Call for Papers

Shiken is seeking submissions for future issues on an ongoing basis. The process of review, revision, and preparation for publication usually takes six to 12 months, depending on the nature of the submission and extent of required revisions. *Shiken* aims to publish articles concerning language assessment issues relevant to classroom practitioners and language program administrators. This includes, but is not limited to, research papers, replication studies, review articles, informed opinion pieces, technical advice articles, and qualitative descriptions of classroom testing issues. Article length should reflect the purpose of the article. Short, focused articles that are accessible to non-specialists are preferred and we reserve the right to edit submissions for relevance and length. Research papers should range from 4000 to 8000 words, but longer articles are acceptable provided they are clearly focused and relevant. Novice researchers should aim for short papers that address a single research question. Opinion pieces should be of 3000 words or less and focus on a single main issue. Many aspects of language testing draw justified criticism and we welcome articles critical of existing practices, but authors must provide evidence to support any claims made. Isolated anecdotes or claims based on "commonsense" are not a sufficient evidential basis for publication.

Manuscripts should be formatted as a Microsoft Word document (.doc or .docx format) using 12 point Times New Roman font, although plain text files (.txt format) without formatting are also acceptable. The page size should be set to A4, with a 2.5 cm margin. The body text should be left justified, with single spacing for the text within a paragraph and paragraphs separated by a double line space. Separate sections for tables and figures should be appended to the end of the document following any appendices, using the section headings "Tables" and "Figures". Tables and figures should be numbered and titled following the guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition*. Within the body of the text, indicate approximately where each table or figure should appear by typing "Insert Table x" or "Insert Figure x" centered on a new line, with "x" replaced by the number of the table or figure.

Research should be based around the following sections:

Abstract: Up to 150 words summarizing the key points of the research.

Keywords: Five to seven key words for use in indexing by search engines.

Introduction: Statement of the research issue; review of previous major findings and methodological framework; statement of research questions.

Method: Participants and context; research instrument and materials; data collection and analysis.

Results: Summaries of observations; descriptive and inferential statistics; tables and figures describing and explaining the key findings.

Discussion: Evaluation and interpretation of the findings; discussion of how the findings relate to the research questions and their implications; limitations of the study.

Conclusion: Summary and general implications; suggestions for future research directions.

References: A reference list containing all sources cited in the text. Referencing should strictly follow the guidelines of the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association, Sixth Edition*.

Appendices: Samples of research instruments, test items, and other material that is too voluminous to include within the main text of the report.