

Call for Papers

The Next 100 Years: Reflections on the Centennial of Social Service Review

The 2026 volume marks 100 years since *Social Service Review* was first published, making it one of the oldest continuously published social welfare journals. To celebrate all that we have learned over the past 100 years—and to build on that learning in the next 100—the journal intends to publish a curated collection of papers to help guide knowledge moving forward.

Papers in this collection will serve as guideposts for the future of social welfare and the journal, summarizing major themes and advancements in knowledge but primarily focusing on where research should go next. Papers should be scholarly in nature, but written in an accessible and lively manner, highlighting conceptual and empirical advancements in defined areas of study as well as where more knowledge is needed. Our call for papers is broadly formulated, but our expectation is that each article will be concise, thought-provoking, and have a distinct point of view regarding the state of the literature and areas for future inquiry. Full articles are expected to be about ten double-spaced pages, or 2,500-3,000 words.

Examples of potential articles include (but are not limited to):

- An assessment of the state of knowledge and future research needs in a specific field of study relevant to the readership of SSR (e.g., work-family policy, child welfare, trauma-informed practice, nonprofit accountability).
- Historical parallels and differences that affected scholarship and our understanding of social problems at the time of the journal's start and also shape the current moment.
- How knowledge development, publishing, or academic priorities have changed over the years in a specific subfield, and where they should go next.
- The future of research in social work and social welfare.
- Creative, fun ideas are welcome (e.g., an imagined conversation between a historical figure like Jane Addams or Sophonisba Breckenridge and a contemporary figure).

OF NOTE:

- We are planning an authors' meeting and reception at the 2026 SSWR conference to help authors refine their final drafts.
- Papers in the collection will be featured at a larger symposium at SSWR 2027.
- We encourage submissions from scholars at all career stages, including doctoral students.

PROCESS:

- One-page abstracts are due to ssr@uchicago.edu by September 15, 2025.
- Abstracts will be reviewed by editorial board members. The editor will notify authors regarding invitations to submit a full paper by November 1, 2025.
- Full papers will be due by February 1, 2026.
- Full papers will be published in the September and December 2026 issues.
- The planning committee for the collection includes Laura Abrams, Yoosun Park, Odessa Gonzalez Benson, Alejandra Ros Pilarz, and Jennifer Mosley, as well as journal staff (Theresa Rothschadl and Emma Heidorn).
- Questions should be directed to ssr@uchicago.edu.