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CALL FOR PAPERS SPECIAL ISSUE

PROSOCIAL DEVELOPMENT IN CHILDHOOD AND FAMILIES OF THE GLOBAL SOUTH

Guest Editors:

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Deadline for abstract submission: January 31, 2026

Deadline for manuscript submission: April 30, 2026

The **Revista Costarricense de Psicología** announces a call for papers for a special issue dedicated to “Prosocial Development in Childhood and Families of the Global South.” The aim of this issue is to offer a comprehensive perspective on how individuals develop and implement prosocial orientations in their relationships with others and the world, and how these behaviors benefit society in contexts traditionally understudied by psychology.

Call Context

Prosocial behaviors, defined as actions aimed at benefiting others (Eisenberg et al., 2006), have generated significant interest in psychology due to their impact on moral development, academic performance, and the physical and psychological well-being of children and adolescents (Carlo & Conejo, 2019; Gallegos & Laguna, 2019). These behaviors include sharing, donating, helping, comforting, and defending others against bullying and injustice. They are considered key indicators of moral development, as they are closely linked to ethical values, moral reasoning, empathy, and sympathy (Carlo, 2014).

However, most psychological research on prosociality has been conducted in the Global North, which represents only a minority of the world’s population. This special issue seeks to highlight knowledge generated in Global South contexts, aiming to open an academic space to discuss cultural diversity, ethnic minorities, and populations traditionally underrepresented in psychology—often referred to as WEIRD (Western-Educated-Industrialized-Rich-Democratic; Henrich et al., 2010). Submissions of intercultural studies that include at least one group from the Global South are especially encouraged.

The Global South is defined as the group of countries that, historically colonized and with developing economies, face structural challenges such as poverty, inequality, and limited access to resources. It also refers to populations negatively affected by capitalist globalization, regardless of their geographical location (United Nations, 2025).

References

Eisenberg, Nancy, Richard A. Fabes, and Tracy L. Spinrad. “Prosocial Development.” In *Handbook of Child Psychology: Social, Emotional, and Personality Development*, edited by William Damon and Richard Lerner, vol. 3. John Wiley & Sons, Inc., 2006.

Carlo, G., & Conejo, L. D. (2019). Traditional and Culture-Specific Parenting of Prosociality in US Latino/as. In D. J. Laible, G. Carlo, & L. M. Padilla-Walker (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Parenting and Moral Development* (pp. 246–266). Oxford University Press. <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190638696.013.15>

Carlo, G. (2014). The development and correlates of prosocial moral behaviors. In Handbook of moral development, 2nd ed (pp. 208–234). Psychology Press. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9780203581957.ch10>

Gallegos, W. L. A., & Laguna, S. L. (2019). Prosocialidad en niños de edad pre-escolar de la Institución Educativa Santísimo Salvador. Veritas, 14(1), Article 1.

Henrich, J., Heine, S. J., & Norenzayan, A. (2010). The weirdest people in the world? Behavioral and brain sciences, 33(2–3), 61–83.

United Nations. (2025). Global South Countries 2025. World Population Review. <https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/global-south-countries>

Methodological Approach

This call accepts theoretical, review, methodological, or empirical articles using qualitative, quantitative, or mixed approaches.

Specific Topics Included

Stages of Prosocial Development in Childhood and Adolescence

- Analysis of classical and contemporary theories on prosocial behavior
- Socialization and prosocial development
- Longitudinal evolution of prosociality from childhood to adolescence

Prosocial Development in Different Cultural Contexts

- Intercultural comparisons of prosociality
- Influence of culture on prosocial development

Neuroscience and Cognitive Sciences of Prosocial Development

- Research on the neuroscientific foundations of prosociality
- The role of emotions and social cognition in prosocial development

Multidimensional Perspectives on Prosocial Behavior

- Factors that promote different types of prosocial behavior
- Educational and community interventions to foster prosociality

Impact of Technology on Prosociality

- Effects of social media and video games on prosocial behavior in children and adolescents
- Strategies to promote ethical use of technology in fostering prosociality

Prosociality and Social Justice

- Prosocial development and social justice movements
- How perceptions of justice and equity influence prosocial behavior

- Ecological domain of prosocial behavior (sustainability, prosocial behavior toward other species)

This special issue is aimed at academics, professionals, and researchers interested in understanding the key factors that influence the development of prosocial behaviors and how these shape relationships with other people and all living beings. That is, it focuses not only on prosocial actions toward other people but also toward other animal species and the environment.

Key Dates

- **Deadline for abstract submission: January 31, 2026**
- **Deadline for final manuscript submission: April 30, 2026**
- **Estimated publication date: December 2026**

Submission Instructions

Authors interested in this call for papers should submit an abstract that includes the title, the research problem and a brief description of the study (maximum 1000 words). They should include a complete list of references (they do not count towards the 1000 words) and make sure that the description is sufficient to evaluate the scientific method and the importance of the study. Please send to: diego.conejo.bolanos@una.cr by **January 31, 2026 with the subtitle "Abstract for the Special Issue Prosociality/RCP"**.

Selected authors must submit the full manuscript through the Revista Costarricense de Psicología platform, following the editorial guidelines available on the journal's website. Articles are accepted in Spanish, Portuguese, or English, with a maximum length of 30 pages, and must be submitted no later than **April 30, 2026**.

Contact

For additional inquiries, please contact the editorial coordination team at: editorial@rcps-cr.org

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