

Policy on Generative AI

Our guidelines for scientific journals and series

FrancoAngeli wishes to present and propose to the academic community – with whom it engages in dialogue and consultation throughout the editorial process leading to the publication of both articles in scientific journals and volumes in edited series – a comprehensive and carefully considered policy on the transparent and ethically responsible use of Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI) technologies.

This document is intended as a shared, proactive guide for all our key partners, including authors, editors-in-chief, editorial boards, scientific committees and referees. It aims to ensure that, while respecting copyright and criteria of originality, transparency, ethical conduct and research integrity, publications are the result of a quality-assured process that meets the competence, reliability and accreditation requirements demanded by national and international scientific research standards.

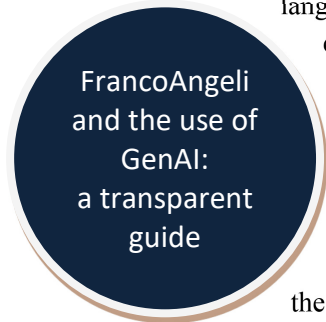
From initial manuscript preparation through to peer review and the editorial decision-making process, the use of AI-assisted systems in academic work requires clearly defined boundaries, explicit disclosure, and an unwavering commitment to research integrity.

By Generative Artificial Intelligence, FrancoAngeli refers to machine learning technologies and large language models (LLMs) that generate content, images, data and code in response to queries and, specifically, to users' training inputs – ChatGPT, Claude, DALL-E and Gemini are some examples of GenAI tools. These models differ significantly from AI-assisted technologies such as plagiarism detection software, grammar checkers, reference management tools and machine translation tools, which are designed to support and assist users' research and queries, but do not generate new content. Although using a spell-checker or a tool for formatting bibliographic references or data does not pose a problem for the integrity of research when used correctly, an LLM that generates content and text without human supervision, control or accountability does present real risks of fabricating facts, plagiarism and incorrectly attributing intellectual work.

For this reason, it is essential that authors transparently declare which GenAI tools and models they have used, for what purposes and to what extent, in their scientific research and in the content of their articles or monographs.

This transparency enables the editorial boards of journals and series, referees, the relevant scientific community and readers to assess potential conflicts of interest, to identify cognitive biases that may have influenced the content of the research, and to consider whether the use of GenAI has compromised the authenticity of the intellectual contribution which, as the 2025 Copyright Act states, must be exclusively *human*.

The supervision and ethical responsibility of the authors remain the indispensable counterpart to any permitted use of AI, ensuring that publications are the result of the authors' originality and professional expertise.

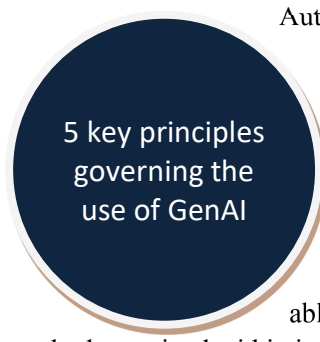


FrancoAngeli
and the use of
GenAI:
a transparent
guide

Fundamental Ethical Principles

FrancoAngeli's policy is based on five closely interlinked principles that govern the use of AI throughout the entire editorial process. These principles are shared with authors, journal and series editors, and referees, and determine whether submitted proposals are published.

1. *Human responsibility and authorship of the work*, the *integrity* of which forms the ethical foundation.



Authorship of a peer-reviewed research paper implies a substantial intellectual contribution, the author's willingness to publicly defend every assertion and interpretation of their written research, and the assumption of professional responsibility for the accuracy and significance of the work. A GenAI system cannot act as an author, co-author or formal contributor because it cannot take on legal responsibility for its work, participate in academic debates or use critical feedback from the scientific community to improve its work.

Any author submitting a manuscript to FrancoAngeli's editorial boards must be able to justify and substantiate every statement, source of data and interpretative method contained within it.

This responsibility cannot be delegated to algorithmic systems under any circumstances.

2. *Transparency*, which functions both as an ethical commitment and as an epistemological necessity. All uses of GenAI in the academic production process must be openly declared, enabling an informed assessment by editorial boards, editorial committees, referees and the wider research community. Such transparency respects the autonomy of readers and facilitates compliance with the ethical and methodological requirements of institutional research and with the mandates of any funding bodies regarding the disclosure of AI.

3. *Intellectual integrity* requires that manuscripts represent an authentic contribution of human intellectual endeavour. Results generated by GenAI can perform valuable preparatory functions (for example, offering preliminary frameworks, suggesting organisational structures, or providing linguistic inspiration), but they cannot and must not constitute or replace the fundamental intellectual substance of a work resulting from the author's creativity, originality, critical analysis and revision. This distinction is essential in the editorial process: the use of an LLM to explore preliminary ideas is ethically distinct from allowing a GenAI tool to generate finished content that is simply and irresponsibly 'rubber-stamped' by the author.

4. *The integrity and accuracy of research* require authors to independently verify all the content of their work, in particular statements relating to data, citations and statistics. Large-scale GenAI language models can often produce 'hallucinations' – that is, content that appears plausible but is in fact false, arising from misattributed citations and conceptual errors that, upon initial superficial analysis, appear authoritative. Authors must not, under any circumstances, abdicate their responsibilities by delegating verification to GenAI models. The double-blind peer-review process of scientific journals and series, however rigorous, careful and competent it may be, cannot detect every factual or textual error; for this reason, responsibility lies solely with the authors.

5. *Respect for data confidentiality and privacy*, as protected by European and Italian legislation, prohibits the uploading of original articles and monographs – which have undergone the peer-review process – and of information identifying the author to publicly accessible GenAI systems. This would violate the author's confidentiality and privacy, as well as compromise intellectual property rights and the integrity of the editorial process. Research shared via AI software may, in fact, be stored indefinitely and used for algorithmic training purposes.

Permitted and prohibited uses of GenAI in the preparation and writing of manuscripts

Authors may make appropriate use of GenAI technologies at various stages of preparing their works, provided that the ethical standards described above are strictly adhered to, based on a primary and fundamental principle: that the intellectual content, the research design, and its analytical and methodological framework must be the result of the author's own work and expertise. In contrast, GenAI must play a subordinate, auxiliary, supportive or instrumental role.

Linguistic refinement constitutes a legitimate application of GenAI. Authors may use AI tools to improve the grammar, syntax, clarity of presentation or stylistic refinement of their research, provided that they review and approve all changes and that the final content is the result of their own intellectual work.

Brainstorming and *conceptual exploration* constitute another permissible area of GenAI use, whose models can help authors organise preliminary ideas, identify potential research directions, explore alternative conceptual frameworks or organise their scientific knowledge and expertise in different ways – provided that authors independently and ethically develop their own hypotheses, refine their research questions (*prompts*) and construct analytical frameworks based on adequate scientific expertise in the field and a thorough knowledge of the relevant sources and literature.

GenAI can suggest possibilities; the author must evaluate, critique and, ultimately, verify and decide whether and in what ways their research requires the support of artificial intelligence.

GenAI can help identify thematic *clusters* within existing bodies of research, suggest potential connections between academic works, or organise sources and citations according to conceptual relationships. Authors have a duty to independently evaluate these suggestions, verify that the cited works do indeed support the stated connections, and integrate the algorithmic results into original and transparent structures and content.

Therefore, the visualisation of data and the preparation of figures or tables may sometimes appropriately involve the use of GenAI tools, provided that all underlying information has been correctly sourced, cited comprehensively and transparently, and, ultimately, verified by the author.

Support for accessibility – a fundamental requirement of the editorial and publishing process at FrancoAngeli – represents another particularly significant and permissible use of GenAI, provided that authors facing linguistic, physical or cognitive barriers use algorithmic models to facilitate and support their work and the preparation of their research, whilst ensuring that the result remains exclusively the product of their own original intellectual effort.

In the preceding paragraphs and pages, the fundamental principles have been set out whereby authors cannot and must not use GenAI models when drafting their research work. Therefore, FrancoAngeli, and consequently the editorial boards of its journals and academic series, will not accept or publish articles or books that are not the result of human intellectual expertise and creativity.

For this fundamental reason, the artificial generation of any scientific content, or part thereof, contravenes FrancoAngeli's editorial policy and its [Code of Ethics](#).

Peer review and editorial processes

Referees occupy a particularly sensitive position within the GenAI 'ecosystem', as confidentiality in the peer review process requires greater protection of content and personal data against breaches that may arise from the use of AI.

Referees are therefore required not to upload articles or monographs (or any part thereof), received from the editorial boards of journals or series, nor any information relating to them, the author or third parties involved

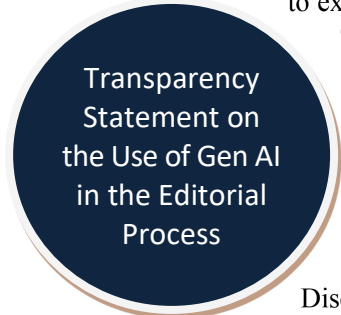
in the editorial process, into GenAI tools. Uploading confidential material to AI systems constitutes a breach of confidentiality and data privacy.

Referees are also required not to use GenAI to generate their scientific assessment of the work submitted to them by the editorial boards of journals and series. Rigorous peer review requires in-depth human disciplinary and scientific expertise, familiarity with the relevant methodological literature, an understanding of the context and significance of the research, and the ability to identify conceptual problems or misinterpretations – qualities that GenAI models do not possess.

Referees may, however, use GenAI systems to refine and improve the language of their assessment, but they are obliged, in accordance with the principles of ethics, transparency and integrity in both research and the editorial process, to provide full disclosure to the editorial boards of journals and series, and consequently to the Publisher and the Editorial Team, which AI model they have used and the reason for doing so, confirming that they have complied with the rules safeguarding the confidentiality of content and personal data.

Transparency requirements for the declaration and disclosure of GenAI use: standards and practices

Authors submitting scientific articles or books to the editorial boards of our journals and series are required to explicitly declare the use of GenAI in the preparation and writing of their work.



Transparency Statement on the Use of Gen AI in the Editorial Process

This declaration is essential to ensure the transparency required for an informed editorial assessment and peer review process; to support compliance with institutional AI disclosure mandates and those of any funding bodies; to safeguard the integrity of research through accountability mechanisms; and, last but not least, to respect the autonomy of readers and the scientific community, who are the cornerstones and primary audience of FrancoAngeli's publications and editorial activities.

Disclosure of the use of GenAI models is required when these have been used by authors to draft, edit, organise or refine any part of the manuscript's content; to create figures, tables, data or abstracts; to support data analysis, statistical processing or methodological design; or, furthermore, to enhance literature reviews, systematic reviews or conceptual mapping.

Authors, in accordance with and in line with the editorial guidelines of the journals or series and/or the publisher, must state in their article or monograph: the name of the GenAI system used, as well as its version (for example: ChatGPT-4, Claude 3.5, DALL-E 3); the reasons and purposes for which they have used it; the pages or sections in which it has been used; the dates on which GenAI was accessed, where relevant for the purposes of reproducibility. They may also explain within the work why AI was used in the research methodology and whether it forms an integral part of the research project or data analysis; finally, whether it was used as a tool to improve writing style or to correct spelling and grammatical errors.

Integrated use of AI in research: special documentation requirements

Where GenAI or AI-assisted technologies form an integral part of the actual research methodology (i.e. the design, collection, analysis or interpretation of data), authors are required to provide detailed documentation, which will be published in the article or monograph, in accordance with the editorial guidelines of the editorial boards and FrancoAngeli.

Authors who have used machine learning models – even prior to writing the work – are required to describe, in a transparent and detailed manner within the monograph, the reasons why AI was necessary, so that readers can understand the methodology, structure and purpose of the research, as well as its results and scientific evidence as presented in the publication.



As already indicated in the previous paragraph, the information to be included in the publication must comprise: the name and version of the AI model used; the exact settings of its parameters and configuration details; the prompts used by the author to generate the research results, where possible and appropriate; the date and time of the *queries* or analyses to enable version tracking; a systematic and concise description demonstrating how the AI results were independently verified; and, finally, a transparent acknowledgement of the potential limitations and biases inherent in the artificial intelligence system applied to the research.

Verification by journal and series editors and compliance mechanisms regarding the use of GenAI for the purposes of research publishability

Upon *submission* of the manuscript, the editorial boards of journals or series are required to verify whether the author has declared, in a detailed and transparent manner, the use of GenAI models.

In the event of doubts regarding the completeness of the information provided by the author, or if it emerges that GenAI may have been used to create content *from scratch* within the text – which would infringe copyright – the editorial boards of journals and series are free to reject the submission, following consultation with the author, or are required to report their concerns regarding the undeclared and non-compliant use of AI to the referees appointed for the anonymous assessment of the work, so that they may undertake a careful and thorough analysis of the submission, drawing on their professional and scientific expertise.

Through scrupulous, careful and balanced mediation between the parties involved, whose anonymity and right of reply must be guaranteed, the editorial boards of the journals or series will independently assess whether or not to publish – out of respect for the scientific community and readers, and **in accordance with the ‘pact’ of integrity that governs and underpins scientific research and academic publishing, in line with the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) guidelines, to which FrancoAngeli adheres, as stated in its [Code of Ethics for Journals and Series](#).**

FrancoAngeli would like to thank all our partners. We would like to reiterate that we are open to any suggestions and invite the Editors-in-Chief and members of the Editorial Boards, should any doubts arise, to contact us and write to us:

- for journals to: journals@francoangeli.it
- for peer-reviewed book series: universita@francoangeli.it