

Brill's Publication Ethics

Over three centuries of scholarly publishing



BRILL

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Mission Statement

We operate from a strong belief that the Humanities, Social Sciences, and International Law are areas of scholarship vital for addressing today's global challenges. This belief motivates us to offer our authors the best possible service and infrastructure to disseminate their research. In order to advance discovery and learning, we are keen to support scholars by providing them with access to the finest research tools and reference works in their fields. The relevance and high quality of the works we publish is key to the sustainability of our business.

Statement of Compliance

In order to ensure the research integrity of our publications, and by so doing to ensure that we achieve our aim of providing scholars with superior service, Brill works closely with authors and editors to promote adherence to the core principles of publication ethics as articulated by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE). We encourage further exploration of COPE's resources on their website (<https://publicationethics.org/>). All manuscripts, archival materials, and supporting files (to include but not limited to interviews, images, data, infographics, audio and video, and facsimiles), whether submitted to a peer-reviewed publication (book series, journal, or major reference work) or a primary source online collection, are expected to conform to the standards of ethical behavior promulgated by COPE. For the benefit of our authors, editors, reviewers, readership, and staff, we have listed below the most pressing ethical concerns facing the academic publishing community.

For detailed discussion of and an abundance of resources to assist in handling specific cases of research misconduct and violations of publication ethics, please visit the COPE website.



Authorship

Authorship may be defined as the creator of a concept, discovery or idea, as well as one or more individuals who produce knowledge that is made public and disseminated. Brill's definition of authorship is in line with the guidelines put together by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) [available here](#).

Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors.

Authors may use Artificial Intelligence (AI) and/or Large Language Models (LLMs) in the writing and preparation of their manuscripts when doing so with transparency, as outlined in the COPE guidelines, maintaining full responsibility and accountability for their research. [Read our full position statement on author / editor use of AI and LLMs here](#).

The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are included, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the publication and have agreed to its submission for publication.



Types of Research Misconduct and Violations of Publication Ethics

Breaches of Duty of Care

Including but not limited to the following: breaches of confidentiality without prior consent; failure to disclose and to obtain consent to exposure to risks and dangers – whether physical, emotional, intellectual, or reputational – of participants (including subjects, researchers, and associates) and to provide safeguards against such risks and dangers; failure to observe legal and ethical requirements or obligations of care for human and animal subjects or human organs or tissue, or for the protection of the environment; failure to show due respect in the representation of human remains and sacred sites.

For information regarding legal and ethical requirements for studies involving human or animal subjects, see page 5.

Censorship

The suppression of any text, argumentation, supporting materials (audio or visual), data, facts, reporting, citations, or any other materials for reasons of potential personal, professional, institutional, or governmental reprisals and not for reasons of merit or intellectual rigor. Self-censorship is widely recognized by the academic community as a form of censorship.

Conflicts of Interest

Incompatibility of aims, objectives, concerns, priorities, and advantages between parties often due to affiliation or official capacity, particularly when one or more parties stands to benefit materially or reputationally from such incompatibility. Furthermore, the individual with a conflict of interest is unable equitably to manage the actual or potential adverse effects of the conflict of interest on the other parties. Authors, editors, and reviewers have an ethical obligation to disclose conflicts of interest.

Discriminatory and Harassing Research Practices and Language

Differential treatment of and conduct toward an individual or group of people based on their race, color, national origin, religion, sex (including pregnancy and gender identity), age, marital and parental status, disability, sexual orientation, or genetic information.

Fabrication

Manufacture of information (to include but not limited to data, citations, quotations, transcripts, archival documents, and audio and visual supporting materials) intended to deceptively promote or diminish or otherwise mislead.

Failure to Acknowledge Sources

Includes all forms of plagiarism (see below). Also includes intentionally or unintentionally omitting to cite irreproducible sources.

Failure to Meet Legal and Professional Obligations

Failure to adhere to the standards and limitations imposed by relevant professional bodies and research funders or Research Ethics Committees (e.g., the [European Commission](#)).

Falsification

Alteration through addition, omission, or distortion of information (to include but not limited to data, citations, quotations, transcripts, archival documents, and audio and visual supporting materials) intended to deceptively promote or diminish or otherwise mislead.

Ideological or Political Bias

Explicit or implicit sympathy or antipathy toward another school of thought or propensity or differential treatment of another school of thought or propensity that results in the objective standards of intellectual rigor being discarded in favor of a personal and tendentious assessment of merit.

Malicious Use of Logical Fallacies; or Inflammatory Practices and Language

Specious deployment of argumentation; or hateful and incendiary methods and speech/writing intended to attack and undermine the legitimacy, credibility, and/or reputation of another.

Misrepresentation of Authorship

Exaggerating or understating/omitting contribution by one or more parties to a publication.

- **Ghostwriting:** Contributing, in part or in whole, to a publication with the expectation that one's authorship will not be credited and will be intentionally concealed. Inducements for ghostwriting often include either the liberty to promote controversial ideas or to avoid accusations of conflicts of interest, or both. This might also take place as a favor to elevate the standing of the acknowledged author(s).
- **Marketplace authorship:** Buying or selling authorship of academic manuscripts, regardless of whether the manuscripts have already been accepted for publication, typically for a perceived or real reputational or material advantage.
- **Honorary authorship:** Naming senior and often executive or influential members of one's department or the institution where research occurred who may have helped secure funding and may be able to do so again.
- **Gift authorship:** Naming a senior or junior colleague as an author with the understanding, explicit or implicit, that the other party will do the same at some point (often a means of inflating publication lists).
- **Guest authorship:** Inclusion of senior or high-profile authors in an attempt to improve chances of publication and/or the impact of the publication.
- **Coercive authorship:** A senior researcher forcing a (often) junior researcher to include an honorary, gift, or guest author.
- **The Council of Science Editors has identified principles of authorship on which there is general consensus across disciplines.**

Misrepresentation of Qualifications and/or Experience

Deliberately providing false information regarding the nature or duration of one's educational and professional background, experience, activities, affiliations, memberships, associations, degrees, or certifications.

Multiple Manuscript Submission

Submitting the same manuscript to more than one publisher, or even to more than one publication at the same publisher, without full disclosure.

Plagiarism

Appropriation of another person's words, ideas, methods, results, or artwork as one's own (i.e., without appropriate citation).

- Self-plagiarism: Repurposing of one's own words, ideas, methods, results, or artwork without appropriate citation.
- Compression plagiarism¹: Distillation and repurposing of the words, ideas, methods, results, or artwork of a substantially longer work without appropriate citation. Concealment of this ethical violation relies on a ruse of concentration.
- Translation plagiarism: Repurposing of the words, ideas, methods, results, or artwork of a work written in a foreign language without appropriate citation. Concealment of this ethical violation relies on interpretational and grammatical divergences.

Pseudonyms

The use of a false name for the purposes of concealment of one's identity. Motives for the use of pseudonyms are often a combination of the following: to discuss/promote one's own work; to conceal authorship of hoax articles; to conceal authorship of unpopular or controversial articles; to conceal one's identity from a particular editor. All of these motives are unacceptable and constitute breaches of publication ethics for reasons of accountability, accuracy, illusion of interest, and the effect on downstream literature².

Segmented Publication

Also known as "salami publication" or "salami slicing", the practice of dividing the data from one research project among multiple publications, often with redundancies in hypotheses, methodologies, and conclusions, as a strategy to inflate the number of one's publications.

Undisclosed Errors in Published Work

Failure to report errors discovered after publication to the publisher and/or editor. It will likely be necessary to issue an erratum or corrigendum, according to the nature of the case.

Undisclosed Research Misconduct and/or Publication Ethics Violations in Published Work

Failure to report instances of research misconduct and/or publication ethics violations discovered after publication to the publisher and/or editor. It will likely be necessary to issue a retraction.

Unprovenanced Artifacts

When presenting ancient artifacts, especially but not necessarily for the first time, authors publishing with Brill are required to follow the relevant society policies of their field, including but not limited to those of ASOR, SBL, AIA, and SCS (links provided below), concerning provenance and authenticity. Such artifacts include, but are not limited to, ancient texts, such as papyri, inscriptions, cuneiform tablets, and codices.

- AIP-ASP
(https://aip.ulb.be/papyrus_trade.html)
- ASOR
(<http://www.asor.org/about-asor/policies/policy-on-professional-conduct/>)
- SBL
(https://www.sbl-site.org/assets/pdfs/SBL-Artifacts-Policy_20160903.pdf)
- AIA
(https://www.archaeological.org/pdfs/AIA_Code_of_EthicsA5S.pdf)
- SCS
(<https://classicalstudies.org/about/scs-statement-professional-ethics>)

¹ Michael V. Dougherty, "The Pernicious Effects of Compression Plagiarism on Scholarly Argumentation," *Argumentation* (2019). <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10503-019-09481-3>

² Michael V. Dougherty, "In the aftermath of authorship violations in philosophy: problems and solutions" (presentation, COPE North American Seminar 2019, Philadelphia, PA, May 3, 2019)

Studies Involving Human or Animal Subjects

Studies involving human or animal subjects must adhere to the legal requirements of the study country and the ethical and procedural requirements of the researcher's institution. Furthermore:

- Authors who have used human subjects in their study must confirm that subjects have signed a Statement of Informed Consent and that the identity of the subjects is not infringed by the information in the publication.
- Authors who have used human subjects in their medical research must also confirm that their research has been performed in accordance with the principles stated in the [Declaration of Helsinki](#).

- Studies involving animal subjects must demonstrate that experimental procedures conform to the [international accepted principles of animal welfare in experimental science](#) or the [NRC Guide](#) for care and use of Laboratory Animals.

If experimental methodology raises particular ethical or welfare concerns, then the Editor will solicit additional expert guidance when making decisions.

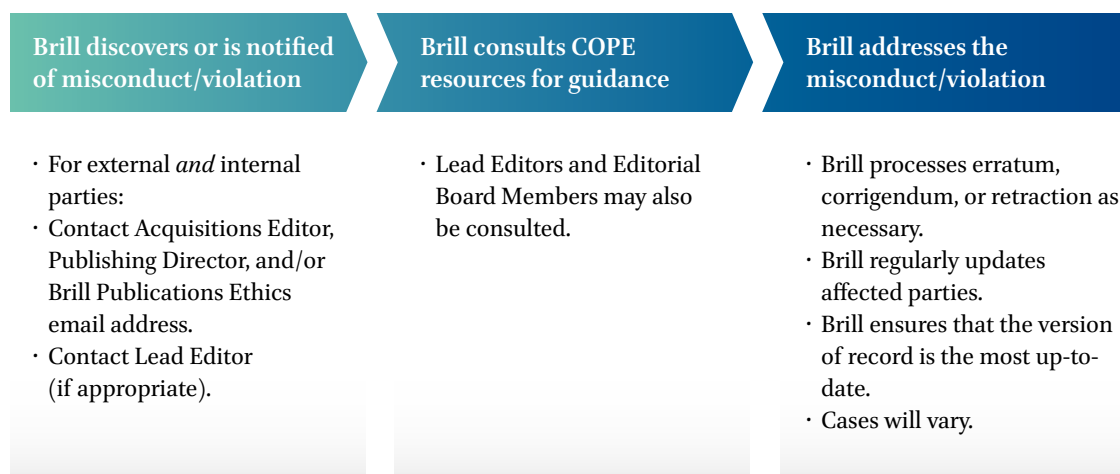
More specific requirements on human and animal subjects can be found in the author guidelines of the appropriate journal or book series.

Reporting Cases of Research Misconduct or Violations of Publication Ethics

In cases of suspected or verified research misconduct or violations of publication ethics, the first course of action should always be to notify the responsible Acquisitions Editor or Publishing Director at Brill. If this information is not readily available, you may also email publicationethics@brill.com; this mailbox is regularly monitored, and the responsible

Brill editor or director will follow up with you in a timely manner. You may always feel free to contact the lead non-Brill editor of the publication in question as well; however, until instructed differently, Brill staff will respect and safeguard the confidentiality of your communications.

Brill's basic process for handling suspected or verified cases of research misconduct or violations of publication ethics is as follows:



COPE Resources

COPE provides numerous [flowcharts](#) that reflect their core principles of publication ethics and offer valuable insights into best practices for dealing with cases of suspected or verified cases of misconduct.

COPE also provides guidance for new (and seasoned) editors in their [Guidelines: A Short Guide to Ethical Editing for New Editors](#).

For peer reviewers, COPE provides guidance in their [COPE Ethical Guidelines for Peer Reviewers](#).



For an extensive overview of our Publication Ethics
visit brill.com/publicationethics.
Can't find what you're looking for?
Contact us at PublicationEthics@brill.com



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