sarbescu@e-uvt.ro

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While acknowledging the inevitability of time's passage, we sometimes stop to look back. With yet another year starting not too long ago, one may look at what last year brought for the Romanian Journal of Applied Psychology (RJAP). As an overview, we followed the direction expressed in our previous editorial: to publish more without sacrificing research quality. Thus, we managed to double the number of published articles compared to 2024. Continuing the tradition started last year, this editorial provides a brief update for the journal.

Overall, our 2025 issue contained a mix of experimental and non-experimental studies, complemented by a meta-analysis. Although the COVID-19 pandemic has passed, its effects still ripple in psychological research. As such, our first 2025 paper (Balogun, 2025) focused on the sleep quality of frontline healthcare professionals during the COVID-19 pandemic. Another study explored the role of cognitive biases in assessing news accuracy related to the Ukraine-Russia conflict (Corbu & Stancea, 2025). Among complex methodological approaches, two articles stand out: the first explored the sexual orientation continuum (Mărgărit, 2025), while the second examined the consistency of aberrant response behavior patterns (Putra & Faturochman, 2025). Social cognition found its place in our issue through an experimental study focused on evaluative conditioning and neuroticism (Bunghez & Lupu, 2025). Another experimental paper investigated the role of several dual-system mechanisms in evaluations related to a real rape case (Groza, Jurchiș, Miclea, & Opre, 2025), while our last published experimental study evaluated the effectiveness of an implementation-intentions intervention in reducing speeding, using a driving simulator (Tirla, Sârbescu, & Rusu, 2025). The aforementioned meta-analysis aimed to evaluate the effectiveness of interventions for children with developmental dyscalculia (Mehari & Zeleke, 2025). Last but not least, one study examined the predictors of national identity among students in Ethiopia (Messay & Adal, 2025) and our last 2025 paper verified the psychometric properties of the Need for Cognitive Closure Scale in a Peruvian sample (Silva-Alegria, 2025).

Our collaboration with Sciendo (in partnership with Paradigm) continues. The last three months of 2025 each brought more than 400 monthly downloads for RJAP, thus confirming its growing reach. In terms of aims and scope, things remain pretty much the same. We welcome empirical studies, meta-analyses, systematic/scoping reviews and papers that advance methodological approaches from all areas of applied psychology. Although our main focus is on quantitative studies, we also welcome mixed-methods and qualitative ones. We do not publish narrative or bibliometric reviews. Also, Registered Reports remain an encouraged submission format. Information about this format can be found in our Submission Guidelines section (<https://referenceglobal.com/journal/RJAP?tab=submission-guidelines>). Our publishing model also remains the same: continuous volume open, with one issue per year (opened in January and closed in December).

So, what comes next for RJAP? In short, Web of Science remains our next major indexing target, while publishing more high-quality studies remains a priority. This Editorial ends with recognition for the consistent effort of our editorial team and for the contribution of our 2025 reviewers (both listed below).

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