

Editorial Note

The value of the peer review process for advancing theory and practice in science is well recognised and widely acknowledged as an important feature of a sound scientific evaluation process. One part of the process, often taking place ‘behind the scenes’, is the discussion between the actors involved – authors, expert reviewers, journal editors – on merits, possible shortcomings, and ways to improve the submitted contribution. This discussion in effect directly influences what a journal publishes and what it does not publish, and in the long run paves the way of scientific progress within the field.

Opening up this process somewhat, JOS in this issue publishes an article that addresses a complex phenomenon – the comparison of methods for evaluation of survey questions. This specific area still lacks an established, standard approach. Therefore, together with the article by Yan et al., we publish two discussions, one by Willem Saris and one by Jennifer Madans and Paul Beatty. In doing so, we hope to stimulate the discussion and identification of areas in need of further scientific attention by openly presenting the existing issues and reasoning behind the different approaches to, in this case, comparison of survey question evaluation methods.

Editors-in-Chief