

Intelligence Paper — Next Journal Target

Paper: “Why Intelligence Models Must Include Motivation: A Recursive Framework” (7,858 words, theoretical, no data) **Rejection history:** NIdP (desk reject <24h), Philosophical Psychology (desk reject <2 days)

Comparison

	Theory & Psychology	Frontiers in Psychology	Cognitive Systems Research
Publisher	Sage	Frontiers Media	Elsevier
Scope fit	Excellent — theoretical psychology is its whole purpose	Good — Theoretical & Philosophical Psychology section	Good — interdisciplinary, but leans computational
Cost to publish	Free	CHF 3,150 (~EUR 3,350) APC	Free
Impact Factor	1.9	3.27	2.4
Quartile	Q1 (SCImago) / Q3 (WoS)	Q2	Q2
Word limit	10,000 (incl. refs)	12,000	No stated cap
Review type	Double-blind	Open/collaborative	Standard peer review
Time to decision	~2–3 months	~6 weeks (desk) / ~3 months (full)	~3 months
Desk reject risk	Low — theoretical papers are the core content	Low — high acceptance rate (~37%)	Moderate — may want computational angle
Red flags	None	2025 retraction scandal (53 papers); grey-zone reputation; expensive	Declining IF (was 5.9 in 2021)

Verdict

Theory & Psychology is the clear winner.

- Free to submit AND publish (no APC)
- The journal literally exists for theoretical psychology papers — lowest desk-rejection risk
- Sage is an unambiguous, respected publisher
- IF 1.9 is modest but appropriate for a theoretical paper
- Fast turnaround (~2–3 months)
- Double-blind peer review

Frontiers has a higher IF (3.27) but costs CHF 3,150 and has ongoing reputation issues. Not worth the money for a “last attempt” paper.

Cognitive Systems Research is free but leans computational and has a declining IF. Decent backup if T&P also rejects.

Submission Requirements (Theory & Psychology)

- **Portal:** mc.manuscriptcentral.com/thpsyc (ScholarOne — same system as Phil Psych)
- **Format:** APA style, double-blind (anonymize manuscript, separate title page)
- **Abstract:** Unstructured, max 250 words
- **Keywords:** 4–5 minimum
- **Editor:** Thomas Teo (York University) — philosopher of psychology, critical-theoretical focus