

Ethical Code for Peer Reviewers

To evaluate an article at least two reviewers are invited to evaluate an article. In case of controversy or disagreement regarding the merits of the work, an additional review may also be solicited or one of the journal's editors might give an evaluation. In addition to fairness in judgment and expertise in the field, peer reviewers have important responsibilities toward authors and editors. Reviewers whose expertise most closely matches the topic of the paper are chosen and invited to review the paper.

In agreeing to cooperate, a reviewer agrees to the following code of conduct:

1. Provide written version of professional, objective, and thorough review on the scholarly merits and the value of the evaluated work.
2. Avoid conflicts of interest stemming from relationship with the author that may bias an unfair approach to a manuscript, and declare any competing interests.
3. Inform the editor should they be unqualified to review the manuscript.
4. Not to retain copies of submitted articles or use the knowledge of their content for any purpose unrelated to the peer review process.
5. Respect the principle that criticism of a manuscript should not extend to personal criticism of the author/s.
6. Respect the independence of authors.
7. Review each manuscript with impartiality, without regard to gender, race, ethnicity, religion, nationality, institutional affiliation, or other similar bias.
8. Express their views clearly with supporting arguments and references as necessary and not be defamatory or libelous.
9. Act promptly, adhere to the instructions for completing a review and submitting it in a timely manner.
10. Treat the manuscript in review as a confidential document, i.e. not to share, discuss with third parties or disclose information from the reviewed paper.
11. In scope not regulated by the Regulation hereby, relevant Copyright laws are applicable and the procedure set out in the COPE is followed.