Call for Papers:
Real-Time Identity Processes

Guest Editors:
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Identity: An International Journal of Theory and Research welcomes submissions for the special issue "*Real-Time Identity Processes*".

Special issue topic

Identity formation is captured by both long-term and short-term processes. On the one hand, identity refers to a long-term state or developmental trend lasting months or years, represented by several different phases, including progression, regression, and stability across the lifespan. On the other hand, when looking closer at each of these phases, identity involves many different short-term experiences lasting weeks, days, hours, minutes, or even seconds, expressed in real-time actions, thoughts, and emotions. In a broad definition, real-time identity refers to ongoing efforts individuals make to construct, maintain, and revise their own identities. As identity is a product of person-context interactions, real-time identity inherently emerges out of interactions with both micro (e.g., family, peer, school, and workplace) and macro (e.g., social, cultural, political, and historical) contextual levels.

Understanding real-time identity is extremely important to unravel mechanisms involved in identity development. This issue is a priority for not only scholars but also practitioners working with individuals with conflicts and difficulties in constructing their own identities. Interventions address, per definition, real-time processes. Although emerging literature has focused on change and stability of identity over time in the last decade, research on real-time identity is still scarce. Thus, we still do not know much about what is really happening in forming and developing identity and
how individuals and contexts are working togheter to construct a person's identity.

This special issue aims to bring together contributions that will add knowledge about the meaning and function of real-time identity processes and provide insights into mechanisms of identity development in greater detail. Examples of studies in which readers get insights into *how* people study real-time identity are strongly encouraged. We welcome a variety of theoretical frameworks and methods. The following set of questions and challenges are intended to be addressed in this special issue:

- How do we define real-time identity?
- How does identity manifest itself in real-time, and thus, how can we measure real-time identity?
- How does real-time identity relate to developmental-time (or long-term) identity?
- How do contexts play a role in real-time identity processes?

- Which theories and methodological approaches could become promising frameworks for studying real-time identity?

Submissions can fall into one of these categories:
(1) *Original empirical articles* presenting one or more empirical studies (detailed results must be reported in the proposal)
(2) *Theoretical articles* advancing the understanding of real-time identity research and providing a foundation for hypothesis testing: Contributions of this category are welcomed, but they should include (possibly just as illustration) descriptions of empirical assessments and methods that can be used to investigate the theoretical assumptions.
(3) *Methodological articles* discussing best practices of ways to assess real-time identity

For more detailed instructions about these types of submission see Instruction for Authors in the journal website.

Timeline and Submission Process

- **October 31, 2020: Deadline for proposal submission**. Interested authors can submit a proposal (maximum 700 words) that describes the paper they intend to submit. Proposals must be submitted to Identity through the Submission Portal (https://accounts.taylorfrancis.com/identity/), accessible via the journal webpage by navigating to the 'Submit a manuscript' tab. Authors should complete the step-by-step submission process, indicating that their proposal is for the special issue "Real-Time Identity Processes."

- November 30, 2020: Guest Editors' decision/feedback regarding invitations for full manuscript submission sent to authors

- **February 28, 2021: Full manuscript submission deadline**. Invited full manuscripts should be prepared in accordance with the journal's author guidelines (Instruction for Authors) and submitted through the journal's submission portal (https://accounts.taylorfrancis.com/identity/). All submitted papers will undergo a regular peer review process. Each article will be handled by one of the guest editors who will send it out for blind peer review to two reviewers. An invitation to submit a full paper is, thus, not a guarantee of acceptance.

- 2022: Publication of the Special Issue in issue 01/2022

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