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Rheology as a Tool for the Investigation of Structures of Polymeric Materials

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Message from the Guest Editor

Dear Colleagues,

Rheological properties of polymer melts have been widely applied to optimize processing operations. Less frequently used is the potential of rheology as a tool to support the structure analysis of polymeric materials. This Special Issue of *Polymers* intends to contribute to this field. Measurements of the viscous and elastic behavior and thermorheological properties will be discussed with respect to molar mass, molar mass distribution, and branching. Moreover, their potential for following up degradation and crosslinking processes is a topic of interest for reaction kinetics and polymer applications. Furthermore, the structural aspects underlying the reversible property changes due to strong mechanical pretreatments–the so-called refining effect–are still a matter of research. Contributions of rheological investigations to the development of crystalline structures in a melt and to the formation of agglomerates in heterogeneous polymers like particle-filled systems and polymer blends are other challenging topics for this issue.

Prof. Dr. Helmut Münstedt
Guest Editor

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Message from the Editor-in-Chief

Since its foundation in 2009, *Polymers* has developed into an internationally renowned, extremely successful open access journal. The editorial team and the editorial board dedicatedly combine open-access publishing and high-quality rigorous peer reviewing. The performance of the journal has proven this strategy to be well-suited and highly successful. This is reflected in the increasing impact factor of *Polymers*, the most recent one being 4.9.

I would like to invite you to contribute to the success of the journal by sending us your high quality research papers. We would be pleased to welcome you as one of our authors.

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