

## **Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**

### **Introduction**

At Duncker & Humblot, we are deeply committed to upholding the highest standards of publication ethics and diligently combating publication malpractices. Our ethical guidelines are firmly grounded in the principles and directives established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

### **Duties of Editors**

1. **Fair Evaluation:**  
Editors assess manuscripts based solely on their academic merit, considering factors such as importance, originality, validity, clarity, and relevance to the journal's scope. We maintain impartiality regardless of the authors' personal characteristics or institutional affiliations.
2. **Confidentiality:**  
Editors and editorial staff handle all submitted manuscripts with the utmost confidentiality. Information pertaining to submitted manuscripts is disclosed only to the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisors, and the publisher, as necessary.
3. **Disclosure and Conflict of Interest:**  
Editors refrain from using undisclosed information from submitted manuscripts for personal research purposes. In cases where editors have conflicts of interest due to affiliations with authors, companies, or institutions associated with the papers, they recuse themselves from handling such manuscripts.
4. **Publication Decisions:**  
Editors are tasked with determining the publication of submitted articles based on adherence to the journal's editorial policies and compliance with legal regulations regarding libel, copyright infringement, and plagiarism.

### **Duties of Reviewers**

1. **Contribution to Editorial Decisions:**  
Peer reviewers aid editors in editorial decision-making and may offer constructive feedback to authors, contributing to the improvement of submitted manuscripts.
2. **Timeliness:**  
Reviewers who are unable to fulfill their reviewing obligations promptly or feel unqualified to review specific manuscripts should promptly inform the editor and decline the review request.
3. **Confidentiality:**  
Reviewers must treat manuscripts received for review as privileged information and refrain from sharing or discussing them with unauthorized individuals.
4. **Objectivity:**  
Reviews should be conducted objectively, avoiding personal criticism of the author. Reviewers are encouraged to provide clear and well-supported evaluations.
5. **Source Acknowledgment:**  
Reviewers should identify relevant published works not cited by the authors and highlight any previous reports or findings pertinent to the manuscript under review.
6. **Disclosure and Conflict of Interest:**  
Reviewers must maintain confidentiality regarding privileged information obtained during the review process and declare any conflicts of interest that may influence their assessment of the manuscript.

## **Duties of Authors**

- 1. Reporting Standards:**  
Authors should provide an accurate account of their research and ensure that the underlying data are accurately represented. Sufficient detail and references should be provided to facilitate reproducibility.
- 2. Originality and Plagiarism:**  
Authors must ensure that their work is original and properly cite or quote the work and words of others when included in their manuscript.
- 3. Multiple, Redundant, or Concurrent Publication:**  
Authors should refrain from submitting manuscripts that describe essentially the same research to more than one journal concurrently, as such actions constitute unethical publishing behavior.
- 4. Source Acknowledgment:**  
Authors are required to acknowledge the work of others and cite publications that have significantly influenced their research.
- 5. Authorship:**  
Authorship should be attributed only to those who have made substantial contributions to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All contributors should be appropriately recognized.
- 6. Disclosure and Conflict of Interest:**  
Authors must disclose any financial or other substantive conflicts of interest that may influence the interpretation of their work. All sources of financial support for the research should be disclosed.
- 7. Correction of Errors:**  
Authors should promptly notify the journal editor or publisher upon the discovery of significant errors or inaccuracies in their published work and cooperate in issuing retractions or corrections as necessary.

## **Duties of the Publisher**

- 1. Handling Unethical Publishing Behavior:**  
In cases of alleged or proven scientific misconduct, fraudulent publication, or plagiarism, the publisher collaborates closely with editors to address the situation promptly and take appropriate corrective actions.
- 2. Access to Journal Content:**  
The publisher ensures the perpetual accessibility and preservation of scholarly research by partnering with organizations and maintaining a digital archive.

This comprehensive statement embodies our unwavering commitment to maintaining the integrity and ethical standards of scholarly publishing at Duncker & Humblot.