Call for Papers:

The Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences
(Special Issue)

In October 2014, the Stanford Center on Longevity released a statement that was signed by 74 scientists stating that “We object to the claim that brain games offer consumers a scientifically grounded avenue to reduce or reverse cognitive decline when there is no compelling scientific evidence to date that they do.” Following this statement, a rebuttal was released, signed by 168 scientists stating that they “cannot agree with the part of your statement that says “there is no compelling scientific evidence” that brain exercises “offer consumers a scientifically grounded avenue to reduce or reverse cognitive decline.”

The ability of brain games or more structured cognitive training interventions to promote cognitive health among older adults or even reduce the incidence of dementing disorders remains an important, if not contentious, area of inquiry. With this Special Issue (guest edited by Brent Small), the Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences seeks to evaluate the role of cognitive interventions on the short-term and long-term cognitive health of older adults, while also simultaneously promoting open science practices for this topic and for the field of psychological aging as a whole.

The articles we seek will move the field forward conceptually and empirically. We encourage articles that adopt a variety of cognitive training strategies and modalities, ones that incorporate behavioral and neural outcomes, as well as those that document benefits and those that fail to observe significant gains for trained or non-trained abilities. In particular, we are interested in the potential generality of cognitive intervention effects that go beyond the task that is trained and benefit other cognitive abilities, cognitive performance in everyday life and those that examine long-term cognitive impairment outcomes.

For this special issue, we are interested in manuscripts in which the critical hypotheses and analyses have been preregistered at a site like Open Science Framework or aspredicted.org. Preregistration serves many functions, but in particular it may focus researchers on specifying and testing only key hypotheses, and clearly separating preregistered from exploratory analyses in manuscript-writing. This sort of advance specification is especially important in contentious research areas. Pre-registration can be useful even after data has been collected, as long as the data has not yet been analyzed.

To avoid duplicative topics and to enable us to develop a comprehensive issue, a 250-word abstract describing the paper’s intent and the preregistration plan should be submitted electronically via ScholarOne. Please be sure to include all author names, affiliations and contact information. Our team of editors will identify abstracts of interest and selected authors will be invited to submit full manuscripts. Full manuscripts will be evaluated using the Journals of Gerontology: Psychological Sciences usual peer review process.

Before submission authors should carefully read the JG:PS Author Guidelines located at http://bit.ly/B-ITAs. Manuscript formats include Research Articles and Research Reports.

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically at mc.manuscriptcentral.com/jgps according to the following timetable:

Abstract submission deadline: July 1, 2018  |  Manuscript submission deadline: Dec 1, 2018  
Publication date: March 2020