

LETTER FROM THE EDITORIAL BOARD

Dear reader,

We are extremely pleased to present you the first edition of the Maastricht Student Journal of Psychology and Neuroscience (MSJPN). The idea to initiate a student journal for the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience dates back to 2009, and is inspired by the Maastricht Journal of Liberal Arts from University College Maastricht. Although students of our Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience have an academic writing assignment in each curriculum year, it was noted that actual scientific output by Bachelor students was scarce. In addition it appeared that, due to governmental decisions concerning academic performance, a majority of the students were strictly focusing on their mandatory courses and related educational results. Academic creativity and general academic development seemed to become underexposed. Therefore, the journal's main goal is to stimulate students in their academic development and to create a platform for students to publish both empirical and literature research. MSJPN is supposed to provide an annual reflection of student's activities in scientific research at the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience of Maastricht University. Students are offered the possibility to publish original research articles deriving from, for instance, studies conducted during their second year practical research course. Other articles can for example be a literature review based on the third year's Bachelor thesis. Obviously, the editorial board very much appreciates other types of scientific output arising from personal scientific reflections as well.

This first edition of MSJPN proves that students at our faculty are still highly motivated to do more than only conventional curricular activities during their education. (Research) Master students were provided with the opportunity to play a role in the review process, increasing the student's involvement in this journal. The students did an excellent job by providing expert feedback to the authors and consequently improving the quality of the papers.

The editorial board would like to show its gratitude to all contributors of the journal. First of all, we thank the authors for submitting their scientific contemplations. We have enjoyed reading the papers and were immensely glad to see that there are students who are willing to distinguish themselves. Many thanks as well to our reviewers for reading all papers and for providing strict, but fair comments. We would also want to thank the faculty board for supporting us in realizing this journal. A special thanks to Marcel Schrijnemaekers for assisting us in all advertorial, financial and publisher activities. And lastly, we would like to thank Joris van Veghel for the design of the journal.

We hope that this first edition of the Maastricht Student Journal of Psychology and Neuroscience will be the start of a long lasting tradition and that the journal will soon become a household name within the Faculty of Psychology and Neuroscience of Maastricht University.

The editorial board: Anke Sambeth, Silke Conen, Tim Leufkens