

Guidelines for writing a commentary

What is a commentary?

The goal of publishing commentaries in this Special Issue is to provide a forum for varying perspectives on the conference themes and presentations. The author of a commentary will present a new and/or unique viewpoint on a conference presentation. A commentary may also draw attention to current theory and practice and speculate on future directions, and may include original data as well as state a personal opinion. It will be critical, but generous and generative as well.

In summary, a commentary may:

1. Challenge one or more aspects of the presentation, arguing for a position other than that taken by the original presentation.
2. Provide an elaboration or extension of the position taken in the presentation, basically sympathetic to the position taken but pushing the argument further.
3. Apply of a theoretical or methodological perspective that sheds light on the issues addressed in the presentation.
4. Comment on the applicability of the issues raised in the presentation to other settings, or to other cultures.

Some simple guidelines

- Move directly to identifying the key issues you want to raise.
- For commentary purposes, cite only works absolutely essential to support your point. Keep citations to a minimum.
- Use a short title that emphasizes your key message. (It should be clear in context that all commentaries are a reaction to a particular paper).
- Do not include an abstract.
- Make clear your take-home message.
- Make sure there is full author information (name, affiliation, address, phone, email) for all authors. Authors must be individuals.

Review process

Commentaries will be peer reviewed and most likely accepted if they are in line with the definitions and guidelines outlined. A small set of reviewers will read and evaluate all commentaries as they need to compare commentaries for issues of redundancy and to make evaluations of relative merit.

Queries for the editors

Authors should feel free to correspond with the editors prior to submitting a commentary if there are questions about any aspect of the evaluation and publication process. Authors may prepare a brief outline of the key points they desire to present in the commentary and send it to the editors.