

Journal of Bioethical Inquiry

Information About Articles and Collections

ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The *Journal of Bioethical Inquiry* (JBI) is an international, multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed journal that publishes scholarly papers and commentary across the range of issues that arise within the field of bioethics.

The JBI welcomes both reports of empirical research and articles that increase the theoretical understanding of medicine and healthcare, the health professions, and the life sciences. The JBI is also open to critical reflections on healthcare, medicine and bioethics; the nature of health, illness, and disability; the sources of ethics; the nature of ethical communities; the possible implications of new developments in science and technology for social and cultural life and human identity; and the impact of social policies and current world events on health, welfare, and systems of power.

Contributions discussing bioethical issues in different geographical and cultural settings are strongly encouraged as are perspectives that are less commonly represented in existing journals in the field.

The JBI will consider contributions from any relevant discipline, including but not limited to Philosophy, Bioethics, Anthropology, Cultural Studies, Disability Studies, Economics, Environmental Sciences, Feminism, Queer Studies, History, Sociology, Law, Linguistics and Discourse Analysis, Literature and Literary Studies, Psychology, Public Health and Epidemiology, and Theology and Religious Studies.

We encourage authors to write in a style that is accessible to readers from disciplines other than their own.

For information about how to submit a manuscript, please refer to the Submission Guidelines at <https://link.springer.com/journal/11673/submission-guidelines>.

TYPES OF MANUSCRIPTS, COLLECTIONS AND COLUMNS

The journal welcomes manuscripts in the following areas:

- [Original Research](#)
- [Focus Articles and Commentaries](#) (invited)
- [Review Articles](#)
- [Current Controversies](#)
- [Book, Film and Art Reviews](#)
- [Responses](#)

The JBI accepts proposals and guest editorships for:

- [Symposia](#)
- [Special Issues](#)

The journal also publishes the following invitation-only columns.

- [Editorials](#)
- [Recent Developments](#)

MANUSCRIPT AND COLLECTIONS INFORMATION

Original Research

- Original Research papers may include empirical and theoretical research and conceptual reflections.
- The scope and structure of Original Research articles may range from short, clinical-type studies to longer more discursive philosophical papers that analyse important normative, policy, practical or professional issues.
- Original Research articles will be accepted in the following domains, but any original research consistent with the aims and scope of the JBI will be considered:
 - Ethics
 - Research and Innovation
 - Clinical Practice
 - Public Health, Politics and Social Justice
- Empirical studies should follow relevant research reporting guidelines appropriate to the methodology so that peer reviewers and readers are able to understand how the research was performed and judge whether the findings are likely to be reliable. The EQUATOR Network provides information about key reporting guidelines for different research methodologies including:
 - Randomised controlled trials (RCTs): CONSORT guidelines
 - Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: PRISMA guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
 - Scoping reviews: PRISMA guidelines and Joanna Briggs guidelines
 - Meta-narrative review: RAMESES publication standards
 - Observational studies: STROBE guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
 - Qualitative studies: SRQR recommendations and COREQ checklist
 - Quality improvement studies: SQUIRE guidelines
- Empirical studies should provide a structured abstract including the following sections: background, methods, results, conclusions, trial registration (where appropriate). Theoretical or conceptual articles should provide a non-structured abstract.
- Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 7,000 words (Papers less than 4,000 words are preferred with papers longer than this requiring a clear justification.)
 - Abstract: Up to 250 words
 - References: Up to 50
 - Tables/figures: Up to 5

Focus Articles and Commentaries

- Focus Articles are peer reviewed manuscripts chosen by the editors for debate and discussion in the JBI because they are highly original and of high quality, address a new or neglected issue, advance thinking, address a significant theory, concept or “accepted truth”, focus on a topical or controversial issue, may have public as well as academic interest, and may lead to social, political, or professional transformation or disruption.

- Focus Articles are invited articles, that is, they will be commissioned or selected from Original Research submissions by the editors of the JBI.
- Once a Focus Article has been identified, it will be disseminated by the JBI with an invitation for critical Commentaries. Commentary authors (no more than three co-authors) will be invited to submit a brief abstract for a proposed Commentary. Commentaries will be chosen by the editors because they engage with the Focus Article in an interesting, distinctive, original and substantive way, extend or critique the central arguments advanced in the Focus Article, and/or provide further information, data or perspectives relevant to the Focus Article.
- Authors of Focus Articles will be expected to offer a response to the Commentaries.
- There will usually be one Focus Article per issue, accompanied by approximately 3–5 Commentaries.
- While Focus Articles will undergo usual peer review processes, Commentaries and Responses to Commentaries will be reviewed and selected by the relevant JBI editor/s.
- Recommended length:
 - Focus Article:
 - Text up to 7,000 words
 - Abstract: Up to 250 words
 - References: Up to 50.
 - Tables/Figures: Up to 5.
 - Commentaries:
 - Text: Up to 1,000 words
 - Abstract: Nil
 - References: Up to 10.
 - Tables/Figures: Nil

Review Articles

- Review articles may include scoping, narrative or systematic reviews.
- Review articles should follow relevant research reporting guidelines appropriate to the methodology so that peer reviewers and readers are able to understand how the research was performed and judge whether the findings are likely to be reliable. Key reporting guidelines include:
 - Systematic reviews and meta-analyses: PRISMA guidelines and MOOSE guidelines
 - Scoping reviews: PRISMA guidelines and Joanna Briggs guidelines
 - Meta-narrative review: RAMESES publication standards
- Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 7,000 words
 - Abstract: Up to 250 words
 - References: Up to 100
 - Tables/Figures: Up to 5

Current Controversies

- Current Controversies should address a current policy issue, political debate, scientific advance, or legal case of major ethical significance. This should describe the issue, source of controversy and ethical issues of relevance. Where appropriate, a Current Controversy article may be framed as a Yes/No debate and co-authored by authors with different perspectives.
- Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 2,500 words
 - Abstract: Up to 250 words
 - References: Up to 25
 - Tables/Figures: Up to 2

Book, Film, and Art Reviews

- The JBI accepts Reviews of books, film, or art relevant to the scope and purpose of the journal.
- Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 1,500 words
 - Abstract: Nil
 - References: Up to 10
 - Tables/Figures: Up to 2.

Responses

- Responses are brief pieces written in response to articles previously published in the JBI. These may be peer-reviewed at the Editor's discretion and will generally be fast-tracked for timely publication.
- Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 1,000 words
 - Abstract: Nil
 - References: Up to 5
 - Tables/Figures: Nil

Symposia and Special Issues

Overview

Symposia and Special Issues:

- Allow for exploratory discussions of issues that are pressing or are foremost in the public consciousness;
- Enable scholars to extend the focus and depth of examination of specific issues;
- Provide a means for the detailed re-examination of "old" issues through different methodological or disciplinary lenses.

The main difference between a Symposium and a Special Issue is that the former does not aim for the same kind of depth made possible in the extended format of the latter. Rather, Symposia are intended to spark further debate and bring together disparate voices working in related areas.

Symposia generally comprise an editorial/lead essay and 3-5 papers, which may include Original Research, Review Articles, and Current Controversies.

Special Issues generally comprise an editorial/lead essay and 5-10 papers which may include Original Research, Review Articles, and Current Controversies.

Symposium and Special Issue proposals

The JBI accepts proposals for Symposia and Special Issues on an ongoing basis.

The JBI encourages proposals for Symposia and Special Issues to be representative of the diversity of academic and public voices in bioethics, and inclusive of gender, ethnicity, and perspectives from the Global North and South. We also encourage proposals to include established authors of international standing and junior or emerging scholars.

Proposals should be addressed to the Editor and consist of a 1–3 page outline that includes:

- A description of the proposed topic;
- The names of the proposed Guest Editor(s) (i.e., the Convenors), including a description of their previous editorial experience;
- The rationale for the proposal;
- The significance of the topic;
- The likely readership, including why readers of the JBI would have an interest in this thematic issue and why this thematic issue would attract a new readership to the JBI;
- The names of 3 to 10 potential or confirmed contributors (depending on whether the proposal is for a Symposium or Special Issue);
- A statement about the kinds of disciplines that will be represented in the thematic issue and how it will contribute to the commitment of the JBI to promoting interdisciplinary dialogue;
- A list of proposed papers, where relevant; and
- Whether any of the manuscripts have previously been published in part or in full in a book, monograph, or journal (print or online) and the status of obtaining permissions to reprint these articles. It is the JBI's preference NOT to publish works that have been published elsewhere unless there is a compelling justification for doing so.

Editorial Assistance and Responsibilities

Acting as a Guest Editor is incredibly rewarding, both professionally and personally, and enables scholars to expand bioethical discussions and dialogues with others from around the globe. Although this can be time- and labor-intensive, the Managing Editor and the Editor in Chief of the JBI assist Guest Editors at every step of the process. As needed, assistance is available for disseminating calls for papers, becoming familiar with the JBI online manuscript submission process, ensuring manuscripts are moving through the peer-review process in a timely manner, etc. All final copy editing and production tasks are handled by the JBI's Editor in Chief. Guest Editors are not responsible for these.

The Editor in Chief and Executive Committee of the JBI also maintain overall editorial responsibility for Symposia and Special Issues, and the Editorial Board is consulted on

topics and proposals and, as necessary, any issues that arise. All manuscripts, whether invited, are subject to the appropriate level of independent peer review, and invitation to submit to a thematic issue does not guarantee acceptance and publication.

Guest Editors oversee the submission and peer-review processes and are responsible for ensuring deadlines are met in a timely fashion. The Managing Editor and Editor in Chief will maintain ongoing communications with Guest Editors regarding deadlines, processes for peer review, and the preparation of manuscripts.

All manuscripts must be submitted through the JBI online manuscript management system, must be prepared in accordance with the JBI submission instructions, and will be peer reviewed.

Invitation-Only Columns

The journal publishes the following invitation-only columns. Unsolicited columns will not usually be accepted, however potential authors may choose to contact the relevant editor/s to submit an abstract/proposal for consideration.

- **Editorials**
 - Editorials are usually solicited. They offer authoritative perspectives on an issue of ethical significance and can either be ‘stand-alone’ or complement another paper or series of papers in the same issue of the JBI. All editorials are peer-reviewed.
 - Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 1,500 words
 - Abstract: Nil
 - References: Up to 20
 - Tables/Figures: Nil

- **Recent Developments**
 - The JBI publishes a series of “Recent Developments” columns in the domains of:
 - Law
 - Ethics
 - Health and Society
 - These columns are brief descriptions of new or ongoing policy issues, political debates, scientific advances, or legal cases that are of major ethical significance and likely to be of interest to the readership of the JBI.
 - Recommended length:
 - Text: Up to 1,500 words
 - Abstract: Nil
 - References: Up to 20
 - Tables/Figures: Nil