



International Journal of Care and Caring

Call for Special Issues

The *International Journal of Care and Caring* begins publication in 2017 and aims, from 2018 onwards, to publish one Special issue each year.

Proposals are now invited for Special Issues, in the format described below, for consideration by the Editors in spring 2017. **The deadline for proposal submissions is 17 March 2017.**

The Editors will announce their initial decisions on proposals received, and indicate those accepted for development and planned publication in 2018 or 2019, **by 7 April 2017.**

What are we looking for in an *International Journal of Care and Caring* Special Issue?

The aim of a Special Issue is to bring together a set of cutting-edge research articles that develops a specific debate or topic on the theme relevant to the remit of the *International Journal of Care and Caring*. This may include articles presenting theoretical, conceptual and/or empirical material. A Special Issue must be integrated around a common theme, and must take forward scholarly debate. It may be internationally comparative or may focus on one specific region of the world.

How to present a Special Issue proposal for the *International Journal of Care and Caring*

A special issue proposal **must include the following information:**

- 1. Title:** This should clearly reflect the field and content of the proposed Special Issue.
- 2. Details of guest editor(s):** Provide contact details, institutional affiliations, and a short academic profile (of up to 150 words) for each proposed guest editor.
- 3. Description:** In no more than 500 words, outline the intellectual focus of the proposed Special Issue, how its proposed content engages with significant issues, and the contribution it will make to the field of care and caring.
- 4. Draft contents page:** This should set out the structure of the Special Issue, listing the titles and authors of each proposed article and stating clearly whether named contributors are already confirmed, or are speculative.
- 5. Article abstracts:** A 150-word abstract for each article to be included in the collection must be provided. (Special Issues should include an editor(s)' introduction of approximately 8,000 words and 6-8 articles, each of approx. 7,000 - 8,000 words.)
- 6. IJCC Debates and Issues and Reviews:** Proposers should indicate how they will ensure items relevant to the theme of the Special Issue will be available for these sections of the journal, by suggesting topics for the D&I section (with names/institutions of potential contributors), and listing 3 recently published (or forthcoming) books and an international conference suitable for review.
- 7. Timetable statement:** Please include your timetable for initial submission, review, re-submission, copy-editing, etc. This may also include ideas for reviewers or meetings. As a guide, we would expect initial submission of full-length articles in August 2017 to be ready for publication in October 2018.
- 8. Maximising impact:** Please consider how you intend to promote and disseminate the Special Issue (blogs, events, conferences, other social media, etc.). An editorial statement outlining ten useful 'top tips for impact' is available at - <http://policypress.co.uk/journals/maximise-your-impact>

How will proposals be assessed?

IJCC's Editors will review all proposals received and make decisions based on the following criteria:

1) International appeal

This is vital given the focus of the journal.

2) Intellectual significance, originality and rigour

- Does the proposal seek to challenge dominant assumptions?
- Will it set the agenda in terms of future debates?
- Does it have novel, timely or innovative dimensions?
- Does it aim to fill a significant gap in the current literature?

3) Profile of contributors

The *International Journal of Care and Caring* is committed to supporting scholars from all backgrounds, disciplines and parts of the world. Proposals which include a mix of established scholars and 'rising stars', and those which are internationally inclusive are particularly welcome.

4) Editorial leadership

- Are the proposed guest editors experts in the field?
- Do they have a track record in producing cutting-edge research?
- Is the timetable realistic?
- Do the editors of the Special Issue intend to play a proactive role in steering and managing the development of the Special Issue?
- Do they have the time and capacity to dedicate the required level of attention to this project?

The editorial process

If a proposal is accepted, a clear time-line and memorandum of agreement will be established (based on previous successful practice in *Policy Press* journals).

The guest editor(s) will normally manage the process of:

- a) Initially considering papers.
- b) Identifying reviewers and sending the papers out to review, in consultation with IJCC's editors, using the journal's 'Editorial Manager' system (training for this will be provided).
- c) Communicating reviewers' comments to the authors.
- d) Deciding whether revised papers need to be reviewed again.
- e) Making a provisional decision to accept or reject.

IJCC will appoint one of its Co-editors to work closely with the guest editor/s in a supportive manner. The Editors will aim to publish the Special Issue according to the original agreed timeline, but proposers should note, and inform all potential contributors, that IJCC's Editors may decide to:

- Run the Special Issue in a later issue than originally planned.
- Accept only some of the papers and put them instead in a Themed Issue, which also includes papers from elsewhere.
- Accept only one or two papers and present them as regular contributions to the journal.
- Determine that none of the papers meets the quality standards or targeted content of the journal.

Informal queries prior to submission of a proposal may be sent to the Editors through the journal's email address: ijcc@sheffield.ac.uk