The goal of this special issue (6-8 articles) of the *International Journal of Behavioral Development* is to give an overview of studies on social norms and behavioral development. Norms reflect the consensus on what is considered as appropriate and acceptable behavior in a given setting. Norms are social facts that originate from individuals’ attitudes and behaviors, but in turn affect individual attitudes, decisions, and behaviors. Thus, norms emerge from group consensus about what is appropriate in given social circumstances, but they also shape, constrain, and re-direct behavior at the individual level.

The study of social norms has gained much attraction in peer relation research, and has turned attention to group-level processes, often defined on the classroom or school level, which create and sustain shared meanings that impact adolescent behavioral and social adjustment.

Despite the richness of studies on social norms, several avenues for future research remain. For this special issue we encourage authors to explore these new avenues: for example, the role of conflicting norms within settings; the role of behavioral heterogeneity, referring to the benefits and drawbacks of conforming or deviating from norms. We seek contributions that derive testable hypotheses from different theoretical approaches and test these hypotheses empirically (trajectory modeling, multilevel analysis, social network analysis, experimental designs).

**Deadlines and Procedures**

By **September 18, 2017**, potential contributors should submit a brief letter of intent (no more than 2 pages) that includes the following information:

1. Tentative title, names and affiliations of anticipated authors, and contact information for corresponding author;
2. Basic information about the proposed manuscript as follows:
   a. Brief explanation (300 words) of the main research question, theoretical background, and hypotheses;
   b. Sample composition and study design (number of cases, number of waves, mean age at the first wave);
   c. Description of the behavior and social norms (e.g., descriptive norms, injunctive norms, norm salience) measures.
   d. Description of the developmental focus befitting of the title of the journal, either in the sense of research that measures change (ideally) or research with clear and articulated implications for developmental trajectories;
   e. If already possible: Brief summary of manuscript content (e.g., key findings or conclusions).
By October 15, 2017, authors will be informed of the outcome of the initial review by the guest editors. A subset of authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts for additional consideration.

By April 1, 2018, potential contributors will submit completed manuscripts. Submissions will be made through IJBD’s online submission portal, and manuscripts will be reviewed following the journal’s usual process. Empirical papers should be no longer than 6,000 words, all inclusive. For other aspects in style, please consult guidelines of IJBD: https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/journal/international-journal-behavioral-development#submission-guidelines

It is anticipated that the special issue will be published in 2019 (the early view version may already be online in 2018).

Inquiries regarding the Special Issue may be directed to d.r.veenstra@rug.nl.

Suggested Readings


