

**“Theory and methods to prevent and manage occupational stress:
Innovations from around the globe”**

Special Issue of the [*International Journal of Stress Management*](#)

Guest Editors: Paula Brough, Maureen Dollard, and Michelle Tuckey

PURPOSE OF THE SPECIAL ISSUE

Occupational stress theory and management has a fifty year plus history. Recent theoretical developments include the introduction of new stress models (e.g., the Job Demands-Resources model; Demerouti, Bakker, Nachreiner, & Schaufeli, 2001); re-examining coping focusing on future rather than past behaviours (e.g., proactive coping; Folkman & Moskowitz, 2003); stress intervention utilising a risk management approach (Cox, Griffiths, Barlowe, Randall, Thomson, & Rial-González, 2000); and expanding the theoretical lens to include factors beyond – or that presage – the immediate work context in multilevel models (e.g., Dollard & Bakker, 2010). However methods that effectively manage occupational stress continue to have a mixed impact.

This Special Issue of the *International Journal of Stress Management (IJSM)* has two purposes:

1. First, this Special Issue will bring together recent innovations in stress theory and management which provide evidence that they are actually having an impact. High quality submissions are invited which actively address this recent observation: “*at present little real progress is being made in [stress] intervention research [and] we do not need ‘more of the same’*” (Cox et al, 2010, p. 217).
2. Second, knowledge development in Eastern and emerging economies is lacking (Kang, Staniford, Dollard, & Kompier, 2008)—precisely where it may be needed most (Kortum, Leka, & Cox, 2008). Yet the increasing adoption of western-style working practices in developing countries raises the critical issue of the extent to which western-derived theoretical models of stress are applicable to other populations. Some recent work has suggested for example, that cultural influences negate the traditional stress-strain relationships among some Asian workers (e.g., Morris, Podolny, & Sullivan, 2008).

We therefore invite high quality submissions from around the globe that directly address these current issues in occupational stress. We invite innovative theoretical and empirical contributions that integrate and synthesize recent advances in knowledge in these two areas, extend existing theories, or advance new theories and test them empirically. Interested scholars/practitioners are invited to submit original manuscripts in the following categories:

1. Theoretical articles that synthesize recent advances, extend existing theories or advance new theories about one or both of the above two critical issues in occupational stress.
2. Methodologically sound and original research which empirically trials stress management interventions and demonstrates links with outcome variables measuring individual and organisational health and performance.
3. Feature articles that outline original research relevant to where we have been, where we are and where we should go next and which addresses the above two critical issues in occupational stress.

In the selection of manuscripts for publication in the Special Issue, priority will be give to those papers that describe advances of the knowledge in the above two critical issues in occupational stress and are rigorous in logic and in support of data. Reviewers will be responding to the following criteria in their review of papers:

1. Is the paper relevant to the foci of the Special Issue?
2. Does the material represent an integration or extension of existing theories or advancement of a new theory in the area of occupational stress theory and/or management?
3. Is the paper well connected with current theory and relevant literature?
4. Does the paper demonstrate a clear empirical link between organisational process variables and outcome variables?

5. Is the methodology sound? Is the research design appropriate? Is the paper rigorous in logic and in the support of ideas (for empirical papers)?
6. Are cultural and other contextual factors clearly presented?
7. Is the paper well written?
8. Does the paper make a significant contribution to the advancement of knowledge in the area of occupational stress theorising and management?

Submissions should conform to guidelines for the preparation of manuscripts listed by the *International Journal of Stress Management* (see: <http://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/str/>).

In addition, this Special Issue will adopt a **two-tiered submission process**:

1. A half-page description of the proposed manuscript must be submitted to Dr. Paula Brough at p.brough@griffith.edu.au and Jessica Karp, *IJSM* Manuscript Coordinator, at jkarp@apa.org by **13 February 2012**. Proposals will be evaluated by one of the three Guest Editors: Paula Brough, Maureen Dollard, and Michelle Tuckey. The Guest Editors will send invitations to submit a full manuscript by **29 February 2012**.
2. Full manuscripts must be submitted by **30 June 2012**. Revised manuscripts must be submitted by **30 November 2012**. The Special Issue will be published in 2013.

We look forward to receiving your submission.

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