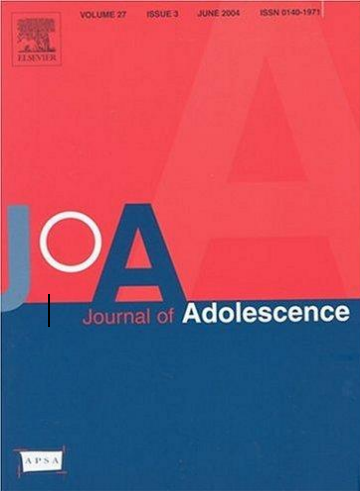




XXth conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence

**August 18-21, 2026 - Utrecht Science Park
Utrecht, The Netherlands**

Call for Abstracts

Journal of Adolescence: Special Issue

‘Adolescents’ Civic Engagement and Agency in Challenging Times’

GUEST EDITORS:

Katharina Eckstein (content editor)

Susan Branje (conference editor)

Wim Beyers (process editor)

The guest editors and the *Journal of Adolescence* invite contributors to the 20th Biennial Conference of the European Association for Research on Adolescence (EARA) in Utrecht, the Netherlands, and all EARA members to submit an extended abstract for a special issue on **Adolescents’ Civic Engagement and Agency in Challenging Times**. The topic includes youth civic engagement and agency on major societal challenges, such as climate change, social or migration-related injustice, and polarization. This topic was a major theme at the conference, and clearly a very relevant and actual issue.

In a rapidly changing world, adolescents navigate growing up while making sense of the political and societal challenges surrounding them. Against this backdrop, it is important to understand how young people come to see their role in society and develop the capacity and motivation to engage with it. This Special Issue seeks to advance our understanding of youth civic engagement and agency in the context of current societal challenges. In particular, we welcome submissions that:

1. Focus on developmental processes or age-specific challenges (quantitative or qualitative) of youth civic engagement and agency on major societal issues.
2. Provide an in-depth examination of specific forms and expressions of civic engagement and agency, for instance, including political participation, critical consciousness, or pro-environmental action.
3. Consider personal, social, media-related, or societal dynamics in which civic engagement and agency unfold.
4. Approach adolescents as active agents who interpret, negotiate, and respond to societal challenges.

We think that contributions from several researchers at the most recent EARA conference in Utrecht can help shed light on these topics.

Eligibility criteria for being considered for the special issue are the following:

- Only contributions by EARA members or researchers who added to the EARA 2026 conference will be considered.
- First authors of submitted abstracts should, at the time of submission, be EARA members. If not yet, please check out www.earaonline.org to become a member.
- Empirical studies are preferred, but theoretical/review papers can also be submitted.
- We welcome studies with diverse research designs, including quantitative (longitudinal as well as cross-sectional studies including age differences or focus on specific periods), qualitative papers, and studies using mixed methods.
- The paper clearly focuses on youth civic engagement and agency on major societal issues as described above.

Submissions

A two-page abstract (approximately 700 words) should be submitted by November 30, 2026 to the Wiley submission system at <https://wiley.atyponrex.com/journal/JAD>, following the five steps below:

1. Click on the '**Start submission**' button at the top right.
2. **Select Article Type:** select the intended final article type for your full paper (e.g., *Research Article*, *Review Article*), and check all the ethical topics below, and **Confirm**.
3. **Upload Manuscript:** Upload your **two-page extended abstract file** as the main document. Of course, also upload a **title page** including your manuscript title, authors' names and affiliations, address for correspondence including email address, acknowledgements, and conflict of interest statement. No other documents are needed in this phase. And **Confirm**. Then confirm or add a Title and again an Abstract (either same two-page file, or short summary). And all next confirmation steps, until you reach '**Additional Information**'.
4. Their you can select '**Yes, this is for a special issue**'. And then select "**Adolescents' civic engagement and agency in challenging times**" from the drop-down menu.
5. Check all further confirmation boxes and after the **Final Review**, you can click on '**Complete my submission**' to send it to the editorial office.

Abstracts should contain a clear description of research goals, questions and hypotheses, the sample(s) used, the methods and analyses performed, and (if available) the main results and conclusions. A maximum of two figures and/or tables can be added to the abstract on an extra page. Moreover, the abstract should highlight how the study will add new insights on youth civic engagement and agency on major societal issues, and point out the practical or policy implications of your potential findings.

The Guest Editors will select from the submitted abstracts a shortlist of papers that fit the demands of this special issue. Selected authors will be contacted and asked to develop the full manuscript in line with the regular author guidelines of JOA no later than December 31, 2026. If your abstract is selected, you will have time to submit the full paper till April 15th, 2027. After that, we enter a review and revision period.

Planned final publication, including volume and page numbers of the complete issue, is planned for late 2027 or early 2028. But note that JOA publishes online as soon as accepted, article-by-article & day-by-day.

For more information, please contact the guest editors:

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