

Special Issue

Belonging and Engagement of Students in Higher Education

Message from the Guest Editor

To promote belonging and engagement in higher education, institutions must create comprehensive learning environments that address the needs and expectations of their students. This includes active support from faculty, fostering peer relationships, implementing inclusive practices, and designing learning and extracurricular activities that encourage participation. Simultaneously, it is crucial to identify and mitigate barriers to belonging, such as discrimination, lack of representation, and socio-economic challenges. This Special Issue will address the following key research questions through theoretical and empirical studies: What are the purposes of fostering belonging and engagement among students in today's higher education institutions? What teaching and learning strategies are effective in promoting belonging and maximizing student engagement in higher education? We invite contributions that explore innovative pedagogical practices, the creation of inclusive environments, and theoretical insights into enhancing student belonging and engagement in higher education.

Guest Editor

Dr. Mi-Young An

Department of Earlychildhood Education, Cheju Halla University, Jeju 63092, Republic of Korea

Deadline for manuscript submissions

1 May 2026



Social Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 1.7
CiteScore 3.1



mdpi.com/si/230638

Social Sciences
Editorial Office
MDPI, Grosspeteranlage 5
4052 Basel, Switzerland
Tel: +41 61 683 77 34
socsci@mdpi.com

mdpi.com/journal/

[socsci](https://socsci.mdpi.com)





Social Sciences

an Open Access Journal
by MDPI

Impact Factor 1.7
CiteScore 3.1



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



About the Journal

Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Social Sciences is an international, open access, peer-reviewed journal publishing the latest research across all disciplines of the social sciences, including anthropology, economics, law, linguistics, education, geography, history, political science, psychology, sociology, and other related areas. The journal is especially interested in interdisciplinary research, and aims to encourage creative, innovative, and critical reflections across social science disciplines. The journal welcomes conventional length articles, shorter Research Notes or articles, as well as Special Issue submissions, as long as they meet the journal's standards of quality and originality.

Editor-in-Chief

Prof. Dr. Daniel McCarthy

Department of Sociology, University of Surrey, Guildford GU2 7XH, UK

Author Benefits

Open Access:

free for readers, with article processing charges (APC) paid by authors or their institutions.

High visibility:

indexed within Scopus, ESCI (Web of Science), RePEc, and other databases.

Journal Rank:

JCR - Q2 (Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary) / CiteScore - Q2 (General Social Sciences)