

Code of Ethics

FrancoAngeli publishing house is actively involved in the divulgation of scientific culture and knowledge. It believes in the dissemination of knowledge, since everyone should have equal access to the latest results of research, and it promotes research's independence through a rigorous evaluation process (*peer review*), by publishing and spreading original articles, based on consistent and trustworthy sources.

It disapproves of copyright infringement and plagiarism of content, avoiding and condemning any conflict of interest – or discrimination based on gender, sexual orientation, religion, politics and ethnicity – that might invalidate the quality and rigour of its publications.


In order to serve the specific needs of scientific research, with a particular focus on the transparency and integrity they require, FrancoAngeli accepts the ethical standards established by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#), since it has always been attentive to the dynamics of the national and international academic world and institutions (Ministry of University and Research, ANVUR, CUN and CRUI) and in constant dialogue with AIE (Italian Publishers' Association), of which it is a member.

The Publisher is aware that these standards do not represent a true normative reference and that there are no courts to judge their compliance. But, precisely for this reason, it asks its partners (Editors, Editorial Boards, Referees, Authors) of Scientific Journals to make an even more resolute effort to apply, and thus protect, the Code of Ethics described in this document, based on the [COPE Core Practices](#) and the [Principles of Transparency and Best Practice for Scholarly Publications](#), signed by COPE, DOAJ and OASPA.

1. Composition of the Journal's bodies, editorial tasks and management of conflicts of interest and competing interests

The composition of the internal committees of each scientific journal published by FrancoAngeli is explicitly outlined. This composition includes the presence of at least one Scientific Director, the members of the Editorial Board and the members of the Scientific Committee, who guarantee the correctness of the process of admission or rejection of articles submitted by Authors, peer review and anonymity of the Referees.

FrancoAngeli is committed to avoid, as much as possible, conflicts of interest (or competing interests) of Editors, Referees, Authors or of any situation affecting its operations. If for any reason this is not feasible, it will declare this openly. Similarly, the Scientific Direction, Editorial Board and Referees are required to notify the Publisher if they find conflicts of interest, plagiarism or copyright infringement. In such a case FrancoAngeli, in agreement with the Editorial Board, will not accept the editorial proposal, unless the Author, after a mediation process between the parties, makes himself/herself available to properly review his research for peer review and, therefore, possible publication.



Clear editorial
composition to
avoid conflicts
of interest

Scientific Direction, Editorial Board, Scientific Committee and Referees are also obliged not to disclose any information on the articles received except to the Authors themselves, or to those who have been authorized in advance. They are also not permitted to use the unpublished manuscripts they receive for their own research without the explicit written consent of the Author of the manuscript.


Editors and members of the Editorial Board are entitled to submit their own work to the journal with which they collaborate, but they are explicitly forbidden from taking part in any decisions or assignments concerning their own papers.

In the case of sponsored publications, the review of articles will be based solely on their scientific value.

2. Reporting Misconduct, Complaints and Appeals

FrancoAngeli, as a publisher and third party in the review process, is the guarantor and supervisor of the conduct of the published Journals. It will not facilitate any misconduct in the publication process by individual editors, nor will it knowingly allow alterations to normal procedures. Should there be any suspicion of conduct that is not in accordance with this Code of Ethics, the Publisher urges anyone to contact the Journals Department at: journals@francoangeli.it. The report will be treated with due confidentiality to protect the identity of the informer. An internal investigation will be launched to determine whether procedures have been followed and complied with.

For complaints concerning the behaviour of FrancoAngeli employees or misconduct by the publishing house itself, please write to: redazioni@francoangeli.it.



Beware of any suspicion of misconduct

2.1 Intellectual property infringement and post-publication discussions

Any notice of suspected infringement of another's intellectual property, plagiarism, data alteration, inaccuracy or other errors can be notified to the Editorial Board and/or FrancoAngeli (journals@francoangeli.it). The Publisher requests that its journal partners direct their attention to the readers' comments, as it believes that these constitute the fundamental basis of any publication. In the event of already-published content that leads to doubts and questions, the editors will consult with the designated *corresponding author* to clarify any uncertainties. If necessary, the Journal must withdraw the paper or publish a corrigendum.

3. Peer review referencing

FrancoAngeli, in collaboration with the editorial boards of the journals, encourages and supervises the double blind peer review process as a method of proposal selection and evaluation. In accordance with this system, the review is limited to considerations of the quality and theoretical coherence of the articles.

To manage and track the refereeing process, each journal has a specific digital environment on the 'FrancoAngeli Journals' platform.



A digital system to aid double blind peer review

This system helps Editors interface with Authors and Referees in a semi-automated manner, concealing information and personal data from papers and evaluation forms. In addition, reviews received through the platform are securely stored in a digital archive, thus remaining easily accessible for consultation or appeal.

The appointed Referees are professionals specialised in their respective fields. They must not accept proposals for which they have obvious conflicts of interest, determined by relationships with Authors or Institutions that are in any way related to the content of the research. They must ensure, in due time, an objective, clear and documented evaluation, pointing out relevant bibliographic sources not cited in the text and proposing to the Authors useful advice for the improvement of their research.

Any researcher can apply as a Referee for the Journals published by FrancoAngeli: he/she can proceed with the application by ticking the appropriate box when registering on the web page of the Journal in which he/she is interested. The Editorial Board, in consultation with the Scientific Committee, will evaluate the applications and assign the reviewing duties, avoiding possible conflicts of interest between the parties.

Depending on the periodicity of the Journal, the publication of the names of those who collaborated as Referees in the peer review is planned on an annual/biennial/triennial basis. The list may be published online or in the paper issue, depending on the preference of the Journal.

Published articles, which have thus passed the evaluation process, display on the first page the dates of proposal and acceptance, as well as their DOI ([Digital Object Identifier](#)) and the ISSN of the journal (for both the paper and digital formats, where applicable).

Invited articles, which are not subject to review, are accompanied by a note explaining their status.

4. Reproducibility of data and research results

FrancoAngeli believes in the dissemination of knowledge. It believes that the outcome of a scientific research should be regarded as the foundation for a new and more significant investigation. This virtuous path enables the divulgation and recognition of its publications within the scientific community, as well as beyond it.

For this reason, in addition to traditional publication formats, since 2015 it offers the possibility of publishing in *Open Access*. Depending on their subject area and history, Journals are published in different ways: via subscription and commercialised, in Open Access or in hybrid form.

Authors also have the possibility to publish their articles in advance, the so-called *On line first*, which allows them to divulgate their work prior to its inclusion in the final printed edition.

The Journals in Open Access policy is stated on [Sherpa Romeo](#).

There are also repositories specifically dedicated to *Open Access* Journals such as the Directory of Open Access Journals ([DOAJ](#)). Platforms indexing open access digital resources in the social sciences, such as [Social Science Research Network \(SSRN\)](#), [JURN](#), are also available online. If publications receive European funding, they will also be indexed on [OpenAIRE](#). The Creative Commons licence of Journals or Open Access articles is indicated on the webpage of each article or in the footer of the Journal article itself.

For commercialised journals, the free citation of data and search results is permitted within the limits of the currently applicable [Italian copyright law](#).



Any fees or publication costs (APC) are made explicit on the journal's webpage on the [Publisher website](#). FrancoAngeli guarantees perpetual access to the contents of its Journals through membership of [Clockss](#) and [Portico](#).

5. Authorship and ethical conduct

In order to comply with the policy and code of ethics, FrancoAngeli invites Authors to maintain high standards of work.

Specifically, it requires Authors to sign a document in which they:

- declare that only unpublished original manuscripts that are not under evaluation by another Italian or foreign journal are proposed for publication;
- declare that they have no conflict of interest that has affected their research;
- outline the entities and resources that financed and supported the project;
- ensure correct citation of all sources in the manuscript;
- indemnify the Publisher and the Scientific Direction from any liability;
- provide the necessary authorisations or releases regarding the publication of images, tables, graphics or other content in compliance with copyright law.

In addition:

- if a paper is co-written, the Authors must declare the names of all those who contributed to the research, specifying their academic affiliation and, if possible, their [ORCID](#). FrancoAngeli will thus be sure that all the Authors have participated equally in the research and are therefore responsible for it to the same extent, unless otherwise stated;
- if the proposed article concerns natural persons or contains information that makes a person identifiable, the Author must declare explicit adherence to the [Declaration of Helsinki](#) developed by the World Medical Association (WMA) and updated in 2013;
 - if, on the other hand, the article concerns experiments with animals, the Author is required to provide a statement assuring his or her compliance with national and institutional standards for the respect of laboratory animals as suggested by the [Recommendations for the Conduct, Reporting, Editing, and Publication of Scholarly Work in Medical Journals](#), drawn up by the International Committee of Medical Journal Editors (ICMJE).



Finally, the Publisher invites Authors and Editors to consider the sensitivities of their audience and to act with due respect and goodwill when working on sensitive material, respecting the Code of Ethics of the relevant scientific association and the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation No. 2016/679).

6. Artificial Intelligence

FrancoAngeli requires its Authors to submit original and unpublished articles, in which data and sources are correctly cited in compliance with Italian copyright law.

If Authors makes use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) tools - such as ChatGTP, Chatbot or Large Language Models - in writing content or creating images, tables and graphs, or in collecting and analysing data for the purposes of his own publication, they must explicitly declare this to the Publisher and the Journal's Editorial Board. In addition, the Authors are obliged to specify in their article which artificial intelligence tool they employed and in what manner.

Since, in accordance with COPE's Position Statement, Artificial Intelligence tools cannot be considered 'Authors', as they are not legal entities, the Authors are solely responsible for the content of their own research and thus also for those parts that have been artificially created.

It will be up to the Editor-in-Chief of the journal, in agreement with FrancoAngeli, to decide whether to accept an article for which the Author has made use of artificial intelligence tools.

FrancoAngeli is committed to follow closely the technological developments and the intense debate concerning Artificial Intelligence, to evaluate the indications proposed by the academic-scientific and publishing institutions, and to take note of any European or national legislation that may regulate its use in the future, amending its Code of Ethics if necessary.

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On behalf of FrancoAngeli, we would like to thank all our partners. We remind you of our openness to any suggestions, and we invite editors and board members to contact us should any doubts arise.