

Journal of Theory Construction & Testing

CALL FOR MANUSCRIPTS

Tucker Publications is issuing a Call For Manuscripts for the *Journal Theory Construction and Testing* (ISSN: 1086-4431). Now in its tenth year as an academic journal, the *Journal of Theory Construction & Testing* (JTCT) is a peer-reviewed, refereed research journal, which is published bi-annually in April and October.

WHAT IS A CONTRIBUTION TO THEORY CONSTRUCTION AND TESTING?

Theory construction and testing is conceptualized to encompass all scientific work in route to developing knowledge. Manuscripts contributing to the process and structure of theory construction, and to the testing of theory are welcomed. In this bi-annual journal, we propose to publish scholarly theoretical, empirical and methodological articles. Substantive theoretical manuscripts may convey new insight into the historical development of scientific approaches, may formulate meta-theoretical principles governing programmatic research or may provide new conceptual models for researchable systems. Purely theoretical manuscripts are desired. Theoretical manuscripts could address new developments, theoretical syntheses, new and explanatory conceptual models, carefully constructed and reflective position, comprehensive literature reviews firmly grounded in theory, historical essays with clear implications for current and future work, and discussions of important timely health/social issues.

Original, empirical research is also desired. Work that develops, tests, or advances theory, research or practice are of interest. Articles should have well-articulated strong theoretical foundations and should make an important contribution to knowledge relevant to health, health care or nursing. Theory generating, model testing, meta-analyses, and clinical trials are examples of research of interest.

THEORY CONSTRUCTION

A theoretical manuscript should be a “value-added” contribution to theory development / construction (generating, building) either in the form of a new theory or important improvements in current thought. The manuscript should have an impact on the thinking of content experts.

Many types of manuscripts are appropriate for the theory construction (generating, building) component. This includes concept analysis. Analysis of concepts considered important to health, health care or nursing should include a review of existing literature (both theory and research) and of current theory and research relevant to the concept being considered. The implications for theory construction or development and research should be included.

Theory analysis and development manuscripts are also appropriate. These should be in-depth analyses of existing theory and development of extensions or alternate theory based on the existing theory. Comparative analyses of different related theories are acceptable. A summary of implications for research or practice should be included.

Theoretical reviews, syntheses, applications, and critiques should advance theory development and inform research and practice. A studied examination of what is already published should be more than what is already published in terms of noting patterns, errors, or oversights. In addition, studied examinations should advance conventional wisdom, suggest remedies for flawed thinking, or remove biases from research paradigms. The new applications should invigorate or redirect established theoretical perspectives in addition to confirming the utility of the perspectives.

It is the responsibility of the author to bridge the gap between theory development and theory testing. Therefore, in proposing theoretical advances in middle-range theories, there should be a substantial discussion of the implications for research. If appropriate, researchable propositions should be included. The manuscript should contain sufficient, clear detail so readers can readily test new theoretical developments.

TESTING ARTICLES

Many types of manuscripts are appropriate for the testing component. Testing of phenomena with a firm theoretical foundation is desired. Manuscripts designed to bring relevant methodological developments to the attention of a broad range of researchers are of interest. Methodological articles could present new multivariate mathematicostatistical procedures or definitive critical contributions of methodological or substantive interest. The goal is to promote a more effective understanding of current and new methodologies as applied to research. For example, an article may address questions about existing methods and research designs presently used by researchers and may involve comparisons. An article may address questions about existing qualitative, quantitative, epidemiological, or modeling methods and research designs presently used and may involve comparisons of alternative available methods. These articles should focus on the relative strengths and weaknesses of analytic techniques presented.

Another type of testing could be a new application of existing (qualitative or quantitative) methods to substantive questions. These articles should address the manner in which the new application advance understanding of health, health care or nursing.

A third type of testing is one that introduces methodological development or techniques from other disciplines. These articles should present the relative advantages of the new techniques clearly and with a thorough discussion.

Manuscripts not in the above categories may be submitted and will be considered if consistent with the purposes of the journal.

Dr. Charles A. Walker, Editor