

# IJSaP PUBLICATION ETHICS

## Contents

<b><i>Our Statement of Compliance</i></b> .....	<b>2</b>
<b><i>Types of Research Misconduct and Violations of Publication Ethics</i></b> .....	<b>2</b>
Breaches of Duty of Care .....	2
Censorship.....	2
Conflict of Interest .....	2
Discriminatory and Harassing Research Practices and Language .....	2
Fabrication .....	2
Failure to Acknowledge Sources .....	3
Failure to Meet Legal and Professional Obligations .....	3
Falsification .....	3
Malicious Use of Logical Fallacies; or Inflammatory Practices and Languages .....	3
Misrepresentation of Authorship .....	3
• Ghostwriting .....	3
• Marketplace Authorship .....	3
• Honorary Authorship .....	3
• Gift Authorship.....	3
• Guest Authorship .....	3
• Coercive Authorship.....	4
Misrepresentation of Qualifications and/or Experience .....	4
Multiple Manuscript Submissions.....	4
Plagiarism.....	4
• Self-Plagiarism.....	4
• Compression Plagiarism.....	4
• Translation Plagiarism.....	4
Pseudonyms .....	4
Segmented/Redundant Publication .....	4
Undisclosed Errors in Published Works .....	5
Undisclosed Research Misconduct and/or Publication Ethics Violations in Published Work .....	5
<b><i>Reporting Cases of Research Misconduct or Violations of Publication Ethics</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>
<b><i>COPE Resources</i></b> .....	<b>5</b>

## Our Statement of Compliance

In order to ensure the research integrity of our journal publications, we seek to adhere and promote author adherence to the core principles of publication ethics as articulated by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#). As such, all manuscripts, archival materials, and supporting files are expected to conform to the ethical behaviour promulgated by COPE. Thus, for the benefit of our authors, editors, reviewers, and readership, we have listed below a non-exhaustive summary of the most pressing ethical concerns facing the academic publishing community.

## 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 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.

### 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 recognised by the academic community as a form of censorship.

### Conflict 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, colour, national origin, religion, 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 limitations imposed by relevant professional bodies and research funders or Research Ethics Committees.

### 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.

### Malicious Use of Logical Fallacies; or Inflammatory Practices and Languages

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 favour 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.

Please see the [Council of Science Editors](#) who have 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, membership associations, degrees, or certifications.

### Multiple Manuscript Submissions

Submitting the same manuscript (whether the original or a translated version) 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 one's own words, ideas, methods, results, or artwork without appropriate citation.
- **Compression Plagiarism:** 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 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 literature.

### Segmented/Redundant 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 Works

Failure to report 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.

## Reporting Cases of Research Misconduct or Violations of Publication Ethics

In cases of suspected or verified research misconduct and/or violations of publication ethics, please notify either the Senior Editor or Editorial Manager at [ijsap@mcmaster.ca](mailto:ijsap@mcmaster.ca); this email is regularly monitored and a response will be forthcoming in a timely manner. At all times, the confidentiality of your communications will be respected and safeguarded by *IJSaP*.

Outlined below is our basic process for handling suspected or verified research misconduct and/or violations of publication ethics:

- *IJSaP* discovers or is notified of misconduct/violation(s);
- *IJSaP* consults COPE resources for guidance;
  - Relevant Editorial Board members may also be consulted;
- *IJSaP* addresses the misconduct/violation(s);
  - *IJSaP* processes erratum, corrigendum, or retractions as necessary;
  - *IJSaP* regularly updates affected parties;
  - *IJSaP* ensures that the version of record is the most up-to-date;
  - Cases will vary depending on a variety of factors.

In instances where the authors/complainants wish to appeal the decision, editors not previously involved in the initial decision-making process will reconsider the case on its merits. To appeal, more than the authors'/complainants' protest is required (e.g. additional factual input by the authors, revisions, extra material in the manuscript, appeals about conflicts of interest and/or concerns about biased peer review). The editors' decision following the appeal is **final**.

In the case that there is a complaint about the journal or members of its Editorial Board, please contact the Chair of *IJSaP*'s International Advisory Group, whose name can be found at <https://mulpress.mcmaster.ca/ij sap/about>.

## COPE Resources

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

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

COPE also provides guidance for authors in their [Discussion Document: Authorship](#).

Finally, COPE also supplies a number of [flowcharts](#) which reflect their core principles of publication and offer insight into best practices for dealing with cases of suspected or verified misconduct/violation(s).