

Asian Bioethics Review

Editorial Policy

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Asian Bioethics Review (ABR) is an international academic journal, based in Asia, providing a forum to express and exchange original ideas on all aspects of bioethics, especially those relevant to the region. Published quarterly, the journal seeks to promote collaborative research among scholars in Asia or with an interest in Asia, as well as multi-cultural and multi-disciplinary bioethical studies more generally. It will appeal to all working on bioethical issues in biomedicine, healthcare, caregiving and patient support, genetics, law and governance, health systems and policy, science studies and human health-related research. ABR provides analyses, perspectives and insights into new approaches in bioethics, recent changes in biomedical law and policy, developments in capacity building and professional training, and voices or essays from a student’s perspective.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Editorial Team, a manuscript offered for submission will only be considered where the author(s) warrant that the manuscript has not already been published or offered for publication elsewhere in whole, in part, or in substance. Articles under consideration by other journals will not be accepted. By submitting a manuscript for publication in ABR, the author(s) also warrant that the material presented is original and does not make use of any other persons’ published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission.

Authorship

Authorship Principles

These Springer Nature guidelines describe authorship principles and good authorship practices to which prospective authors should adhere to: https://www.springer.com/journal/41649/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors_Authorship%20principles

Ethical Responsibilities of Authors

The ethical responsibilities of authors are outlined in this section of the submission guidelines of Springer Nature: https://www.springer.com/journal/41649/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors_Ethical%20Responsibilities%20of%20Authors

Article Types

Article types are distinguished based on content, and to a lesser degree on the length (word count). The word count of a manuscript does not include the cover page, statements (such as acknowledgement, etc.), abstract, keywords, tables, or reference list.

This is an overview of all article types, by word count:

- Original Article: 5,000 to 8,000 words
- Perspective Article, Student Article, and Case Report: 2,000 to 5,000 words
- Book Review, and Letter to the Editor: up to 2,500 words

All article types except Book Reviews and Letters to the Editor are subject to double-blind peer review, and are therefore accepted by most academic indices for the calculation of academic performance metrics. An up-to-date list of indices can be found at the bottom of this page: <https://www.springer.com/journal/41649>, under the sub-heading 'About this journal'.

Original Article (5,000 to 8,000 words)

These are original research papers, which may be wholly conceptual contributions or conceptual analyses supported by empirical research findings.

Perspective Article (2,000 to 5,000 words)

Perspective Articles are insights gained through analysis and/or critical reflection of significant issues or developments in bioethics. In contrast to a Letter to the Editor, which might be largely descriptive, a Perspective Article should provide an intellectually rigorous discussion. The objective should be to contribute an insight that is not obvious to the readership and thereby enables them to have a fresh viewpoint on, or appreciation of, these issues or developments in bioethics.

Student Article (2,000 to 5,000 words)

We invite students in all disciplines related to bioethics to submit an article for publication. The subject matter should aim to make an original contribution related to bioethics on a topic of the student's choice.

Case Report (2,000 to 5,000 words)

A research or clinical case study submitted for comment and discussion should identify an ethical dilemma or problem of interest to healthcare professionals, and potentially to a wider readership. Author(s) warrant

that all material presented has either had full written consent from the patient or the information has been sufficiently anonymised to make identification of the patient and all persons concerned highly unlikely.

Book Review (up to 2,500 words)

This is a review of a recently published book in the areas of bioethics, health law, and/or health policy. Please provide the following information:

- Title
- Author (If the book is an edited volume, add “Editor” after the name.)
- City of publication
- Publisher
- Year of publication
- If relevant, the series and its number in the series
- Number of pages
- ISBN
- Price (in the currency used by the publisher)

Letter to the Editor (up to 2,500 words)

Letters to the Editor may provide a comment on material previously published in ABR, or an account of developments – typically events or changes in policy or guidance – that have significant impact on bioethics, and which are likely to be of interest to the readership. They will be published at the discretion of the Editor-in-Chief.

Formatting – at Submission

The Asian Bioethics Review requires minimal formatting at submission. A paper can be submitted in any recognised international format style for the purposes of peer review. Final House Style formatting need only be addressed at the revision stage, i.e. before final acceptance of a manuscript. These requirements are discussed further under ‘Additional Formatting prior to Final Acceptance’.

At submission, these are the only essential requirements for the manuscript:

- NO author details (as review is double-blind)
- Editable format (such as MS Word, *not* PDF)
- Title
- Abstract (250 words)
- Keywords (4-6)

Both keywords and abstracts are important for online discoverability of your publication. Therefore, please provide 4 to 6 keywords. Try to avoid overly generic ones such as ‘bioethics’, ‘philosophy’ or ‘law’. Similarly, try to avoid lengthy keywords. Please submit an abstract of about 250 words. It should be a concise summary of the whole paper, as continuous text (NOT structured with sub-headings), and without citations.

Author details and various declarations and disclosures have to be included on a separate cover page only.

Cover Page

As manuscripts undergo double-blind peer review, author details and various declarations and disclosures should NOT be included in the manuscript, but only on the cover page. Therefore, all manuscripts have to be accompanied by a separate Cover Page, with:

- Title
- Full Author details
- Various declarations and disclosures as detailed below

Author Details

All authors in the order as agreed among the co-authors (the corresponding author does not have to be the first author):

- name (family name underlined)
- full institutional affiliation (no abbreviations)
- email address

Acknowledgements

Acknowledgements can include statements of gratitude to individuals or institutions that have assisted with the preparation of the publication, including peer reviewers when feedback has proved useful. In particular, authors should identify individuals who have provided reading and writing assistance.

Authors' Contributions (where applicable)

When there is more than one author, authors must also acknowledge the nature and extent of the input from each author who made a substantial contribution to conception and design, acquisition of data, analysis and interpretation of data, and/or to the drafting/revising of the paper for intellectual content. This statement should be omitted for single-authored articles.

Example: AB conceived of the idea. EF and GH undertook initial research. CD, EF, GH and AB developed the outline and key arguments. CD wrote the first draft. All authors contributed to subsequent drafts and approved the final submitted version.

Ethics Approval (where applicable)

When reporting on research involving human subjects, authors should include a statement that the study obtained ethics approval (or a statement that it was not required). This should include the name of the institutional review board(s) or ethics committee(s), the number/ID of the approval(s) where relevant, and a statement that participants gave informed consent before taking part (unless this was not required).

Authors are also invited to provide a detailed explanation of how moral, ethical and/or legal issues have been considered and addressed in their work. If this is not incorporated into the manuscript, it may be set out in a supplemental file to be uploaded during the submission. This information will be provided to peer reviewers, as they are required to consider and comment on the ethics (and where appropriate, legal implications) of submitted work. As a general ethical commitment, ABR encourages researchers to engage actively with individuals, communities and/or institutions that have contributed to the research and to, where applicable and appropriate, share any benefits of the research with them.

When reporting experiments on animals, authors should be asked to indicate whether the institutional and national guide for the care and use of laboratory animals was followed. Similar details on review and clearance must be included as a statement in the submission.

Please note that the Editorial Team may ask authors to provide the contact details of the institutional review board, research ethics committee or similar setup that reviewed the work for further information. For studies that have not been reviewed by an institutional review board, a research ethics committee or a similar setup, authors may be asked to explain what ethical issues they considered, how these were addressed, and how they justified their work.

Privacy (where applicable)

Every person has a right to privacy that should not be infringed without informed consent or other lawful basis. Identifying information, including the person's name, initials, or other identifying information should not be published in written descriptions, photographs, and pedigrees unless the information is essential for scientific purposes and the person (or parent or guardian or designated authority) has given prior written informed consent for publication. Informed consent for this purpose requires that a person who is identifiable be shown the manuscript to be published and has given their free and valid consent to the publication.

Identifying details should be omitted if they are not essential. Complete anonymity can often be difficult to achieve, however, and informed consent should be obtained if there is any doubt. If identifying characteristics are altered to protect anonymity, authors should provide assurance that alterations do not distort scientific meaning. When informed consent has been obtained, it should be indicated in the published article.

Funding

Externally-funded projects should include due acknowledgement of the funding body, normally with the funder name and grant number or code.

Authors must also disclose all financial support, financial involvement in any organization or entity that has an interest, financial or otherwise, for and in the research and development of the manuscript that might result in a conflict of interest (see further below).

Conflict of Interest

All submissions should be accompanied by a statement clearly indicating if there are any competing interests. Competing interests exist when professional judgment concerning a primary interest (such as the research or development or publication of a manuscript) may be influenced by a secondary interest (such as financial gain or personal rivalry). It may arise for all authors of an article when they have a financial or professional interest that may influence, possibly without their knowing, their interpretation or conclusions. To make the best decision about how to deal with an article, the Editorial Team should know about any such competing interest that authors might have. Competing interests may be inevitable and the Editorial Team will not refuse to publish articles simply because there may be a plurality of interests. Instead, this will ensure that the interests are transparent and stated in the publication.

If the authors consider that there is no conflict of interest, then this should be declared explicitly on the cover page.

Failure to fully declare interests or discovery of interests not disclosed could lead to withdrawal of the article.

Further resources on publishing ethics:

- Springer Nature: <http://www.springer.com/gp/authors-editors/journal-author/journal-author-helpdesk/publishing-ethics/14214>
- Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE): <https://publicationethics.org/>
- "Conflict of Interest in Peer-Reviewed Medical Journals", by the World Association of Medical Editors: <http://wame.org/conflict-of-interest-in-peer-reviewed-medical-journals>

Formatting – at Revision

Before a manuscript can be accepted, the following formatting is required. This is can be addressed after review, at the revision stage. Please, pay particular attention to the underlined points.

General Guidelines (preferred)

- Margins of 2 cm (0.8")
- Single line spacing
- Commonly used font in an easy to read size, such as Calibri in 11pt size.
- Paragraph spacing of 12pt, no paragraph indent

Headings

Please do not use more than 3 levels of headings. Authors are encouraged to use their word processor's 'Styles' system, to make clear what the hierarchy of the headings is. For example, the general title of your manuscript should appear as the style 'Title', the body of your text should appear as 'Normal', and the headings should appear as 'Heading 1', 'Heading 2' and 'Heading 3', depending on the level.

References & In-text Citation

The accuracy and completeness of citations and references is important and remains the responsibility of the authors.

For references and citations, the Asian Bioethics Review follows the Chicago Manual of Style (author-date). This means that our journal uses in-text citation, **not** footnotes or endnotes. Footnotes can be used, but for *clarification* purposes only, not for referencing. Therefore, please use footnotes sparingly and limit the number to maximum 9.

Referencing is not about dots, commas and spaces; 'the look' is not what matters so much. It is about consistency, transparency, accountability and academic rigour. Therefore, authors are responsible for ensuring that all cited references are accurate and complete, and are to provide the following details:

- Author names – With scholarship becoming more inclusive, please provide the full given name (if more than one given name, only one to be provided in full)
- Year of publication
- Title

Journal Articles

- Journal name
- Volume, issue & pages, or volume & article number, or publication date when not yet part of volume
- DOI

Example:

Keng, Shao-Hsun, Chun-Hung Lin, and Peter F. Orazem. 2017. Expanding College Access in Taiwan, 1978–2014: Effects on Graduate Quality and Income Inequality. *Journal of Human Capital* 11(1): 1–34.
<https://doi.org/10.1086/690235>.

Books

- City of publication (not country)
- Publisher
- Title and pages of chapter, when relevant

Example (book):

Lahiri, Jhumpa. 2016. *In Other Words*. Translated by Ann Goldstein. New York: Alfred A. Knopf.

Example (chapter in edited book):

Thoreau, Henry David. 2016. Walking. In *The Making of the American Essay*, edited by John D'Agata, 167–195. Minneapolis: Graywolf Press.

Newspaper Articles, Blog Posts and Reports

- Newspaper, blog or reporting institution
- Publication date in full: dd mmm yyyy
- Web link
- Date when you last accessed the web link

Example:

Pai, Tanya. 2017. The Squishy, Sugary History of Peeps. *Vox*, 11 April 2017.

<http://www.vox.com/culture/2017/4/11/15209084/peeps-easter>. Accessed 5 May 2017.

Further examples of how various types of references are formatted, can be found here:

http://www.chicagomanualofstyle.org/tools_citationguide/citation-guide-2.html.

Submitting your Manuscript

Online Submission Process

All manuscripts have to be submitted via our online submission platform 'Editorial Manager': <https://www.editorialmanager.com/tabr/>. Subsequently, review and revision will also be managed via this platform.

Unless otherwise agreed by the Editor-in-Chief, a manuscript offered for submission will only be considered where the author(s) warrant that the manuscript has not already been published or offered for publication elsewhere in whole, in part, or in substance. Articles under consideration by other journals will not be accepted. By submitting a manuscript for publication in ABR, the author(s) also warrant that the material presented is original and does not make use of any other persons' published and unpublished ideas or words (or other intellectual property) without attribution or permission.

Figures, Tables, Audio and Video

Springer Nature's guidelines regarding 'Tables' and 'Supplementary Information':

<https://www.springer.com/journal/41649/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors%20Tables>

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Authors wishing to include figures, tables, audio, video or extended text that have already been published elsewhere are required to obtain permission from the copyright owner(s) for both the print and online format and to include evidence that such permission has been granted when submitting their papers. Any material received without such evidence will be assumed to originate from the authors.

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<https://www.springer.com/journal/41649/submission-guidelines#Instructions%20for%20Authors%20Research%20Data%20Policy>

Review & Revision

After a technical verification by our publisher Springer Nature, all submissions are considered by a member of the Editorial Team on relevance and suitability for the journal. If a submission is rejected at this stage, we commit to giving the reason as soon as possible, so that if authors wish to find an alternative place of publication, they can do so without undue delay.

Peer Review

Book Reviews and Letters to the Editor are usually reviewed by a member of the Editorial Team. All other manuscripts that are deemed relevant and suitable for the journal are subject to double-blind peer review, where authors and peer reviewers remain anonymous to each other.

Peer Reviewers will consider submissions according to the following criteria (where applicable):

- Relevance to the mission statement of the journal
- Overall quality
- Academic standards
- Originality and its contribution to the field
- Insightfulness and depth of analysis or reflection
- For empirical research, methodological rigour
- For multi-disciplinary papers, the success of integration of the material

Revision

If after review, authors are asked to revise their work, they will be sent a copy of the reviewers' recommendations. After making the recommended alterations, authors should include a full account of the changes in the resubmission.

Although ABR tries to keep the barrier to submission low by being flexible on issues such as word count and formatting at the submission stage, we do ask that at the revision stage, authors address these issues in more detail. More information on word count and formatting can be found earlier in this document.

Editorial Decision

Revised papers may be returned to the reviewer(s) or may be assessed by a member of the Editorial Team, based on the recommendations of the reviewer(s). The final decision on publication remains the sole responsibility and discretion of the Editorial Team.

The Editorial Team is committed to building capacity in bioethics. Thus, even in cases where a submission is rejected a full account of the reasons will be given.

Accepted Manuscripts

A few days after your article is accepted, the corresponding author will receive a link via email to the 'Author Query Application' at Springer Nature's website, where you can arrange the copyright of your article and order 'Open Access', offprints, or printing of illustrations in colour, if you wish so. Once the Author Query Application has been completed, your article will be processed and you will receive a link to the proof of your article via email. We ask the corresponding author for vigilance about both these emails, so that the publication of your article is not delayed.

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Final Proofing

Once the Author Query Application has been completed, your article will be processed and you will receive a link to the proof of your article via email. The purpose of the proof is to check for typesetting errors and the completeness and accuracy of the text, tables and figures. Substantial changes in content, e.g., new results, corrected values, title and authorship, are not allowed without the approval of the Editorial Team.

We reserve the right to make amendments considered necessary to achieve ABR's stylistic and formatting standards. This may include changes with a view to:

- eliminating errors of typing, grammar, syntax, punctuation, spelling, and idiom;
- eliminating ambiguity, illogicality, tautology, circumlocution and redundancy;
- producing accuracy and coherence; and
- improving the mode of expression and style of writing.

After online publication, further changes can only be made via the separate publication of an Erratum.

Online Publication & Inclusion in a Journal Issue

After proofing, we publish your article online as soon as it has completed the production process. All articles are subsequently included in a journal issue, as part of a year volume.

Social Media

All authors are encouraged to share their social media handles with us, as well as the social media handles of the institutions and organisations they are affiliated with, so that we can help promote the publication of their article.