

JSP and SPS: Attention to 'race' and/or ethnicity: guidance pilot (Feb 2010)

Information for authors

Joseph Rowntree Foundation is currently funding a project that is exploring the feasibility and desirability of developing guidance to support commissioners and researchers to improve the quality of research that pays attention to issues of 'race' and ethnicity.

The guidance, though focused on 'race and ethnicity, should not be taken to imply that other dimensions of diversity should be given less attention. We have chosen to focus initially on 'race' and ethnicity since there are widespread concerns that social research in this area may often lack scientific and ethical rigour and that this can compromise the usefulness of the evidence generated.

The publication stage is identified as a critical point within the research cycle where researchers can be prompted to consider ways of improving the quality of their published work in this area.

A guidance checklist for authors and reviewers has therefore been developed for piloting and the Editors of *Journal of Social Policy* and *Social Policy and Society* have agreed that the journal can be used as a site for the pilot phase of the project.

We are inviting all authors to read and consider the guidance (prepared in the form of a checklist) when preparing their paper for submission.

The guidance is also being offered to reviewers who may choose to use the guidance to assist in their assessment of your paper.

Feedback is sought from authors and reviewers on the usefulness and appropriateness of the guidance via a short e-questionnaire that can be accessed here:

http://www.surveymonkey.com/s.aspx?sm=rdW4gocC3wPQvFwWDja1Fg_3d_3d

Please note that the research team will not have access to the reviewers' comments. Reviewers and authors will only be asked to comment on the usefulness of the guidance.

Voluntary participation: You are of course free to choose whether or not to (i) read and consider the guidance in preparing your manuscript, and (ii) provide feedback on the guidance to the research team. Your decision will not affect the way in which *Journal of Social Policy / Social Policy and Society* handles your article.

Findings from the pilot will be presented in aggregate, anonymised form, will be made freely available and will be used to inform the future development of the guidance to authors and reviewers in the longer term.

Thank you for reading this information sheet. If you have any queries, further information about the pilot can be obtained from:

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