

# **PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT**

Geosciences Journal is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. As a member of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) the journal follows the COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of malpractice. COPE was established to provide a range of services and products aimed primarily, but not exclusively, at editors and publishers of academic journals and to provide advice and guidance on best practice for dealing with ethical issues in journal publishing. COPE consults editors and publishers on all aspects of publication ethics and, in practice, how to handle cases of research and publication misconduct. It is possible to find an example of a recognized publication ethics and malpractice statement at <https://publicationethics.org/files/2008%20Code%20of%20Conduct.pdf>. A code of conduct and guidelines can be found at <https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>.

All the editors, authors and reviewers of the Geosciences Journal agree upon standards of proper ethical behavior and accept the responsibility for fulfilling the following duties and responsibilities as set by the COPE Code of Conduct for Journal Editors (<https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines>).

Our key expectations of authors, peer-reviewers and editors, and penalty for malpractice are as follows:

## **Editors' Responsibilities**

- Editors have complete responsibility and authority to reject/accept an article.
- To accept an article when reasonably certain.
- Editors should have no conflict of interest with respect to articles they reject/accept.
- When errors are found to promote publication of correction or retraction.
- To preserve anonymity of reviewers.
- To act in a balanced, objective and fair way while carrying out their expected duties, without discrimination on grounds of gender, sexual orientation, religious or political beliefs, ethnic or geographical origin of the authors.

## **Editors Should:**

- Persist general duties and responsibilities of editors.
- Editors should be responsible for everything published in their journals.
- Strive to meet the needs of readers and authors.

- Constantly improve the journal.
- Ensure the quality of the material they publish.
- Champion freedom of expression.
- Maintain the integrity of the academic record.
- Preclude business needs from compromising intellectual standards.
- Always be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed.

### **Reviewers' Responsibilities**

- To contribute to the decision-making process, and to assist in improving the quality of the published article by reviewing the manuscript objectively.
- Reviewers should have no conflict of interest with respect to the research, the authors and/or the research funders.
- Reviewers should point out relevant published work which is not yet cited.
- Reviewed articles should be treated confidentially.

### **Authorship**

- Substantial contributions to the conception or design of the work; or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- Drafting the work or revising it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- Final approval of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be accountable for all aspects of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.
- It is not permitted to change the first author after submission.
- Authorship can be changed during review process, and the corresponding author is supposed to submit a request form of authorship change.
- It is not permitted to change the authorship after acceptance.

### **Authors' Responsibilities**

- Authors are obliged to participate in peer review process.
- All authors have to contribute significantly to the research.
- Statements that all data in the articles are real and authentic.
- All authors are obliged to provide retractions or corrections of mistakes.

- No plagiarism, no fraudulent data is allowed.
- It is forbidden to publish same research in more than one journal.
- Authors should ensure that any studies involving human or animal subjects conform to national, local and institutional laws and requirements.

### **Publication Ethics Issues**

- Monitoring/safeguarding publication ethics by the editorial board.
- Maintain the integrity of the academic record.
- Preclude business needs from compromising intellectual and ethical standards.
- Always be willing to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies when needed.

### **Penalty**

- Duplicate submission: If duplicate submission was found or noticed from other sources, the editorial board should check the status. If the duplicate submission was confirmed as intentional thing, then the following actions must be imposed: Review process will be terminated; The reason should be sent to reviewers, editorial board, authors, and president of every author's institute; All authors' names will be marked as black list, and these authors cannot submit any article to Geosciences Journal for 5 years or for an indefinite period.
- Duplicate Publication: If duplicate publication is found or noticed from other sources, editorial board should check the status. If the duplicate publication is confirmed as intentional thing, then the following actions will be carried out: This should be reported to editorial board, author(s), and president of every author's institute; This should be sent to the publisher who published same (or very similar) article; Article will be removed; All authors' name will be marked as black list, and these authors cannot submit any article to Geosciences Journal for 5 years or for an indefinite period.
- Plagiarism (including self-plagiarism): If plagiarism is found or noticed from other sources, editorial board should check the status. If the plagiarism is confirmed as intentional thing, then the following actions will be carried out: This should be reported to editorial board, authors, and president of every author's institute; This should be sent to publisher who published same or similar article; Article will be removed; All authors' name will be marked as black list, and this author(s) cannot submit any article to Geosciences Journal for 5 years or for an indefinite period.