

Publication ethics and publication malpractice statement

Duties of the editor and editorial board:

- **Publication decisions:** the responsible editor of the journal *Regional Statistics* is responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published and the editor-in-chief makes the final decision about the articles to be published. The responsible editor is guided by the policies of the journal's editorial board and constrained by such legal requirements as shall then be in force regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism. The responsible editor consult with editorial board or reviewers in decision making.
- **Fair play:** an editor should evaluate manuscripts for their intellectual content without regard to race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.
- **Confidentiality:** the responsible editor and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

Duties of Reviewers:

- **Contribution to Editorial Decisions:** peer review assists the responsible editor in making editorial decisions and through the editorial communications with the author may also assist the author in improving the paper.
- **Promptness:** any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should notify the responsible editor and excuse himself from the review process.
- **Confidentiality:** any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to or discussed with others.
- **Standards of Objectivity:** reviews should be conducted objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.
- **Disclosure and Conflict of Interest:** privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.

Duties of Authors:

- **Reporting standards:** authors of reports of original research should present an accurate account of the work performed as well as an objective discussion of its significance. Underlying data should be represented accurately in the paper. A paper should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behaviour and are unacceptable.
- **Originality and Plagiarism:** the authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works, and if the authors have used the work and/or words of others that this has been appropriately cited or quoted. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.

- **Multiple Publication:** Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable.
- **Authorship of the Paper:** authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors are included on the paper, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.
- **Fundamental errors in published works:** when an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author's obligation to promptly notify the journal's responsible editor and cooperate with him to correct the paper