



## Call for Contributors: THE HANDBOOK OF LANGUAGE AND MENTAL HEALTH

Bloomsbury is pleased to announce the development of a very exciting new project: *The Handbook of Language and Mental Health*. The *Handbook* is a single-volume, edited work of reference, mainly aimed at a scholarly market. The book will present a theoretical and research-based state-of-the-art comprehensive overview of an interdisciplinary field by bringing together a range of critical and pluralistic perspectives. The chapters will be written by leading and emerging scholars from around the globe for a wide range of disciplines, including linguistics, sociology, psychology, media, culture, psychotherapy, arts, disability studies, and literature. The *Handbook* aims to include chapters on a range of topics that critically consider key historical themes and enduring debates, main theoretical and philosophical stances, examine main methodologies paradigms and scholarly traditions, and consider future trajectories within the field of language and mental health as well as the implications to individuals with lived experience. The *Handbook* is intended to be one of the most significant publications available for scholars in these fields. We are currently seeking contributors for *The Handbook of Language and Mental Health*, so please find below some relevant information on Handbooks.

### Wish List of Chapter Topics:

- **Good research practice and methodological approaches**, such as ethics in language and mental health research, qualitative and quantitative methodological approaches, and ethics and methods of data collection.
- **Language and mental health conditions**, such as the language of the DSM, language of specific mental health disorders [e.g., depression and suicide; ADHD, dementia; neurodiversity; psychosis; eating disorders; language in psychotherapy and counselling; language and typical and atypical child development].
- **Pathologising, stigmatising mental health discourses, and best representation practices**. Stigmatising media representations, focusing on specific populations including LGBTQI+, misogyny, migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, ethnicity, and race as well as alternative and stigma-free portrayals.
- **AI, language and mental health**, such as machine learning, large language models, Web and Smartphone Apps, chatbots and online therapy.
- **Mental health in cultural studies and the arts**, such as language and mental health in literature, art, applied theatre, popular music.

This list is not exhaustive and authors are welcome to propose another chapter topic if it is relevant to the theme of language and mental health.

Please send your book chapter proposal of up to 300 words with an author's bio(s) (50 words per author) to Dr. Laura Cariola ([Laura.Cariola@ed.ac.uk](mailto:Laura.Cariola@ed.ac.uk)) and Dr. Mike Birch ([michael.birch@mcla.edu](mailto:michael.birch@mcla.edu)).

**Submission deadline of book chapter proposal: 15 November 2023**

**Tentative publication date of handbook: 2026**

### What is a Handbook?

- A Handbook is a single-volume, edited work of reference. Handbooks are intended to present an overview of a discipline (or core disciplinary field), its methodologies, current debates, history and future.
- A Handbook is a specifically scholarly work (though some may also reflect professional/practitioner interests) and is not in any way a pedagogic work. However, if well constructed and written, a Handbook may well have considerable appeal to graduate students and even senior year undergraduates.
- A Handbook should be international in the scope of its scholarship and coverage.
- In bringing together a broad, systematic and structured range of essays – each of which is effectively a “position paper” – a Handbook should effectively map a discipline.



- In defining the parameters of a discipline, a Handbook should analyse the theoretical diversity/coherence of a discipline, while also looking at connections with cognate disciplines.
- Handbooks are published in Hardback initially. They are subsequently reprinted in paperback at an affordable price for a wide range of readers.

#### **Handbook Length and Chapter Coverage**

- A Handbook which covers a subdiscipline within in the interdisciplinary field of linguistics, psychology, culture, and mental health, such as the *Handbook of Language and Mental Health*, should be 200,000-225,000 words long and have close to 25 Chapters.
- Each chapter should be about 8-10,000 words (inclusive of all notes & references).

Each essay in the Handbook is effectively a “position paper”, a state-of-the-art overview of a branch of the subject. This being the case, each essay is expected to:

- Provide a substantial review of the main ideas and debates in the subject through a review of the literature, outlining the historical development of ideas in the field.
- Assess the main methodologies/paradigms in the field today, outline the main questions which the subject has sought or seeks to address, describe the current research agendas, analyse how the subject does or does not draw on related disciplines (or practices/professions if appropriate), and how it has or can explore key concerns (ethical, epistemological, etc).
- Outline the likely future of the field, possible developments, new research directions.