Beyond Special Issue: Instructions for authors

Beyond publishes research articles and reviews in English concerning research, development and innovation activities.

What type of articles does Beyond publish?

Beyond addresses topical issues in professional higher education, such as cooperation with the world of work, applied research, evaluations of experiences and results in development activities, designing services or products, and possibilities in R&D and work-based learning. All articles include an abstract of a maximum of 200 words.

Beyond is part of the open access professional publication series Xamk Tutkii. The articles are free and available for anyone.

We welcome collaborations with students, associates, and international partners. The input of the developer, researcher or teacher must be evident in articles co-written with a student. You can also write with associates as well as master's students. However, we would expect master's students to write about their thesis results in collaboration with their supervisors. Articles based on a thesis must bring forward a new perspective. In other words, just supervising or publishing the thesis is not sufficient.

Preliminary Schedule

31 May 2024: Submit an abstract using this form. The editors will provide constructive feedback on the abstract within two weeks.

31 October 2024: Submit the final version of the article to XX. The editors will review the draft and offer comments on any necessary final changes before publication.

20 December 2024: Provisional date for publication of Beyond: Open Science and Research.

General instructions

The article should be 3000-8000 words long. Please use 1.5 line spacing and justified text alignment. Calibri font, size 12, is preferred for onscreen readability. Please follow the APA referencing style. This style is built into Microsoft Word, and we encourage you to use the referencing manager.

Please use the built-in headings for Word. Use Heading 1 for your title, 2 for your section titles, and 3 for all subtitles. Insert figures in the correct places in the text and send them as separate files with the manuscript. Make sure you have the right to use any content in the article and give proper attribution as necessary.

The text should be saved as a Word document (docx), not PDF. Photos, tables, figures, etc., should be accessible to all. Therefore, please write a short description (alternative text) of all visual material included in the article.

Model Structure 1 (IMRD)

Below is an example of a model structure for a research article published in Beyond. This traditional approach to structuring articles helps you organise your thinking into clear and familiar sections. Typically, this structure best suits articles with quantitative data or those from more technical fields. However, it also works well for the humanities.

Abstract

- Maximum of 200 words
- 5-8 Keywords

Introduction

- The introduction includes a short background, theoretical bases (what theories or perspectives can help make sense of your case?), identify a phenomenon and question to address (What are you investigating and why?), objectives of the research (what do you hope to solve? What is your argument?), and a short roadmap (what is included in the paper).

Methods

- Methods, procedures, materials, experiment, context, population, or sample
- Use these questions to help guide your thinking:
  - What data do you use? How did you gather the data and material? How did you analyse it? Are there any ethical considerations to discuss?

Results

- This is where you report the findings (often, this section has tables and graphs to help showcase the data).
- Use these questions to help guide your thinking:
  - What answer was found to the research question? What did you discover? What was new or novel?

Discussion

- The discussion is usually split into two subsections: the discussion, where you comment on the validity of your methods and results, and the conclusion, where you place the research in the context of the scholarly literature.
- Use these questions to help guide your thinking:
  - What is the significance of your results? Why does it matter? Is this different to what other authors have found? What are some possible avenues for further research?

Model Structure 2 (Case Study or Narrative-driven article)

This second model structure best suits articles limited by the IMRD structure. Often this works best for those with lots of qualitative data, case studies, and theoretical or argumentative articles. The structure is more free-form and comes from the data itself rather than being imposed from above. Below is one possible way of structuring such an article:

Abstract

- Maximum of 200 words
- 5–8 Keywords

Introduction

- This introduces the topic, and the case study outlines the problem and your solution or argument.

- One possible way to structure this is to:

    - Start with a description of a problem (or a case), then introduce the surrounding debate or literature, outline your argument and approach, explain why this is needed and significant, introduce the data and methods, and then write a short roadmap of the article.

Article Core

- The structure of the core depends much on the content of your article. The article's core should present and analyse the case study or advance your hypothesis. This section should be linked to the literature and consider insights from other scholars, address possible counterarguments, present what was discovered, and explain the implications of your findings.
    - In a case study, there may be an analysis of the problem in more detail, an analysis of possible approaches, your presented solution or argument, and its significance.
    - For an argument-driven essay, you can provide some background, analyse different parts of your argument with examples, and organise the subsections according to the topics that arise from your material or argument.

Conclusion

- The conclusion typically summarises your article's main points and reiterates how they are all related and connected to the literature. Then, the conclusion should delve into why these points are fascinating or novel. Consider your analysis and results and how you might contribute to the professional or scientific debate.

If your article doesn't fit either of these model structures but still looks like a research article, that's fine, too! We can provide feedback and help you structure your work if needed.

Editorial process

After the call for papers, the editorial board will choose articles based on the abstracts received. The editors will provide constructive feedback to authors on their abstracts and give some ideas on how the article might be developed further, if necessary. The editors and publishing team will then review the final manuscript, as is customary with Xamk publications. The editors-in-chief will then make the final publishing decision.

These editorial processes aim to support our writers in producing articles in English that they can be proud of and support their professional development as scientific writers.

All articles will undergo language editing. Beyond provides this service free of charge to authors. Editors reserve the right to make minor corrections to articles before publication. The editorial team is happy to help with any concerns or needs during the writing process, such as information seeking or using reference manager software. Authors can contact the editorial team anytime during the writing process and request additional help or support.

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