

ETHICAL CODE

Tigor. Rivista di scienze della comunicazione e di argomentazione giuridica

TITLE I - GENERAL PROVISIONS

Art. 1 - Purpose and Objectives

1. This Ethical Code governs the principles and procedures that guide the editorial activities of the journal " Tigor. Rivista di scienze della comunicazione e di argomentazione giuridica," a biannual open access online scientific periodical published by EUT Edizioni Università di Trieste.
2. Tigor Journal (hereinafter "the Journal"), an emanation of the Research Center on Communication and Legal Methodology and Argumentation (Cercomag) of the Department of Humanities at the University of Trieste, is committed to maintaining the highest standards of scientific integrity and editorial transparency.
3. This Code is drafted in accordance with the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) "Core Practices" guidelines and the requirements established by the "ANVUR Regulation for the classification of journals in CUN areas 8a, 10, 11a, 12, 13 and 14" (Del.CD n.306/2023).

Art. 2 - Scope of Application

1. The provisions of this Code apply to all parties involved in the Journal's editorial process: authors, reviewers, members of the Scientific Committee, members of the Editorial Board, Editor-in-Chief, and Scientific Director.
2. Compliance with this Code is a necessary condition for participation in the Journal's editorial activities and for the publication of scientific contributions.

TITLE II - PEER REVIEW PROCEDURES

Art. 3 - Evaluation System

1. The Journal adopts a double-blind peer review system that ensures mutual anonymity between authors and reviewers to guarantee maximum objectivity in scientific evaluation.
2. All contributions submitted to the Journal in accordance with submission terms and conforming to Editorial Guidelines, previously anonymized, are subject to an initial evaluation by the Scientific Director and Editorial Board to verify their relevance to the Journal's scientific scope and quality standards.
3. Manuscripts that pass the preliminary evaluation are sent to at least one external and independent reviewer, chosen for their specific expertise in the thematic area covered by the contribution.
4. Authors are informed of review acceptance according to the terms published in the Publication Process.

Art. 4 - Evaluation Criteria and Methods

1. Reviewers, designated by the Scientific Director, are required to evaluate contributions according to scientific rigor criteria, particularly considering : originality and relevance of the research, methodological adequacy, clarity of exposition, completeness, relevance, and accuracy of the bibliographic apparatus.

2. Reviewers have adequate time to complete the evaluation and are required to provide reasoned and constructive judgment, aimed at improving the scientific quality of the contribution.
3. The final decision on publication rests with the Scientific Director (even in case of discordant reviewer judgment), who relies essentially on reviewer judgment and Editorial Board opinion.
4. The right to confidentiality of all parties involved in the publication procedure as well as its transparency is guaranteed by the Committee.
5. The maximum duration of the review process is published in the Publication Process.

Art. 5 - Communication of Outcomes

1. Authors receive timely communication of the evaluation outcome, taking into account the maximum duration of the review process, as well as any delays compared to its maximum duration.
2. The communication includes anonymous reviewer opinions, any modification requests, and, in case of rejection, a motivation for the decision.

TITLE III - CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Art. 6 - Definition and Types

1. A conflict of interest constitutes any situation in which personal, professional, financial, or other relationships may compromise independence of judgment or objectivity in editorial decisions.
2. Conflicts of interest may concern authors, reviewers, members of editorial bodies and may manifest at any stage of the editorial process, from submission to publication.

Art. 7 - Authors' Obligations

1. Authors are required to explicitly declare any potential conflict of interest, including funding received for research, relationships with entities or organizations that could benefit from publication, significant personal or professional relationships with subjects involved in the research.
2. The declaration must be presented at the time of manuscript submission and updated promptly should new conflicts emerge during the editorial process.

Art. 8 - Reviewers' Obligations

1. Reviewers must refrain from evaluating manuscripts when they are in a conflict of interest situation, particularly in the presence of: recent scientific collaborations with authors, work or institutional relationships, potential personal benefits derived from research results, significant personal relationships.
2. Reviewers who identify a conflict of interest during the evaluation process are required to communicate it immediately to the Editorial Office and refrain from completing the review.

Art. 9 - Managing Conflicts in Editorial Bodies

1. Editorial Board members refrain from participating in editorial decisions when they are in a conflict of interest situation regarding the manuscript under examination.
2. The Scientific Director, in case of their own conflict of interest, delegates management of the editorial process to a previously designated Editorial Board member.

TITLE IV - AUTHORSHIP AND SCIENTIFIC RESPONSIBILITY

Art. 10 - Criteria for Authorship Recognition

1. Only those who have provided substantial and documentable contribution to work conception, data collection and analysis, manuscript drafting, or its critical revision for significant intellectual content have the right to authorship recognition.
2. All authors must have approved the final version of the manuscript and accept responsibility for the work's content, committing to provide clarifications on any aspect of the work when requested.
3. The order of authors must reflect their relative contribution to the work and must be agreed upon before manuscript submission.

Art. 11 - Corresponding Author Responsibility

1. The corresponding author assumes responsibility for communication with the Journal throughout the editorial process and guarantees that all co-authors have read and approved the final manuscript.
2. Any changes in author composition must be communicated promptly to the Editorial Office with adequate motivation and written consent from all interested parties.

Art. 12 - Acknowledgments and Thanks

1. Contributions that do not satisfy authorship criteria but have nonetheless facilitated work realization must be recognized in an appropriate manuscript section.
2. Explicit consent from persons named in acknowledgments must be obtained before publication.

TITLE V - RESEARCH INTEGRITY

Art. 13 - Prohibition of Plagiarism

1. Appropriating ideas, methods, results, or textual formulations of other authors without adequate recognition through explicit source citation is strictly prohibited.
2. Self-plagiarism, understood as substantial reuse of one's own previously published works without appropriate citation or declaration of previous publication, also constitutes plagiarism.
3. All citations, direct or indirect, must be clearly identified and correctly attributed according to the Journal's Editorial Guidelines.

Art. 14 - Prohibition of Data Falsification and Manipulation

1. Inventing, falsifying, or manipulating research data, experimental results, images, graphs, or any other evidentiary element supporting scientific arguments is prohibited.
2. Deliberately omitting relevant data that could modify result interpretation or work conclusions is also prohibited.
3. Any methodological limitations or data uncertainties must be clearly declared and discussed in the manuscript.

Art. 15 - Prevention of Redundant Publication

1. Simultaneous submission of the same manuscript to multiple journals is prohibited.

2. The Journal accepts only original manuscripts not previously published in any form.

Art. 16 - Procedure for Managing Reports

1. Reports of alleged research integrity violations may be submitted by anyone and must be sent to the Scientific Director or Editorial Director through official communication channels (redazioneTigor@scfor.units.it).
2. The Journal guarantees confidential treatment of reports and protection of reporters' identity, respecting current personal data protection regulations.
3. Every report is evaluated promptly and, if founded, leads to an impartial investigation that may result in manuscript rejection, correction requests, or, if the work is already published, publication of corrections (erratum) or article retraction according to art.31.

TITLE VI - COMPLAINT MANAGEMENT

Art. 17 - Types of Complaints

1. The Journal receives and manages complaints regarding review process conduct, behaviour of authors, reviewers, or editorial body members, editorial decisions on publication, and alleged violations of this Ethical Code.
2. Complaints must be submitted in writing, in motivated, detailed, and duly signed form, within 30 days of the event that determined them through official communication channels (redazioneTigor@scfor.units.it).

Art. 18 - Management Procedure

1. Complaints are examined by the Journal's Editorial Office (Scientific Director) which may avail itself of the Scientific Committee's opinion in cases of particular complexity.
2. The Journal commits to providing a reasoned decision within 30 days of complaint receipt, indicating any corrective actions adopted.
3. Should the complaint be directed against the Editorial Office itself (Scientific Director), the decision is entrusted to the Scientific Committee.
4. The complaint decision is final.
5. For matters not otherwise provided for, reference is made to arts.37 and 38.

TITLE VII - ETHICAL SUPERVISION OF RESEARCH

Art. 19 - Publication Consent and Participant Protection

1. For research involving human subjects, authors must declare at manuscript submission that they have obtained participants' informed consent and approval from competent ethical bodies.
2. Particular attention must be reserved for studies involving vulnerable populations, including minors, persons with cognitive disabilities, or marginalized populations.
3. Research participant privacy and confidentiality must always be protected, ensuring anonymity when necessary and compliance with personal data protection regulations.

Art. 20 - Sensitive Data Management

1. Authors are required to guarantee security and confidentiality of data collected during research, adopting appropriate measures for their conservation and protection.

2. Personal and sensitive data must not be published without explicit consent from interested parties and must be processed in conformity with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR).

Art. 21 - Specific Ethical Aspects of Legal Disciplines

1. In legal research, particular attention must be paid to correct representation of judicial cases, ensuring party anonymity when necessary and respecting professional secrecy.
2. Authors must avoid any form of instrumentalization of judicial cases or legal situations for purely academic purposes, always maintaining respect for the dignity of persons involved.
3. Authors are encouraged to share research data when feasible and appropriate, specifying access methods and any limitations respecting professional secrecy and confidentiality regulations.
4. For empirical research, sufficient methodological documentation for replication must be provided, including tools and procedures used.

TITLE VIII - INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY AND PUBLICATION RIGHTS

Art. 22 - Copyright Regime

1. Authors retain copyright ownership of published manuscripts without restrictions, granting the Journal the right of first publication and non-exclusive rights for archiving, indexing, distribution, and long-term conservation of the published work.
2. All articles published by the Journal are released under Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-NoDerivatives 4.0 International License (BY-NC-ND 4.0).
3. The Journal requires no economic contribution (Article Processing Charges/Article Submission Charges) from authors for manuscript submission or publication.

Art. 23 - Self-Archiving Policies

1. Authors are authorized and encouraged to deposit their works in institutional or disciplinary repositories, both in pre-print and post-print versions, with the obligation to cite and update the original publication source.
2. Prior deposit of preprints in accredited repositories is permitted, provided this circumstance is declared at submission.

Art. 24 - Protection Against Violations

1. The Journal commits to protecting authors' intellectual property rights and adopting necessary measures to prevent and counter copyright violations.
2. In case of identified violations, the Journal collaborates with authors for protection of their rights and may adopt measures such as requesting removal of unauthorized content.

Art. 25 - Digital Preservation and Long-term Access

1. The Journal guarantees permanent preservation and perpetual access to published content through OpenstarTs, the Institutional Archive of the University of Trieste conforming to CRUI guidelines.
2. OpenstarTs ensures long-term preservation, permanent identifiers, ORCID support, and perpetual free access respecting adopted licenses.

TITLE IX - GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE (GAI)

Art. 26 - Responsibility and Transparency in Generative Artificial Intelligence Use

1. The Journal recognizes the growing impact of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GAI) technologies in the scientific research landscape and establishes clear principles for their responsible use respecting academic integrity and intellectual property.
2. Use of GAI tools must always be subordinated to maintaining human intellectual responsibility, methodological transparency, and originality of scientific contribution.
3. GAI tools cannot under any circumstances be considered authors or co-authors of scientific contributions, lacking the capacity to assume intellectual, ethical, and legal responsibility for produced content.

Art. 27 - Transparency Obligations for Authors

1. Authors using GAI tools at any stage of research or manuscript drafting must provide a complete and detailed declaration at manuscript submission including:
 - Precise identification of tools used (name, version, manufacturer)
 - Description of usage methods and prompts employed
 - Specification of work sections affected by GAI use
 - Nature and purpose of assistance received (bibliographic research, data processing, linguistic revision, etc.)
 - Description of modifications and integrations made to automatically generated content
2. For use of visual, graphic, or multimedia elements produced through GAI, authors must:
 - Explicitly declare the artificial origin of such elements
 - Verify absence of copyright violations in generated content
 - Limit use to purposes strictly functional to scientific research
 - Assume full legal responsibility for use of such content
3. Failure to declare GAI use constitutes a violation of scientific integrity and may result in manuscript rejection or retraction of already published articles.

Art. 28 - Duties of Editorial Bodies and Reviewers

1. The Editorial Office and Editorial Board commit to:
 - Not using GAI tools for editorial evaluation of manuscripts
 - Guaranteeing confidentiality of submitted content by avoiding their exposure to GAI systems
 - Periodically updating GAI-related policies based on technological evolution
 - Providing information to editorial bodies on GAI risks and opportunities in research
2. Reviewers are required to:
 - Conduct scientific evaluation based exclusively on their own critical judgment and disciplinary competence
 - Not submit manuscripts to GAI systems to preserve confidentiality and integrity of the review process
 - Report to the Editorial Office any suspected inappropriate or undeclared GAI use in examined manuscripts
 - Critically evaluate quality and originality of contributions declaring GAI use

Art. 29 - Controls and Corrective Measures

1. The Journal reserves the right to verify potential undeclared GAI use also through specialized detection tools for identifying artificially generated content and cross-checks with databases and scientific repositories.
2. In case of GAI use norm violations, the Journal may adopt the following measures:
 - Request for clarifications and integrations to authors' declarations
 - Manuscript rejection with possibility of new submission after adjustments
 - Retraction of already published articles in case of serious non-remediable violations
 - Reporting to authors' affiliated institutions for scientific integrity violations
3. Corrective measures are applied according to arts. 37 and 38 and respecting the proportionality principle, considering violation severity, impact on scientific work integrity, and authors' good faith.

TITLE X - POST-PUBLICATION DEBATE AND CORRECTIONS

Art. 30 - Promotion of Scientific Debate

1. The Journal favors and supports scientific debate following publication, considering it an essential element for knowledge advancement.
2. To this end, the Journal is available to evaluate publication of responses, objections, and comments to published articles, where relevant and coherent with the Journal's purpose.
3. All comments and discussions must respect principles of scientific correctness and civility of confrontation.

Art. 31 - Types of Corrections

1. **Erratum:** for correction of typographical errors or minor inaccuracies that do not alter the work's scientific meaning.
2. **Corrigendum:** for correction of substantial author errors that, while not invalidating main conclusions, require clarifications or integrations.
3. **Retraction:** for complete article withdrawal in case of serious errors invalidating results, scientific integrity violations, or redundant publications.

Art. 32 - Correction Procedure

1. Correction requests may be submitted by anyone within 30 days of publication and must be adequately motivated.
2. The Scientific Director evaluates each request promptly and, if founded, proceeds with publication of appropriate correction, guaranteeing traceability through bidirectional links between the original article and correction.
3. All corrections are dated and provided with editorial notes, clearly indicating the error's nature and modifications made.
4. For matters not otherwise provided for, reference is made to arts. 37 and 38.

TITLE XI - TRANSPARENCY AND EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT

Art. 33 - Editorial Information Transparency

1. The Journal guarantees maximum transparency regarding its organization, making public on the website all information relating to: composition and affiliations of the Scientific Committee and Editorial Board, objectives and disciplinary scope of the Journal, editorial procedures and evaluation criteria.

Art. 34 - Editorial Independence

1. The Journal maintains its editorial independence, guaranteeing that publication decisions are based exclusively on scientific merit of contributions as well as editorial policy regarding relevance to the Journal's scientific scope and quality standards, and do not suffer external influences of commercial, political, or ideological nature. The Journal receives no economic contributions for editorial activity.
2. The Scientific Director enjoys full autonomy in editorial decisions and ordinarily avails themselves of Editorial Board opinion and support.

Art. 35 - Continuous Training and Improvement

1. The Journal promotes, where possible, continuous training of its editorial bodies and reviewers, inviting participation in updating courses, seminars, and training initiatives promoted by national and international organizations.
2. Editorial process performance is regularly monitored and evaluated to identify improvement areas and implement sector best practices.

TITLE XII - FINAL PROVISIONS

Art. 36 - Entry into Force and Modifications

1. This Ethical Code enters into force from the date of its approval by the Journal's Editorial Board and applies to all editorial procedures initiated subsequent to that date.
2. Any modifications to the Code must be approved by the Editorial Board and made public through the Journal's website.

Art. 37 - Violations and Corrective Measures

1. Violations of this Ethical Code result in adoption of corrective measures proportionate to the nature and severity of the violation, respecting the principle of adversarial proceedings and right of defense.
2. Applicable measures include: written warnings, requests for corrections or integrations, manuscript rejection, temporary or permanent exclusion from Journal activities, publication of corrections or retractions, reporting to affiliated institutions.
3. Choice of the most appropriate measure considers violation severity, conduct intentionality, any precedents, and impact on the Journal's scientific integrity.

Art. 38 - Procedure

1. The procedure for applying corrective measures is conducted by the Editorial Office, assisted by Editorial Board members, guaranteeing the interested party the possibility to present their observations.
2. Decisions must be motivated and communicated in writing within reasonable time. Appeal to the Scientific Committee is admitted within 30 days of communication.
3. In cases of particular severity, the Journal may report the violation to competent bodies and adopt measures for protecting scientific integrity, including communication to the relevant scientific community.

Approved by the Editorial Board of "Tigor" Journal

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