



EDITORIAL

The Launch of a New Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology

Erik Berntson*, Claudia Bernhard-Oettel*, Marit Christensen†, Thomas Clausen‡ and Saija Mauno§

Background

Welcome to this new journal – the Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology. The field of Work and Organizational Psychology has a long and strong tradition in Scandinavia. Typical studies within this field have focused on work environment issues, such as psychosocial working conditions, meaningfulness and influence at work. The focus on intervention and evaluation of work and organizational initiatives – focusing on the improvement of working life – has also been important in this research tradition.

In a European and global context, there are relevant and prestigious journals covering the research field, such as the European Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology, Journal of Occupational and Organizational Psychology, and Work & Stress (just to name a few important journals). In addition, the Scandinavian region also has their relevant journals such as the Scandinavian Journal of Work, Environment & Health and the Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies. However, we believe that there is a need for a journal focusing on Work and Organizational Psychology issues in particular, and with relevance for a Scandinavian context.

In this respect, we want to emphasize that our view on Work and Organizational Psychology is that it is a field in the cross section of many disciplines. Thus, bringing together findings and scientific advances in the field means broadening the scope and inviting researchers from many different disciplines. Consequently, researchers with a background in for example Psychology, Sociology, Business Administration, Work Science, Economics, Medicine, Epidemiology, and Education, have proven to engage in research questions relating to the Work and Organizational Psychology field. Thus, maintaining the methodological and stringent tradition of Work and Organizational Psychology, we encourage contributions from researchers from many closely related disciplines, as the research question must be at the center of the journal's interest.

The Scandinavian tradition is, as mentioned above, related to research issues with a specific focus on working conditions and the work environment. However, from our point of view Work and Organizational Psychology has a focus of studying the individual in relation to its environment, the working life. This is done both by focusing on the individual and by focusing on the organizational and the societal environment, or by focusing on the interaction between these fields. With this journal we want to preserve the stringent research tradition but include issues from the whole spectrum of working life. In short, we encourage studies that focus on the relation between the individual and working life, whether it being with a traditional working conditions focus or an interest in more upcoming topics such as sustainability and ethics in working life for example.

The aim of the journal

With the above in mind, the Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology has three main aims:

The *first aim* of the journal is to provide a platform for high quality research within the Work and Organizational Psychology field. We aim to attract research articles with a focus on research questions relevant for the Work and Organizational Psychology field, including issues relating to all levels in working life. Consequently, we want to publish research articles with studies investigating issues that manifest themselves at the levels of individuals, groups, organizations and/or societies.

The *second aim* of the journal is to strive for internationalization. Consequently, the Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational psychology only publishes articles in English. Also, the editorial board is international, comprising researchers from the Nordic countries (with the exception of Iceland) as well as researchers from Europe and other continents (North America, Africa, South East Asia and Pacific Region). The international focus is part of a strategy to meet rigorous scientific standards but also to enhance the impact and visibility of Scandinavian Work and Organizational Psychological research. Having a journal for Work and Organizational Psychology, clarifies the scope and content of the field in the region. In line with the internationalization of the journal we also encourage manuscripts from other contexts than just the Scandinavian. We believe that the research questions are central and that empirical evidence from different contexts and

* Stockholm University, SE
erik.berntson@psychology.su.se

† Norwegian University of Science and Technology, NO

‡ National Research Centre for the Working Environment, DK

§ University of Jyväskylä, FI

Corresponding author: Erik Berntson

cultures are important in order to understand a more local context.

The *third aim* of the journal relates to its practitioners. With the Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology we want to reach out to the practitioners in the field. We believe that it is of fundamental importance that the knowledge produced by Work and Organizational Psychology researchers is available to practitioners. Therefore, we aim to combine a rigorous academic quality of the paper with a strategy to attract practitioners. This is done in two ways, first we intend to have a practitioners' board with members covering a wide range of experiences from working in different positions and across different industries, organizations or institutions in the labor market. Their main assignment will be to comment and discuss the research findings in the journal. Second, in addition to the articles being open access, which facilitates practitioners' interactions with the scholars in the field, we intend to add an external blog, where all articles, and specifically the meaning of them, are commented by researchers and practitioners. We hope that this will provide a forum that facilitates discussions, development and refinement of new concepts and ideas for further research within the field of Work and Organizational Psychology.

Open access and non-profit

The Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology is a non-profit open access journal. As the publishing market is increasing quickly, this journal is aiming for high quality through out the whole publishing process. Consequently, the journal applies a blinded review process and follows the principles of transparency and best practice in scholarly publishing as stated by the Committee of Publication Ethic (COPE).

We have three main article formats in the journal, research articles, review articles and commentary articles. We encourage and aim for a strong basis of research articles in the journal. *Original research articles* must

describe previously unpublished original research within the journal's scope. These should make a substantial contribution to knowledge and understanding in the subject matter and should be supported by relevant figures and tabulated data. *Reviews* should organize, integrate and evaluate previously published articles, and in the case of a meta-analysis organize, integrate and evaluate previously published materials. *Commentaries* should reflect upon or critique a specific "happening" such as a release of a major study or other notable occurrence related to the focus of the journal. Authors interested in submitting a commentary piece should discuss the content with the editor before submitting a manuscript.

Call for papers

The Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology seeks to publish papers covering the important issues in working life on all levels, including the societal, the organizational and the individual level. Example subject areas are stress, work environment, health and well-being, work place safety, work-family interaction, employment contracts, career and mobility, organizational behavior, job attitudes, performance, motivation, work organization, organizational change and development, leadership and management, gender, training, personnel recruitment and selection, teams, work groups, labor and employment relations.

We encourage inter-disciplinary contributions and we strongly encourage manuscripts applying both qualitative and/or quantitative methodologies as we recognize that the field of Work and Organizational Psychology is of such a diversity that a plurality of research methods and approaches is needed to provide a satisfactory and updated conceptualization of the challenges and opportunities that contemporary work organizations are facing.

Competing Interests

The authors declare that they have no competing interests.

How to cite this article: Berntson, E., Bernhard-Oettel, C., Christensen, M., Clausen, T. and Mauno, S. (2016). The Launch of a New Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology. *Scandinavian Journal of Work and Organizational Psychology*, 1(1): 1, 1–2, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.16993/sjwop.12>

Submitted: 23 March 2016 **Accepted:** 23 March 2016 **Published:** 28 April 2016

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