

## Special Issue

# Human-Animal Interaction in Risk and Resilience in Childhood, Adolescence and Emerging Adulthood

### Message from the Guest Editors

Youths' relationships with companion animals may confer both protective effects and pose risks to their health and wellbeing, and animal welfare. Although there is increasing evidence of associations between positive human-animal interactions (HAI) and behavioral, psychosocial, and cognitive functioning, there is limited research examining the developmental mechanisms through which HAI contributes to risk and resilience during childhood through the transition to emerging adulthood. There is also a significant need for research that examines connections between HAI and social and health inequities that face contemporary youth. This special issue will bring together diverse scholars to advance research on the role of short-term and long-term HAI in risk and resilience during the developmental periods of childhood, adolescence, and/or emerging adulthood. We encourage submissions that report on diverse samples, underrepresented groups, and test for possible differences in HAI across population groups. We welcome empirical contributions related to the aforementioned topics and from various disciplines (i.e., psychology, social work, public health, and sociology).

---

### Guest Editors

Dr. Shelby Elaine McDonald

Dr. Roxanne Hawkins

Dr. Kerri Rodriguez

Prof. Dr. Joanne Williams

---

### Deadline for manuscript submissions

closed (28 February 2022)



## Behavioral Sciences

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 2.5  
CiteScore 3.1  
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/si/62998](https://mdpi.com/si/62998)

*Behavioral Sciences*  
Editorial Office  
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5  
4052 Basel, Switzerland  
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34  
[behavsci@mdpi.com](mailto:behavsci@mdpi.com)

[mdpi.com/journal/  
behavsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/behavsci)





# Behavioral Sciences

---

an Open Access Journal  
by MDPI

---

Impact Factor 2.5  
CiteScore 3.1  
Indexed in PubMed



[mdpi.com/journal/  
behavsci](https://mdpi.com/journal/behavsci)



## About the Journal

### Message from the Editor-in-Chief

---

#### Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Jerrell Cassady  
Department of Educational Psychology, Ball State University, Muncie, IN  
47306, USA

---

#### Author Benefits

##### High Visibility:

indexed within Scopus, SSCI (Web of Science), PubMed, PMC, PsycInfo, and other databases.

##### Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Psychology, Multidisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q2  
(Development)

##### Rapid Publication:

manuscripts are peer-reviewed and a first decision is provided to authors approximately 29.6 days after submission; acceptance to publication is undertaken in 3.4 days (median values for papers published in this journal in the first half of 2025).