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Ethical code

acusfere is a peer-reviewed journal published annually, utilizing a double-blind review process for the publication of scientific articles. All parties involved in the publication – authors, editor-in-chief, scientific directors, reviewers, and editorial board members – are aware of and explicitly share the required ethical standards.

The ethical code of the journal *acusfere* has been drafted in accordance with the guidelines contained in the *Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors* proposed by the *Committee on Publication Ethics* (COPE). The journal's editorial policies and ethical code are periodically updated in line with COPE guidelines.

Responsibilities of the Editorial Board and Journal Staff

The editorial board of *acusfere* is responsible for what is published in the journal and for the evaluation and review processes of the contributions, implemented to ensure the dissemination of content with quality, originality, and scientific rigor. For this purpose, it relies on the consultation of its scientific committee, composed of highly qualified scholars, and a "double-blind" review process. The journal also has an editorial board, coordinated by an editorial secretary, tasked with ensuring accurate text editing according to the journal's and the publisher's editorial standards.

The decision to accept or reject a contribution for publication is based on the scientific direction's opinion regarding the topic's relevance, quality, originality, and scientific rigor. The editorial board may reject an article without peer review if deemed of low quality or unsuitable for the journal. This decision is made fairly and impartially, and the criteria for rejection are communicated to the author. The decision to not accept a contribution is based solely on its intellectual content, without prejudice related to race, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, citizenship, or political belief of the authors.

The evaluation of proposals accepted by the editorial board is based on a fair and impartial "double-blind" review procedure, for which the journal employs the work of external, qualified, and competent reviewers in the relevant fields. The motivated opinions, provided in writing, are promptly sent anonymously by the editorial board to the authors of the contributions.

The editorial board is committed to protecting the confidentiality of the personal information and materials of the authors throughout the review process and recommends that reviewers adhere to the same guidelines.

In the event of extremely conflicting reviews, the editorial board will request an additional review by a third reviewer. Any decision by the editorial board to deviate from the reviewers' evaluations will always be adequately and explicitly justified.

The submitted texts and peer review outcomes are stored in a confidential database.

The journal staff adheres to legal provisions regarding defamation, copyright infringement, and plagiarism, and is obliged to act as required by copyright law if they suspect misconduct by the author or detect other types of abuses. The editorial board is committed to supporting authors whose copyright has been violated or who have been victims of plagiarism.

Responsibilities of Reviewers

Every contribution, whether received by the journal or identified by the editorial board or scientific committee, is anonymously reviewed by two anonymous reviewers selected by the journal.

Reviewers are required to disclose and justify potential conflicts of interest both before accepting the assignment and during the review process.

Reviewers are invited to evaluate contributions based on their originality, scientific relevance, and other indicators identified by the journal. They express and justify their opinions through the completion of a review form, in which they are also invited to suggest any corrections and rewrites to the author to fully realize the scientific potential of the contribution.

Reviewers are obliged to treat the materials received from the journal with confidentiality and are invited to inform the editorial board if they detect intellectual property violations and other abuses.

Responsibilities of Authors

All authors of contributions published in the journal are responsible for their conduct, authorship, and the validity of their research and writings. They are personally responsible for the content of the articles: they must guarantee the originality of their works and be aware of the consequences of misconduct.

Authors must always explicitly state their sources and cite them accurately and precisely, ensuring the accuracy, completeness, and clarity of the articles, in compliance with the journal's technical and editorial standards.

The texts submitted to the journal must not have been published as copyrighted material in other journals or editorial venues. Authors commit not to submit the same contribution to other journals during the evaluation process.

Authors are invited to follow the editorial guidelines published on the journal's webpage: <https://limateneo.com/index.php/acusfere/>

Authors are required to declare any financial or non-financial conflicts of interest when submitting their proposals for publication in the journal. The conflict of interest statement is published alongside the contribution, so readers are informed.

Retractions, Corrections, and Modifications of Published Articles

The editorial board will consider any retractions, corrections, or modifications of already published articles in line with the COPE *Retraction Guidelines*. If an author is found to have made an error, the journal will publish a correction. If the journal is found to have made an error, it will publish an erratum. Retractions are usually reserved for articles with such severe flaws that their findings or conclusions cannot be relied upon or that contain substantial plagiarism or potentially harmful content.