International Journal of Consumer Studies
Call for Papers and Peer Reviewers/Referees
Special Issue on Consumer Issues in Credit, Debt and Financial Literacy
March 2012

The International Journal of Consumer Studies is published for academics, policy makers and lay people around the world who are interested in consumer affairs. It is published six times a year and strives to publish original articles of the highest quality. Designed to provide an international forum for academic and research papers about consumer affairs, it publishes studies of interest to an international audience and at the leading edge of consumer research throughout the world. The scope of the journal includes: consumer sciences and their application, consumer policy, and consumer education. Topics covered include: consumer safety, consumer behaviour, the consumer ecosystem, and family and household studies. Paper length is normally 5000 to 6000 words. The Journal, now in its 34th year of publication, is registered with ISI for Social and Behavioural Sciences.

The global financial crisis has highlighted the extent of consumer debt and its implications for governments, business and families in achieving a good standard of living and quality of life. As a consequence of the financial crises it became obvious that individuals in their role as consumers and members of a household are often overcharged in budget management. In addition to this very basic issue they often feel disoriented and unconfident in financial decisions and processes, such as bookkeeping, raising of credit, financial investment and closing of an insurance contract. The reason for these deficits is not only a lack of information rather than the missing of competences in real life economics. The results are often precarious financial and social consumer situations.

The Journal is interested in developing a strong body of academic literature relating to consumers and debt, credit and financial literacy, for publication in a Special Issue in March 2012. Manuscripts are particularly welcome on the following topics:

- The financial management of private households
- Financial literacy, capability and economics education – studies, models and best practice
- Consumer decisions – private finances and investments
- Consumer decisions on debts
- Prevention of over indebtedness
- The impact of credit and debt on the consumer – quality of life, poverty, social status and future

This list is by no means exhaustive. The journal and editor of this special issue would welcome any work which contributes to a better understanding of the consumer as related to credit and debt. Articles may be theoretical, report on detailed research or reflect on practice. Articles should add significantly to the research literature in this area.

Expressions of interest and an outline of the proposed paper (up to 500 words) should be submitted by March 31st 2011 (finished manuscripts by July 31st 2011) to the guest editors of this issue,
Dr. Konstantin von Normann, Sabine Reinhart-Maack
e-mail contact: k.vonnormann@ilr.uni-bonn.de

Call for Peer Reviewers/Referees

The International Journal of Consumer Studies offers an opportunity for interested academics, professionals and practitioners in the fields of financial literacy, consumer credit and debt studies to join other eminent scholars and professionals in engaging in the double-blind peer review process. As a referee, you may be called upon to review two or three articles per year, using the format and guidelines provided by the journal. Interested parties should forward a brief note to the address below. Please indicate up to six topic areas in which you are confident of being able to provide a considered assessment, and your contact information.

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