



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

- Conceptual framework offered by Sampson et al. (2014) integrating theory, research, and practice characterizes the articles published in *JEC* between 2012 and 2015
- 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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