



Coffee Lecture

# Funding of Open Access Articles in Special Issues

Marius Stricker  
19 June 2024

## New knowledge in 10 minutes:

- Become familiar with the new funding regulation for special issues by the SNSF
- get to know alternative funding for your article submitted to a special issue

# Agenda

1. Special Issue: Definition
2. Publishing in Special Issues: Criticism
3. SNSF's new OA funding regulation: Articles in Special Issues generally excluded
4. ETH vs. SNSF funding: Supposed contradiction?

# Special Issue: Definition

«A special issue **focuses on a specific area of research** that has a broad appeal and **falls within the aims and scope of the journal**. A special issue also provides an excellent opportunity to review a particular theme, examine previously unaddressed aspects, propose and develop new approaches, exchange perspectives and encourage new lines of research.» Source: [Elsevier](#) (retrieved June 19, 2024)

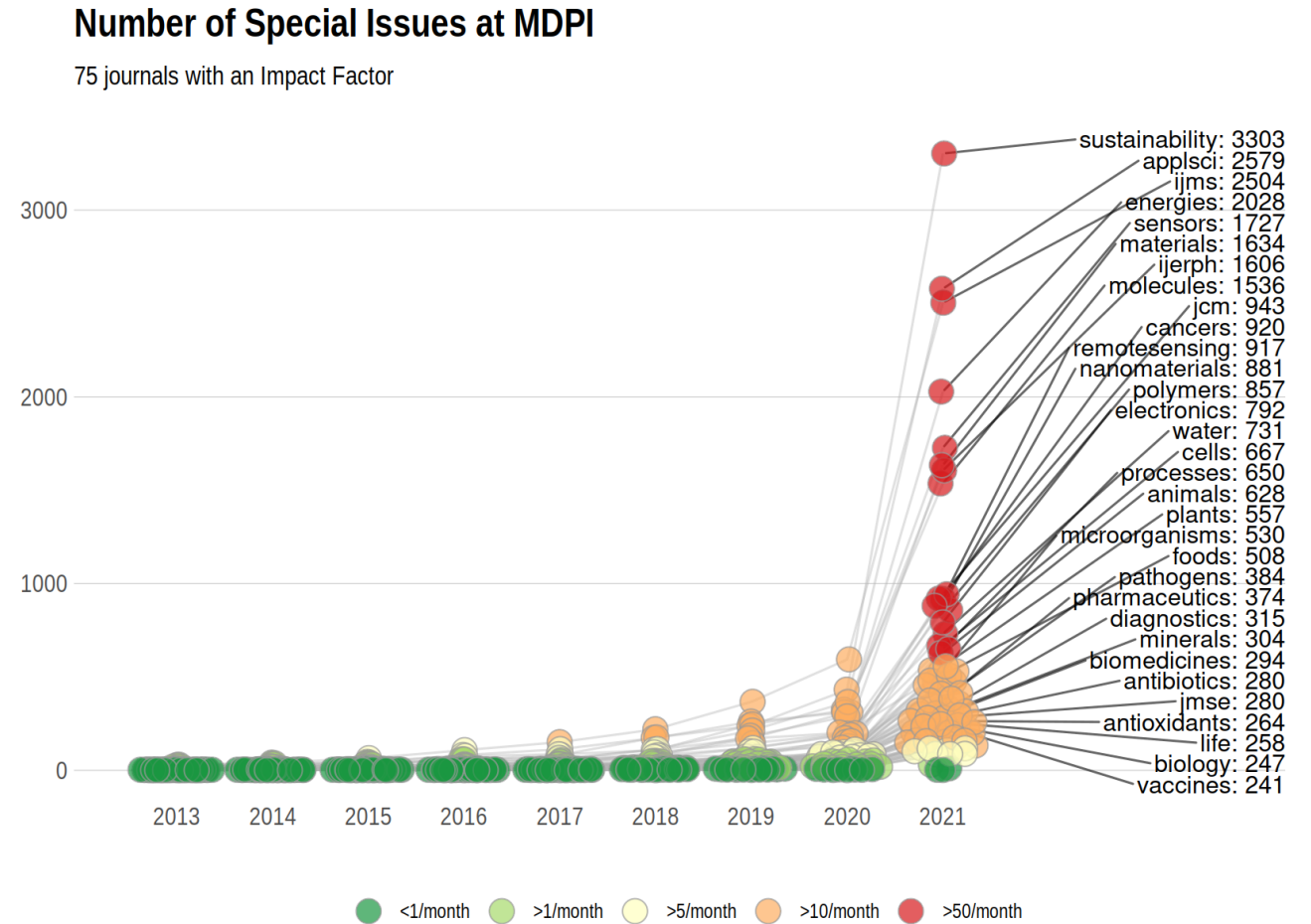
«Special Issues may **include original primary research Articles, Reviews, and other content types published by the journal**. All manuscripts submitted to [...] Special Issues **are assessed according to the journal's standard editorial criteria** [...].» Source: [Springer](#) (retrieved June 19, 2024)

- ⊗ Focus on specific research area/topic
- ⊗ Subject within aims and scope of an existing journal
- ⊗ Invited guest-editors
- ⊗ Comprise of different research articles
- ⊗ Peer review

# Publishing in Special Issues: Criticism

2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021*
388	475	710	990	1386	2342	4096	6756	39587

Number of Special Issues at 74 MDPI journals with an IF. \*open special issues with a closing date in 2021



code @paolocrosetto -- data scraped from MDPI website

Source: <https://paolocrosetto.wordpress.com/2021/04/12/is-mdpi-a-predatory-publisher/> (retrieved June 19, 2024)

# SNSF's new OA funding regulation: Articles in SI\* generally excluded

## Funding exclusion statement

«More and more articles are appearing in special issues. This **large increase and inconsistent processes** have led to some negative developments. From February 2024, the SNSF will no longer fund Open Access articles in special issues.» Source [SNSF press release November 11, 2023](#) (retrieved June 19, 2024)

## Arguments

- ⊗ 33 (2018) to 315 (2022) SNSF funded articles in special issues
- ⊗ Questionable journal management standards
- ⊗ Sustainability aim by SNSF contradicts «negative developments»

**No SI article funding anymore, but OA articles still compliant with SNSF requirements**

\*SI = Special Issue(s)

# ETH vs. SNSF funding: Supposed contradiction?

## ETH Library funding



- ✓ Funding for articles either in gold journals OR in hybrid journals covered by agreement
- ✗ Funding for articles in hybrid journals outside agreements
- ✗ Funding for articles with SNSF grant in gold journals excluded → for specifications see [ETH Open Access Wiki](#) and [APC guidelines](#)
- ✓ Exception → funding for articles with SNSF grant in SI, either in gold journals OR in hybrid journals covered by an agreement
- ✗ Funding for SI (equal to edited volumes)

## SNSF funding



- ✓ Funding for articles in gold journals
- ✗ Funding for articles in hybrid journals
- ✗ Funding for articles in special issues of gold journals

# Support

[e-publishing@library.ethz.ch](mailto:e-publishing@library.ethz.ch)

+41 44 632 72 22

Information about Open Access

[ETH Library Website](#)

[Open Access Wiki](#)





# Thanks for your attention!

Next Coffee Lecture:

**Smart Maps - How to research and use electronic maps efficiently**

26 June 2024, 3.15 p.m.

[www.library.ethz.ch/coffee-lectures](http://www.library.ethz.ch/coffee-lectures)