

Call for Papers: Special Issue on

Health Communication for/with Vulnerable Groups in Society

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Health communication for and with vulnerable groups or individuals has become increasingly important. Vulnerability encompasses at least two strands: On the one hand, individuals and groups are described as “vulnerable” based on group membership, and the group is thereby labelled vulnerable due to specific characteristics. Vulnerable groups may include, for example children and adolescents, older adults, people with disabilities, people with cognitive impairments or people in emergency and extreme situations. On the other hand, vulnerability is described as contextual, whereby context influences the vulnerability of individuals and social groups. While circumstances may threaten the group’s existence and result in the dissolution of relationships, social support could strengthen the group and group ties, respectively. In this sense, vulnerability may change for an individual if the context changes (Kwek, 2017; Wisner et al., 2004). Regardless of which form of vulnerability applies, vulnerable groups and individuals are at higher risk for poor physical, psychological or social health (Schiavo, 2013).

Whether vulnerability is social or contextual, health communication may serve different purposes. It may aid vulnerable groups and individuals in enhancing their awareness of the historical, social or other disadvantages of social groups. In the case of contextual vulnerability, the specifics of vulnerability must be considered when drafting health communication messages and interventions (Kwek, 2017).

This special issue is open but not limited to studies that address the following topics:

- Media portrayals of vulnerable individuals and groups or vulnerabilities
- Health information behaviours, such as information seeking, scanning, sharing or information avoidance, of vulnerable individuals/groups
- Health communication efforts to raise awareness of vulnerable individuals and groups
- Health communication efforts to reach vulnerable individuals and groups
- Health communication efforts to support and empower vulnerable individuals and groups
- Challenges of communicating with or reaching vulnerable individuals and groups

Submission Format

We welcome submissions that fit any of the EJHC formats: original research papers, theoretical papers, methodological papers, review articles and brief research reports. For further information on the article types, please see <http://www.ejhc.org/about/submissions>. If you have questions regarding the fit of your paper for this special issue, please contact the guest editors.

Manuscripts must be prepared according to the [EJHC author guidelines](#) and submitted via the [journal's website](#).

Review Process

All articles will undergo a rigorous two-step peer review process. The first step focuses on the extended abstract, while the second step is based on full papers. Once the editorial management team assesses the abstract as appropriate (with regard to form, content and quality), the invited and submitted full papers will be peer reviewed by at least two reviewers in a double-blind review process, meaning that reviewers are not disclosed to authors, and authors are not disclosed to reviewers. To ensure short publication processes, the EJHC releases articles online on a rolling basis, expected to start in **November 2024**.

Overview of the Timeline

December 1, 2023	Deadline for abstract submission <i>PDF, APA format, max. 1,000 words + references, appendix; please add a title page with author and contact information</i>
January 8, 2024	Invitation to selected authors to submit full paper <i>To prepare the full paper, see the author guidelines</i>
March 31, 2024	Full paper submission
November 2024	Target date for start of article publications

European Journal of Health Communication

The European Journal of Health Communication (EJHC) is a peer-reviewed open-access journal for high-quality health communication research with relevance to Europe or specific European countries. The journal aims to represent the international character of health communication research, given the cultural, political, economic and academic diversity in Europe.

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