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#### Redaktion

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# Instructions for authors

# 1 Aims and Scope

The Journal of Social Policy Research (Zeitschrift für Sozialreform, ZSR), founded in 1955, publishes academic articles on social policy and the welfare state including their social impact. Contributions from the social and economic sciences and related disciplines such as law, history, philosophy and ethics are welcome. The articles published in the ZSR combine empirical findings with theoretical analyses and are characterized by diverse methodological approaches (qualitative, quantitative, policy/institutional analyses).

The range of topics covered include social security, the link between social policy and inequality, the labor market and employment, social work, pension systems, health and social care. Additionally, we welcome contributions on questions of governance in the welfare state and on the theory and practice of social service organizations and social infrastructure in Germany and Europe. The journal's audience includes both academics and professionals working in social policy and administration or in social institutions. The ZSR publishes articles in German and English. It is published four times a year.

# 2 Evaluation process

All manuscripts submitted to the ZSR undergo a double-blind peer review process. Based on the reviewers' assessment, the editorial staff decides how to proceed with the publication. Authors will be informed about the decision via e-mail. If necessary, authors will receive detailed proposals for revision; Rejections are justified/explained. The evaluation process (1st round) usually takes approximately three months. Revised versions are again sent to the reviewers (2nd round).

# 3 Formal conditions for the manuscript submission

No parallel submissions: Manuscripts can only be submitted to the ZSR if they have not already been published elsewhere or a currently under review at another academic outlet. Format of the submission: Please submit your article online via our submission website: <a href="http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/zsr">http://mc.manuscriptcentral.com/zsr</a>

Manuscript word count: Texts (including footnotes, bibliography, abstract) should have a length between 6,000 and 10,000 words. Please note that with first submission, it is



recommended to not reach the maximum number of words as later revisions may require space. The final article for publication may not exceed 10,000 words. Authors have the opportunity of publishing further information relevant to their article (such as tables, figures, illustrations) as supplementary material online. This can be indicated on submission.

Anonymization: In order to guarantee an anonymous evaluation, the name of the author as well as personal comments of any kind (mentions to one's own person in references, acknowledgments, etc.) are to be deleted from the text. References to own publications should also not give any indication of authorship. (In the case of an actual publication, deleted passages can be reinserted.) A title page containing the author's personal details must also be uploaded via the submission website. This title page will be removed before the manuscript is passed on to the reviewers. The title page must contain the following information: title of the manuscript, name of the author(s), abstract, submission date, postal address and e-mail address.

Language and Spelling: Manuscripts for the ZSR may be submitted in German or English and must be flawless both grammatically and orthographically. Please provide both an abstract in the English and German languages. If providing an abstract in German is difficult for you, a solution will be found in case your manuscript is accepted for publication.

# 4 Text style

*Manuscript structure*: Separate title page (see above), then: Title (without author!), abstracts in English and German (max. 250 words, up to five keywords about the content of the article (also in English and German), text corpus, bibliography. Please add the tables and graphics directly in the text. You can upload additional tables and figures as supplementary material.

Headings and outlines: Texts are to be structured in a decimal format (1 -1.1 -1.2 -2 etc.). Please don't use more than three levels (i.e. 1.1.1 as a maximum, for example). All sections and subsections must be provided with headings that accurately describe the content.

*Text formatting*: To facilitate the editorial work, the text should contain as few edits as possible. Please use only the following basic formatting for the entire text: Font Times New Roman, font size 12 pt, line spacing 1.5-fold, automatic hyphenation, justified, 3 cm margin on the right. No indentations except for longer quotes (see below)! Please upload the article in a format that can be modified, such as Word (docx) or Open Office (odt).

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*Foreign-language words*: Uppercase and lowercase letters, and combined foreign words (where words are joined with words from other languages) and the composition with German words have to follow the rules of Duden (22nd edition, Rules K 38-42). Examples: Status quo, National Insurance.

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*Figures and tables*: The figures and tables should have a maximum width of 11.6 cm. Please insert the tables into the appendix of your document.

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Quotations and bibliographical references: References to verbatim quotes and paraphrases as well as, more generally, bibliographical references in the ZSR have to be set in brackets. Bibliographical references are marked in the text through round brackets with the author's name, publication year and, where needed, the page number.

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- For two authors specify both names: "... (Löwe/Valet 2023)."; for three or more authors please write the first name and "et al." like for instance "... (Dreßke et al. 2025)." If two authors have the same last name, the initial of the first name has to be used for distinction. Institutional authors may be abbreviated by their common abbreviation when this abbreviation is explained in the bibliography: "... (BMGS 2004)."
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## Monographs

- General: author's family name, first name (year): Title. Place/Location: Publishing house/publisher.
- Example:

Stoesz, David (2021): Welfare state 3.0: Social policy after the pandemic. London: Routledge.

#### Journal Articles

- General: author's family name, first name (year): "Title", *Name of the Journal* year's issue: page number.
- Examples:

Zagel, Hannah (2024): "Reproduction policy as life course policy: normative modelling of reproductive life courses in Germany", *Zeitschrift für Sozialreform* 70: 31-53.

Babst, Axel; Groß, Martin; Lang, Volker (2023): "Occupational recognition during the Covid-19 pandemic: differences between occupational groups and the association with compliance with infection control measures", *Zeitschrift für Sozialreform* 69: 329-357.

### Anthologies / Collected works

- General: Family name, first name of the editor/s (ed.) (year): Title. Place: Publishing house.
- Examples:

Saletti, Andrea; Di Fiore, Monica (eds.) (2023): The politics of modelling: Numbers between science and policy. Oxford: Oxford University Press. Kenneth, Nelson; Nieuwenhuis, Rense; Yerkes, Mara (ed.) (2022): Social policy in changing European societies. Northampton: Edward Elgar Publishing.

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- Examples:

ten Brink, Tobias; Müller, Armin; Liu, Tao (2022): "The Introduction of Pension, Accident, and Health Insurance in Urban China. In Causal Mechanisms in the Global Development of Social", in: Johanna Kuhlmann; Frank Nullmeier (eds.): Causal Mechanisms in the Global Development of Social Policies. Cham: Springer International Publishing, 33-66.



Schmähl, Winfried (1994): "Fundamental Issues of Financing of Social Security with Respect to the Tranformation of former Socialist Economics", in: Bernd von Maydell; Eva Maria Hohnerlein (eds.): The Transformation of Social Security Systems in Central and Eastern Europe. Leuven: Peeters Press, 285-325.

Gray literature, working papers; Parliamentary / government papers and similar

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Brugiavini, Agar; De Luca, Guiseppe; MaCurdy, Thomas E.; Weber, Guglielmo (2020): The effects of social policies on the working careers of Europeans. Institute for Fiscal Studies, Working Paper 20/18.

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- Example: Günzel, Eva; Kellmer, Ariana; Klammer, Ute; Schlee, Thorsten (2023): "Contested Welfare: Migrant Organizations in search of their role in the German Welfare State", Social Sciences 12: 90-109. Download at: https://doi.org/10.3390/socsci12020090 (accessed on 20.05.2025).