

## **Philosophical Transactions A Instructions for Authors**

The following instructions provide a checklist of essential information for submitting your paper for an issue of *Philosophical Transactions A*. Please ensure that you also read our full author guidelines available at <https://royalsocietypublishing.org/rsta/for-authors>

Submission should be made through the ScholarOne submission system. Instructions and login information will be sent separately to you; if you have any problems using the system, please contact the Editorial Office [philtransa@royalsociety.org](mailto:philtransa@royalsociety.org).

Please pay attention to the following things in particular:

### **Schedule**

*Philosophical Transactions A* issues must publish on set dates throughout the year. This means that it is very important that you stick to the deadlines that you have been given. As all papers in an issue publish together, publication can be significantly delayed by the last paper to be submitted.

If you are not going to make your submission date, please let the Guest Editor and the Editorial Office know as early as possible.

### **Content**

Your Guest Editor should have already specified what is required for the issue. Please ensure that you keep to the boundaries agreed to eliminate duplication between the papers and to ensure a thorough coverage of the subject. You can contribute a research paper, a review paper or a short opinion piece as agreed with the Guest Editor of the volume. Research papers containing new work should not be under consideration elsewhere.

### **Length**

Each issue should be no more than 200 pages, and the average issue consists of 12–16 papers. The journal does not enforce a strict length limit, however papers that are overly long will need to be reduced. In general, please aim for no more than 13 printed pages. As a rough guide, one journal page is enough space for 650 words or two average figures (including references). Each paper must contain an abstract of up to 200 words, and 3–6 keywords.

### **Formatting and submitting your paper**

Please follow our [guidelines](#) and the [submission checklist](#) to format your paper. For the initial submission of your manuscript, it is acceptable to just submit a PDF file.

When submitting your files (post review and revision) you must supply:

- An editable text file of the manuscript (such as a Word document or LaTeX file). We cannot accept PDFs for the final file main document
- References formatted in the Vancouver (numbered) style
- An individual high-resolution file for each figure (PNG, TIFF, JPG, JPEG, or EPS format preferred, NOT PDF).
- Figure captions which contain any required credit information. You must clear permission to use your figures before submitting to us
- Electronic supplementary material will be published exactly as it is provided. Please include all information within the one document, including a title, any figures and tables and their captions, and all references relating to citations within the ESM. Add the paper title and author names as a header or footer. Format it so that it looks neat and easy to read. It will not be copyedited or typeset.

### **Colour**

*Philosophical Transactions A* welcomes the submission of articles containing colour illustrations. We will publish any figures in colour online free of charge, and where the use of colour is deemed to be necessary, they will also be printed in colour free of charge.

### **Extra material**

We encourage you to think about additions that could add extra value to your paper. This could be in the form of additional information for your paper (e.g. data, tables, figures, text, movies etc.) or more general things such as interviews with the authors, audio files from presentations etc. Please contact your Guest Editor or the Editorial Office if you want to discuss ideas.

### **Data and material sharing and database deposit**

Please be aware that we have an [open data policy](#). We expect data, code and other materials to be made available for the editors and reviewers at first submission. You can upload files with your submission as supplementary material, or provide a link to where they can be accessed. On publication, these will need to be made publicly available in a recognised repository with a DOI. For initial submission, GitHub, Google docs etc is acceptable but these will need to be moved to a permanent archive later.

We recommend using [Dryad](#), as this service is experienced in helping authors to correctly curate their data, and we cover costs for authors using Dryad. However other repositories are also fine (e.g. Zenodo, OSF etc.). These repositories should be able to provide a private 'for review' link that you can use for the review phase. If you need a manuscript ID for data submission prior to submission, please refer to the original instructions email or contact me and I can provide this. You will be asked to provide a 'data accessibility statement' during submission to tell editors and reviewers how they can access the data.

Some guidance on best-practice for preparing and archiving your data can be found [here](#) and [here](#).

### **Open Access**

All papers will become free to read two years after publication. However, you may wish to select our open access option whereby payment of a fee will enable your article to be made freely available via the Royal Society website as soon as it is published. Such articles are covered by a Creative Commons license allowing redistribution and re-use. For more information please visit <https://royalsociety.org/journals/open-access/>. We strongly encourage you to opt for open access if you have the funds available – open access papers on average get downloaded and cited more and can increase the impact and reach of your work.

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Please direct any other queries about preparing or submitting your manuscript to the *Philosophical Transactions A* Editorial Office at [philtransa@royalsociety.org](mailto:philtransa@royalsociety.org).