



Informing Science: the International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline

*An Official Publication
of the Informing Science Institute
InformingScience.org*

Inform.nu

Volume 26, 2023

APPLIED PSYCHOLOGY AND INFORMING SCIENCE: INTRODUCTION TO THE DEVELOPING SPECIAL SERIES

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ABSTRACT

Aim/Purpose This is an introductory paper for the developing special series on applied psychology and informing science. It takes into account the spirit of informing science to launch the first of three articles in the series on applied psychology. The paper concludes by raising questions for future investigations.

Keywords informing science, applied psychology, transdisciplinary

THE SERIES

Informing about knowledge production represents a timeless challenge for an applied psychologist. Scientific papers previously focused exclusively on the complexities of theory-building and research conducting. The focus has been on disseminating knowledge and perspectives with only a soft focus on the client of the research. For psychologists, the prescriptive and descriptive norms are strongly rooted in the theme of knowledge production through compliance with agreed-upon research design, methods, and ethical practice. However, this approach severely limits useful research conducted outside the field of study. This a tricky question as it is not amenable to standard ways of scholarship in psychology. Psychologists are familiar with confronting the challenge of publication. Still, the limits of national evaluation systems, disciplinary boundaries, and the compliance of publication checklists make it difficult for psychologists to remain sensitive to social nuances of informing about their knowledge to the broader public.

This is exactly the challenge that the journal *Informing Science: The International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline (InformingSciJ)* is willing to address with a series devoted to applied psychology. InformingSciJ builds on a transdisciplinary character that puts forth occasions to provide a broad array of discussions from various and separate disciplines. Such research findings are written in ways to better inform a wider public. In addition to formal academic systems limiting the boundaries of scholars into sectorial and faculty structures, InformingSciJ draws on the idea that we can also prize research that provides the reader with a novel perspective on specific phenomena. Notably, the term novel refers to the reader's response, not the author's field. InformingSciJ welcomes articles that fall in the cracks of single-field-based research. We welcome submissions that cross the boundaries of a single

Cite as: Tommasi, F. (2023). Applied psychology and informing science: Introduction to the developing special series. *Informing Science: The International Journal of an Emerging Transdiscipline*, 26, 1-3.
<https://doi.org/10.28945/5087>

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field's research heritages and epistemologies. Its ultimate aim is to inform, that is, to enhance the useful knowledge of its readers.

The controversial and subverting perspective spirit of InformingSciJ can foster reflections in scholars from various disciplines. Recalling the above timeless question for applied psychology, such a spirit of InformingSciJ opens novel and inspiring ideas for psychologists willing to inform individuals, groups, communities, and institutions about knowledge and the use they make of it. Confronting this complex question, the spirit of InformingSciJ offers a holistic and scientifically rich basis for expanding ways of communication of applied psychology knowledge. It is precisely this last aspect that made the Editor-in-Chief of InformingSciJ open the series of Applied Psychology and Informing Science.

The present introductory paper of the series presents the first three articles in this series. They advance ideas for future investigations that this developing special series would welcome. The authors have interpreted the spirit of informing science and attempted to inform about applied psychology pieces of knowledge. As later described, the articles tried to reach this goal by (a) connecting applied psychology with different fields (e.g., sociology, information technology) and (b) using a language to explain and illustrate their understanding of specific phenomena. The following overview of the articles follows the order of acceptance.

The initial paper (Sartori et al., 2023) addresses the phenomenon of employee resignation and adopts an applied psychology lens to empirically understand the role of organizations in reducing employee turnover intention. The article makes a compelling case to show how the traditional lens of work and organizational psychology can be extended to a macro-social approach. The paper displays the organization's crucial role in supporting its employees.

The second paper by Aldukhayel (2023) supports the use of psychological paradigms in the school context and proposes an evaluation of teaching methods via traditional experimental methods. The author comments and discusses the results in a way that contributes to both psychological and educational literature.

The last paper by Morandini and colleagues (2023) clearly depicts the impact of technological development in the organizational context and for the labor market. Taking the license to use applied psychology, the authors of this last paper examine how artificial intelligence can support individuals in their upskilling for the future of work and employment.

These papers and this introduction launch the new special series on applied psychology and informing science. These are examples of how applied psychology can intersect with other disciplines and research fields. Thanks to their interdisciplinary basis, the authors followed an unconventional writing style to generate an illustration of their cases of study. Notably, these are examples of how applied psychology can inform different readers or clients at the individual, community, organizational and institutional levels.

We welcome papers that investigate and address the core question of how to inform about applied psychology knowledge that intersects different disciplines. We endeavor to complete the longstanding gap between practitioner-knowledge and academic-knowledge. We particularly welcome submissions written by practitioners and studies engaging practitioners in academic-knowledge.

We look forward to publishing papers in this special series based on the core idea that applied psychology can offer a particularistic lens in different disciplines and research fields.

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