

Publication Ethics

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The publishing company FrancoAngeli is actively involved in the promotion of learning and knowledge. We trust in the dissemination of scholarly research, because any people should have equal access to high-quality knowledge. To serve and follow the specific requirements of scientific publications, with a particular focus on transparency and integrity, FrancoAngeli embraces and promotes the ethical standards sets by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#). We are aware they aren't a legal code and there are no proper courts to judge the acceptance of those conditions. But precisely for this reason we ask to our partners (editorial boards, reviewers, authors) a concrete effort to apply the Ethics stated in this paper and based on the [COPE Core Practices](#) and the [Principles of Transparency and Best Practice for Scholarly Publications](#), signed by COPE, [DOAJ](#) and [OASPA](#).

1. Journal Management, Conflicts of Interests and Competing Interests

Any journal published by FrancoAngeli clearly displays the composition of its boards. For each of them, we declare the Editor(s)-in-chief and we provide the lists of members who compose the Editorial Board and the Scientific Committee. In accord to the journal periodicity, we also share the names of reviewers who collaborated to the peer review process on a yearly/two-year/three-year basis. This list may be published online or on the printed issue, depending on the journal preference.

Conflicts of interests (or competing interests) of editors, reviewers, authors and publisher are avoided as far as possible; otherwise, they are openly declared. Editors and board members are allowed to submit their own works to their journals, but they're explicitly excluded by any decision or assignment about their papers.

In case of sponsored issues, the review of the papers is based purely on the scientific value of the contents.



**Clearly stated
boards to avoid
conflicts of
interests**

2. Allegations of Misconduct, Complaints and Appeals

FrancoAngeli, as publisher and neutral third party of the review process, stands as a guarantor and supervisor for the conduct of our published journals. We never encourage misconduct, or knowingly allow malpractices to take place. Whenever suspected misconducts or complaints may arise over the behavior of journal's boards, please alert us contacting our Journal Department via e-mail to: journals@francoangeli.it. The allegations will be treated confidentially, safeguarding the whistleblower. Then, we will start internal inquiries to approach the issue.



**Attention
to any
suspect of
misconduct**

With reference to complaints about FrancoAngeli's employees or FrancoAngeli's misconduct, a message may be sent to: redazioni@francoangeli.it. Please, contact us in English or Italian languages.

2.1 Infringement of Intellectual Property and Post-publication Corrections

Alerts about suspected infringement of intellectual property, suspicious plagiarism, or misinterpretation of data, inaccuracy and other mistakes may be notified to the Editorial Board or to FrancoAngeli (journals@francoangeli.it). We invite our journals to actively listen their readers, because we believe they are the real core of publications. In case of debatable contents, the corresponding author will be consulted to clarify the issue. The journal should retract the paper or publish an *Erratum*, if needed.

3. Peer review process

FrancoAngeli promotes and supervises the use of double-blind peer review as a method of papers selection and evaluation. As required by the double-blind approach, the review involves only the quality and the consistency of papers' contents.

To manage and track the review process, we provide to any concerned journals of ours a specific digital environment on the ["FrancoAngeli Journals" platform](#). This system helps editors to interact with authors and reviewers in a semi-automatic way, hiding personal data and information from the papers and the evaluation forms. Furthermore, the reviews submitted through our platform are safely stored in a digital archive to be available anytime for potential appeals or consultations.

Reviewers are high-qualified specialists in their own fields. Reviewers lists are not closed, they are organic sets and so they grow and change across the time. Any researcher can apply to become a reviewer for FrancoAngeli's journals signing in the related journal's webpage on our platform. The

Editorial Board, with the advice of the Scientific Committee, evaluates the applications and assigns the reviews, avoiding potential conflicts of interests between the parties.

Published articles that come from peer review show the submission date and the accepted date on their first page. Invited articles, which are not liable to review, come with a note that explains their state.



Free
application
to reviewers
lists



A digital system
to promote
double-blind
peer review

4. Reproducibility of Data and Results

FrancoAngeli trusts in the dissemination of knowledge. We believe that the results of a scientific research are just the starting point for a newer and more important study, and so on. For this reason, beside the traditional publication, we offer the opportunity to publish in Open Access since 2015. In accord to their fields of study and their own backgrounds, our journals chose to publish commercialized, open-access or hybrid issues. Articles processing charges or fees are shown on their page [on our website](#).

For open access journals, the related Creative Commons license is displayed on the article's page and in the footer of the article itself. For commercialized



Open Access
available
since 2015

journals, the free citation of data and results is allowed within the limits of the [Italian copyright law](#) currently in force.

5. Authorship and Ethical Conduct

In order to preserve the above-mentioned efforts of FrancoAngeli, we ask our authors to help us keeping high standards on the publications. In particular, they have to submit original unpublished manuscripts that are not currently in review by any other journal. Furthermore, in case of multiple authors, the names of all those who contributed to the work must be declared, specifying their names, their affiliation and possibly their [ORCID](#). This means that any author takes part in the same way to the research, and so all of them share equally the responsibilities, unless otherwise stated.

Moreover, if the submitted paper involves human subjects or identifiable human materials and data, we demand it complies with the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) developed by the World Medical Association (WMA) and revised in 2013. Everything related to experiments on animals should be presented with a statement that ensures it follows institutional and national standards for the care and use of laboratory animals, as suggested by the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#), compiled by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).

Finally, we call the attention of authors and editors to consider all sensitivities and to act with particular tact when they work on sensitive materials.



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FrancoAngeli expresses gratitude in advance to all its partners. We remind our receptivity to any suggestion, and we encourage editors and board members to contact us if concerns should emerge.