

Meet the Editors

Heather Armstrong

Who you are and what you do?

I am a lecturer in sexual health in the Department of Psychology at the University of Southampton. Originally from Canada, I completed postdoctoral fellowships at the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and at the British Columbia Centre for Excellence in HIV/AIDS and the University of British Columbia. My research focuses on the sexual health and wellbeing of sexual and gender minority people.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

When the authors make it very clear what their paper contributes and how it advances the research area. Even the abstract should give the reader the sense that this is an important paper and why.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

When there are inconsistencies in the paper – for example, if the results say one thing but the tables say something else. Similarly, if the discussion goes far beyond what is supported by the data.

Advice for authors

Think about your reader when you are writing the manuscript. Try to engage them with a clear and concise narrative and take away message. Lastly, follow the instructions for authors and proofread once more than you think is necessary.



Heather Armstrong

Leo Wilton

Who you are and what you do?

I am a clinical psychologist with research expertise in the areas of health disparities and inequities (HIV and AIDS prevention); Black psychological development and mental health; integrative community-based applied research; and mixed- and multi-methods research. The overall objective of my scholarly research program, incorporating an implementation science framework, has been to examine socio-structural and -cultural factors that provide the basis for the development of culturally congruent HIV prevention and care interventions.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

A well-conceptualised research study that articulates how the research significantly contributes to advancing the field.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

A research study that is not theoretically-informed with a poor delineation of research methods, data analysis, and results.

Advice for authors

- Articulate how the research fits within the scope of the journal
- Follow the submission instructions
- Proofread the manuscript before submission



Leo Wilton

Kevan Wylie

Who you are and what you do?

I have recently retired from clinical work as a physician in sexual medicine, andrology, and gender medicine. I held two honorary professorships at The University of Sheffield and Sheffield Hallam University in the years prior to retirement. I am the joint section head for Sexual Dysfunction with Faculty Opinions (f1000), and I have recently been the president of two not-for-profit organisations – the World Association for Sexual Health and the European Federation of Sexology. During my career I have published over 100 original peer-reviewed articles, over 100 reviews, commissioned and editorial articles, two books and over 30 book chapters.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

A clearly defined and succinct abstract is a great start prior to delving into the manuscript to identify clearly defined and replicable research methodology with a very crisp description of the interventions and methods of measuring change. Results that can potentially transfer into a number of comparable clinical and research settings are worthy of further scrutiny and hopefully publication.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Papers that are vague and poorly defined in terms of structure and grammar alongside those that use methodology or statistical interpretation that is unfounded or poorly substantiated. Identifying repetition of previously published results or plagiarism is most disappointing.

Advice for authors

Foremost, ensure that the manuscript that you intend to submit is relevant to the scope of the journal. Ensure that all of the guidance for authors is followed and update any necessary changes to the manuscript from the original document that may have been written. If manuscripts are returned for amendment after peer review, be courteous in your responses and make it clear for the next review process which changes have been made and offer clear descriptions and explanations for such. Be willing to argue to maintain any unamended text where you feel this is both reasonable and justified.



Kevan Wylie

Huachun Zou

Who you are and what you do?

I am Professor and Head of the Department of Epidemiology and Health Statistics at the School of Public Health (Shenzhen), Sun Yat-sen University, China. My research areas of interest include the epidemiology of HIV, HPV and other sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in at-risk populations, innovative interventions to prevent HIV/STIs, HIV/HPV related cancer epidemiology and HPV vaccination strategy, modelling of the transmission dynamics of infectious diseases.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Studies that touch on an unanswered question, with sound study design and critical thinking, use precise wording, do not exaggerate findings, narrate smoothly, and discuss objectively.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

Studies that are mediocre, without sound study design, exaggerate findings, inappropriate narration.

Advice for authors

Please abide by journal style, double check wording and language before submission, make sure all numbers add up and content consistent in all sections.



Huachun Zou