



SPIRITUAL CARE

Instructions for Authors

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1. Scope and general policies of the Journal

The journal SPIRITUAL CARE (SPIRCARE) serves as a platform for multidisciplinary research and interprofessional exchange. Articles present new research approaches, methods of practising Spiritual Care and the relevance of this research area for education in health professions and pastoral care. Moreover, the journal supports the conceptualization and further development of this area in German speaking countries as well as the international discussion about spiritual care.

SPIRCARE welcomes German and English language articles in the following categories:

- Original Articles
- Reviews
- Miscellaneous:
 - Field reports
 - Case reports
 - Essays
 - Letters to the editor
 - Editorials
 - Communications
 - Das Stichwort
 - Spiritual impulse
 - Interviews
 - Conference reports
 - Book reviews
 - Obituaries

Each issue of SPIRCARE deals with a main topic on which invited, renowned authors give an overview, report the results of their studies or outline projects. This is complemented by experience reports and descriptions of practical examples. In addition, Spiritual Care informs on a regular base about German and international discussion on spiritual care in medicine, nursing, social work, psychotherapy, pastoral care and other relevant fields. News from research associations and on public health university courses are provided as well as on events on the subject spiritual care.

Peer review: All contributions submitted for publication are reviewed by at least two renowned experts in the field, selected and invited by the Editor-in-Chiefs. All submissions will be subject to a rapid double-blind peer-review process. Authors may also indicate names of reviewers whom they wish to be included or excluded from reviewing their manuscripts.

Turnaround times: SPIRCARE aspires to notify authors about the review decision within 4 weeks from submission date. When manuscripts are accepted with revision, the revised manuscript should be returned within approx. 6 weeks. Accepted articles are published approx. 3–4 weeks after acceptance.

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2. Ethical conduct of research

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Declarations on Research funding, Author contributions and Competing interests are mandatory for submission. Declarations of Informed consent and Ethical approval are mandatory if the use of human study participants or the identification of personal information was necessary for scientific reasons. Otherwise these explanations can be omitted.

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Competing interests: Declaration / Authors state no conflict of interest.

Informed consent Informed consent was obtained from all individuals included in this study.

Ethical approval: The research related to human use complied with all the relevant national regulations, institutional policies, is in accordance the tenets of the Helsinki Declaration, and has been approved by the authors' institutional review board or equivalent committee (**approval number**).

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3. Submission of manuscripts

Please submit manuscripts exclusively online at:
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4. Preparation of manuscripts

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- All non-standard abbreviations should be listed alphabetically, (e.g.: DIN, dissolved inorganic nitrogen) after the keywords. In the text body, abbreviations are spelled out at first mention. Thereafter, only these abbreviations are to be used.
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- Numbers in the text, tables, or figures use decimal points, not commas.

General format and length of the types of articles accepted for submission

	Character count, references, figures and tables excluded	Word count in abstract	Number of keywords	Number of Tables & Figures	Number of references	Other
Original Article	<35,000	200	3-5	<8	<50	Title, abstract and keywords must be written in German and British English. English original articles must contain an abstract of about 1,000 words in German
Review	<35,000	200	3-5	<8	<150	Title, abstract and keywords must be written in German and British English. English review articles must contain an abstract of about 1000 words in German
Field Report	<15,000	200	3-5	<5	<10	
Case Report	<15,000	200	3-5	<5	<10	Introduction, Case Description and Discussion. At the end 3-5 learning points.
Essay	<15,000	n/a	n/a	<2	<10	Title, abstract and keywords must be written in German and British English. English Essays must contain an abstract of about 1,000 words in German
Letter to the Editor	<2,500	n/a	3-5	<2	<10	
Editorial	<2,500	n/a	n/a	<1	<10	
Communication	<1500	200	3-5	<4	<15	
Das Stichwort	<5,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	<10	
Spiritual Impulse	<5,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	<10	
Interview	<20,000	n/a	n/a	<1	<10	
Conference Report	<10,000	n/a	n/a	<1	<10	
Book review	<10,000	n/a	n/a	n/a	<10	
Obituary	<1,500	n/a	n/a	n/a	<10	

Studies dealing with diagnostic accuracy: Please refer to the 2015 Standards for Reporting of Diagnostic Accuracy checklist (**STARD**).

Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses of randomized controlled trials: Please refer to the Preferred Reporting Items for Systematic Reviews and Meta-Analyses statement (**PRISMA**). Authors must include a suitable PRISMA flow chart in their submission. The flow diagram depicts the flow of information through the different phases of a systematic review. A template of the PRISMA flow diagram is available [here](#) as a PDF and Word document.

Case Reports: Please refer to the The CARE Guidelines: Consensus-based Clinical Case Reporting Guideline Development (**CARE**). Cases must contain an Introduction, the Case Description and a Discussion. At the end, authors should give 3-5 learning points.

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- contributions of several authors In chronological order: (Frick 2004; Schmucker 2009; Weiher 2011)
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- page numbers for direct quotations: (Koenig 2012: 165–174) and/ or (Schweitzer 2004: 81 and 169)

Quotations of Bible texts in German follow Loccumer rules: Ökumenisches Verzeichnis der biblischen Eigennamen nach den Loccumer Richtlinien. Spelling/notation of biblical proper names follows also Loccumer rules: Gen 22,5.10 / 1 Joh 1,8–10; 2 Tim 4,13; Joh 1,1–2,14.

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Journal articles: Dean C, Kendell RE (1981) The symptomatology of puerperal illnesses. *British Journal of Psychiatry* 139:128–133.

Books and Monographs: Klein C, Bert H, Balck F (Hg.) (2011) *Gesundheit – Religion – Spiritualität. Konzepte, Befunde und Erklärungsansätze*. Weinheim: Juventa.

Book chapters: Exline JJ, Rose E. (2005) Religious and spiritual struggles. In: Paloutzian RF, Park CL (Hg.) *Handbook of the psychology of religion and spirituality*. New York: Guilford. 315–330.

Electronic Publications: Willer H et al.: *Ökolandbau in Deutschland* (online). Bad Dürkheim: Stiftung Ökologie & Landbau, 22.06.2003 (Zitierdatum: 01.08.2003), abrufbar unter http://www.soel.de/oekolandbau/deutschland_ueber.html

Article ahead of print: Loetz C, Müller J, Petersen Y, Mauer C (2013) Attachment theory and Spiritual Care: two threads converging in Palliative Care? *Evidence-Based Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. doi:10.1155/2013/740291. [Epub ahead of print].

Article of journals published electronically only: Büssing A, Hedtstück A, Khalsa SB, Ostermann T, Heusser P (2012) Development of specific aspects of spirituality during a 6-Month intensive Yoga practice. *Evidence-based Complementary and Alternative Medicine*. doi.org/10.1155/2012/981523. [Epub].

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Please contact the Editorial Office with any further questions:

Katharina Appelt

Tel. +49-30-26005-325

E-mail: SPIRCARE.editorial@deGruyter.com