

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

The publication of an article in a peer-reviewed journal is an essential building block in the development of a coherent and respected network of knowledge. It is a direct reflection of the quality of the work of the authors and the institutions that support them. Peer-reviewed articles support and embody the scientific method. It is therefore important to agree upon standards of expected ethical behavior for all parties involved in the act of publishing: the author, the journal editor, the peer reviewer, the publisher and the society-owned or sponsored journals.

Duties of Editors

- Publication decisions
- Fair play
- Confidentiality
- Disclosure and Conflict of Interest
- Involvement and cooperation in investigations

Duties of Reviewers

- Contribution to Editorial Decisions
- Promptness
- Confidentiality
- Standards of Objectivity
- Acknowledgement of Sources
- Disclosure and Conflict of Interest

Duties of Authors

- Reporting standards
- Data Access and Retention
- Originality and Plagiarism
- Multiple, Redundant or Concurrent Publication
- Acknowledgement of Sources
- Authorship of the Paper
- Hazards and Human or Animal Subjects
- Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest
- Fundamental errors in published work

Author's responsibilities

- Authors are obliged to participate in peer review process;
- All authors have significantly contributed to the research;
- Authors include statement that all data in article are real and authentic;
- Authors are obliged to provide retractions or corrections of mistakes;
- Reported work is original and written by the authors;
- Reported work has not been previously published and has been submitted only to that journal;
- Where material is taken from other sources (including their own published writing), the source is clearly cited and, where appropriate, permission is obtained;
- The work does not infringe on the rights of others, including privacy rights and intellectual property rights;
- Data are true and not manipulated;
- Data are their own or they have permission to use data reproduced in their paper;
- Any real or apparent conflicting or competing interest is clearly stated upon submission of the paper (this would include funding assistance);
- Authors should adhere to all research ethics guidelines of their discipline, particularly where human or animal subjects are involved;
- Authors should contact the editor to identify and correct any material errors upon discovery, whether prior or subsequent to publication of their work;

- Authorship of the paper is accurately represented, including ensuring that all individuals credited as authors participated in the actual authorship of the work and that all who participated are credited and have given consent for publication.

Responsibility for the reviewers

- Judgments should be objective;
- Reviewers should have no conflict of interest with respect to the research, the authors, and/or the research funders;
- Reviewers should point out relevant published work that is not cited;
- Reviewed articles should be treated confidentially;
- Reviewers should maintain the confidentiality of the review process;
- Reviewers should immediately alert the journal editor of any real or potential competing interest that could affect the impartiality of their review and decline to review when appropriate
- Reviewers should conduct themselves fairly and impartially;
- We are aware, of course, that academics will come from a particular school of thought and/or may have strong ties to a particular interest. All we ask is that reviewers strive to act fairly. If in doubt about whether a conflict exists, a reviewer should be transparent and seek the views of the journal editor.

Editorial responsibilities

- Editors have complete responsibility and authority to reject/accept an article. They always strive to meet the needs of readers and authors;
- Editors should have no conflict of interest with respect to articles they reject/accept;
- Editors should only accept a paper when reasonably certain about the content;
- When errors are found, editors should promote publication of a correction or retraction;
- Editors should preserve anonymity of reviewers;
- Editors should maintain and promote consistent ethical policies for their journals;
- Editors should oversee and act to enforce those policies as needed in a fair and consistent manner;
- Editors should ensure the confidentiality of the review process;
- Editors should exercise the highest standards of personal integrity in their work as editor of the journal, recognizing and planning for instances in which they could have a competing interest or the appearance of a competing interest;
- Editors should work with authors, reviewers, and editorial board members as necessary to ensure they are sufficiently advised regarding the journal's ethics and publishing policies and that the journal's stewardship on ethical matters is fair, unbiased, and timely;
- Editors should promote fairness and equality and oppose discrimination;
- Editors should promote transparency of and respect for the academic record;
- Editors should respect the confidentiality of others;

Publishing Ethics issues

- Monitor/safeguard publishing ethics;
- Establish guidelines for retracting articles;
- Maintain integrity of the academic record;
- Preclude business needs from compromising intellectual and ethical standards;
- Be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed;
- Guard against plagiarism and/or fraudulent data;

All authors are requested to disclose any actual or potential conflict of interest including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people or organizations for the three years prior to the start of the submitted work that could inappropriately influence, or be perceived to influence, their work.

Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract or as part of a published lecture or academic thesis or as an electronic preprint), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder.