A View from the Editor’s Desk: Ensuring Quality in Theory, Research, and Practice

Journal of Employment Counseling

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Overview

- Journal of Employment Counseling
- National Employment Counseling Association (NECA)
- Relatively small, quarterly journal
  - 4 articles per 46-page issue
  - Issues: March, June, September, and December
- Recent submissions have come from:
  - North America (United States, Canada)
  - Asia (South Korea, Japan, China)
  - Australasia (Australia, New Zealand)
  - Europe (France, Poland, Turkey)
Theory, Research, and Practice


- Theories represented in recent JEC articles include:
  - Trait-Factor
  - Developmental
  - Emotional Intelligence
  - Cognitive Information Processing
  - Cognitive Psychology
General Observations

- Most JEC article submissions employ:
  - **Positivist approach** to career development theory, research, and practice
  - **Quantitative** > Qualitative
  - Variety of theoretical frameworks described by the authors
  - **Research designs and methods** utilize:
    - Statistical analysis (factor analysis, analysis of variance, and regression analysis)
    - Experimental or quasi-experimental
    - Very few conceptual or constructivist articles

- There has been a disconnect between contemporary constructivist career theories and preferred research designs and research questions in JEC articles
Recommendations

- Continue to utilize technology by receiving, reviewing, and returning submissions through Scholar One.
  - Decreases lag time
  - Organizes material for authors, reviewers, and editor

- Editors and review panels communicate and encourage prospective authors and researchers to submit proposals from multiple viewpoints, including constructivist frameworks.

- Promote and encourage authors to submit manuscripts using a variety of methods, including case study, qualitative approaches, mixed method, etc.
Future trends

- Support a variety of research methods and approaches
  - Role modeling in our own research, publications, teaching and conference presentations
- Employ constructivist research designs to investigate contemporary career theory (e.g., Life Design, Career Construction, Systems Theory Framework)
- Explore global and contextual career artifacts
  - Examine implications and opportunities to understand career cross-cultural career development
  - Research the holistic and subjective nature of careers
  - Sensitivity to the influences of technology, globalization, and dynamic economic, social and political factors
- Emphasize the links among contemporary theory, research and practice
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