

Copyright Policy

At Impact Compass Publishers, we value and respect our authors' intellectual property rights. We are committed to fostering a transparent and author-friendly publishing process that ensures you retain ownership of your work. The following is an outline of our copyright policy:

Author Ownership of Copyright

As the author, you will remain the sole owner of the copyright to your book. This means:

- You retain full legal rights to your manuscript, including its content, ideas, and expressions.
- You have the freedom to use your work in any way you see fit, including reproducing, sharing, or adapting it for other purposes.

Licensing Agreement

When you publish with Impact Compass Publishers, you grant us a non-exclusive licence to publish, distribute, and market your book. This licence allows us to do the following:

- Print and distribute physical and digital copies of your book.
- Promote your book through various channels to maximise its reach and sales.
- Collaborate with third-party distributors (e.g. bookstores and online platforms) to make your book widely available to readers.

This non-exclusive licence ensures that while we handle the publishing and distribution process, you retain the right to publish or distribute your book elsewhere, if you choose.

Author Rights

As the copyright owner, you have the following rights.

1. **Reproduction Rights:** You can reproduce and share copies of your book in any format.
2. **Adaptation Rights:** You can create derivative works based on your book (e.g. translations and screenplays).
3. **Distribution Rights:** You can distribute your book independently or through other publishers or platforms.
4. **Attribution Rights:** You will always be credited as the author of the work in all formats and editions published by the Impact Compass Publishers.

Publisher Responsibilities

Impact Compass Publishers will do the following:

- Please ensure that your copyright is protected throughout the publishing process.
- Include a copyright notice in all editions of your book, acknowledging you as the copyright owner (for example, "Copyright © [Author Name], [Year]").
- Transparent communication regarding licencing terms and usage rights for your work is provided.

Third-Party Permissions

If your manuscript includes copyrighted material from third parties (e.g. images, excerpts), it is the author's responsibility to secure permission for their use prior to submission. If needed, our editorial team can guide you through this process.

Termination of Agreement

Should you decide to terminate your publishing agreement with Impact Compass Publishers, all rights granted to us will revert fully back to you as the copyright owner without restrictions. By ensuring that authors retain ownership of their work, we empower them to maintain control over their creative output while benefiting from our professional publishing service. At Impact Compass Publishers, your work is always your own!

Peer Review Policy

Peer-Review Policy for Academic Books

Impact Compass Publishers is committed to maintaining the highest standards of scholarly integrity and quality in the academic books it publishes. Our peer-review policy ensures that all manuscripts undergo rigorous evaluation by qualified experts in the field, fostering credibility, accuracy and academic excellence. The key principles and procedures of our peer-review policy are as follows:

Purpose of Peer Review

The peer-review process is designed to

- The originality, significance, and contribution of the manuscript to its field of study should be evaluated.
- Ensure methodological rigor and accuracy in the research.
- Provide constructive feedback to authors to improve their work prior to publication.

Scope of Peer Review

All academic manuscripts submitted to Impact Compass Publishers are subject to peer reviews. This includes:

- Research monographs
- Edited volumes
- Textbooks
- Other scholarly works

Key Principles

1. **Confidentiality:** The peer review process is conducted in strict confidence. Manuscripts are anonymised, and reviewers' identities are protected unless both parties agree otherwise.
2. **Impartiality:** Reviewers are selected based on their expertise and objectivity. The authors declare no conflicts of interest are strictly avoided.
3. **Constructive Feedback:** Reviewers are encouraged to provide detailed, actionable feedback that supports authors in refining their work.
4. **Transparency:** Authors receive clear communication regarding review outcomes, including acceptance, revision requests or rejection.

Peer-Review Process

1. **Initial Assessment:**
 - Manuscripts are first reviewed by our editorial team for alignment with our publishing scope and standards.
 - Suitable manuscripts will be forwarded for peer review.
2. **Reviewer Selection:**
 - Independent reviewers with expertise in the manuscript's subject area are selected for the review.
 - A minimum of two reviewers will be assigned to each manuscript to ensure balanced evaluations.
3. **Review Criteria:**

Reviewers assess manuscripts based on the following:

 - Originality and contribution to the field
 - Methodological soundness and accuracy

- Clarity and coherence of writing
 - Relevance to the intended audience
- 4. Feedback and Recommendations:**
- Reviewers provide detailed reports highlighting the strengths, weaknesses, and areas for improvement.
 - The recommendations may include acceptance, minor revisions, major revisions, or rejection.
- 5. Author Revisions:**
- Authors receive anonymised feedback and are invited to revise their manuscripts as needed. Revised manuscripts may undergo further reviews if necessary.
- 6. Final Decision:**
- The editorial team reviews all feedback and revisions before making a final decision regarding publication.

Reviewer Responsibilities

Reviewers play a critical role in ensuring the quality of academic publications at Impact Compass:

- Provide unbiased evaluations based solely on the merits of the manuscript.
- Offer constructive feedback that supports the authors in improving their work.
- Please maintain confidentiality throughout the review process.

Author Responsibilities

Authors submitting manuscripts for peer review must do the following:

- Ensure that their work is original and free from plagiarism or ethical violations.
- Respond promptly to the reviewer's feedback and make revisions as required.
- Secure permissions for any third-party content included in the manuscript (e.g. images, excerpts).

Ethical Standards

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Impact Compass Publishers adheres to strict ethical guidelines throughout the peer-review process.

- Plagiarism checks were conducted on all submissions prior to the review.
- Conflicts of interest between authors, reviewers, and editors are actively avoided or disclosed when necessary by the publisher.

Our peer-review policy reflects our commitment to academic excellence while supporting authors in producing high-quality scholarly work that advances knowledge in their respective fields.

Ethics Policy

Publication Ethics Policy

Impact Compass Publishers is dedicated to upholding the highest standards of ethical publishing. Our publication ethics policy ensures that all parties involved in the publishing process, including authors, editors, reviewers, and publishers, adhere to the principles of integrity, transparency, and accountability. The key ethical guidelines governing our publishing activities are as follows:

Responsibilities of Authors

Authors submitting manuscripts to Impact Compass Publishers must adhere to the following ethical standards.

1. Originality and Plagiarism

- Authors must ensure that their work is original and free of plagiarism.
- Proper attribution and citation are required for all sources used in this manuscript.

2. Authorship and Contributorship

- Authorship should accurately reflect the individuals who made significant contributions to the manuscript's development.
- All authors must approve the final version of the manuscript prior to submission.

3. Data Integrity:

- Authors must present accurate data and ensure reproducibility, where applicable.
- Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate data are strictly prohibited.

4. Conflict of Interest Disclosure:

- The authors must disclose any financial or personal conflicts of interest that may influence their work.

5. Multiple Submissions:

- Manuscripts must not be submitted to multiple publishers simultaneously or republished without proper justification and permission.

Responsibilities of Editors

Editors play a critical role in ensuring ethical publishing practices.

1. **Fair Play:**
 - Manuscripts are evaluated solely based on their intellectual merit, without regard to the race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, or political beliefs of the authors.
2. **Confidentiality:**
 - Editors must maintain confidentiality regarding submitted manuscripts and the identities of the reviewers.
3. **Publication Decisions:**
 - Publication decisions are guided by peer review reports, editorial board policies, and legal requirements (e.g. copyright infringement or defamation).
4. **Conflict of Interest Management**
 - Editors must avoid conflicts of interest with authors or reviewers and recuse themselves when necessary.

Responsibilities of Reviewers

Reviewers are expected to conduct fair and unbiased evaluations of the manuscripts.

1. **Confidentiality:**
 - Reviewers must keep all manuscript details confidential during and after the review process.
2. **Constructive Feedback:**
 - Reviews should provide detailed, constructive feedback to help the authors improve their work while maintaining respect for their efforts.
3. **Conflict of Interest Disclosure:**
 - Reviewers must disclose any conflicts of interest that could compromise the integrity of the review process.
4. **Timeliness:**
 - Reviews should be completed within the agreed timelines to avoid delays in publication decisions.

Responsibilities of Publishers

Impact Compass Publishers is committed to supporting ethical publishing practices at all stages.

1. **Guardianship of Scholarly Integrity**
 - We ensure that published works meet rigorous ethical standards and that allegations of misconduct are addressed promptly and transparently.
2. **Transparency in Processes**

- Clear guidelines are provided for authors, reviewers, and editors regarding submission processes, peer review, copyright policies and ethical expectations.
- 3. Corrections and Retractions**
- In cases where errors or misconduct are identified post-publication, corrections or retractions will be issued in accordance with the COPE guidelines.
- 4. Editorial Independence:**
- Editorial decisions are made independently, without influence from commercial interests or external pressures.

Misconduct Handling Policy

Impact Compass Publishers takes allegations of misconduct seriously and follows established procedures to address them.

- Complaints may be raised by any party (authors, reviewers, editors) regarding unethical practices, such as plagiarism, falsification of data, or undisclosed conflicts of interest.
- Investigations are conducted transparently while protecting confidentiality, where necessary.
- Appropriate actions may include corrections, retractions, or expressions of concern based on the findings.

By adhering to these ethical principles, Impact Compass Publishers ensures the credibility, reliability, and integrity of all published works, while fostering trust among authors, readers, and the academic community at large.

Retraction Policy

Retraction Policy

At Impact Compass Publishers, we are committed to maintaining the integrity and credibility of academic and creative works we publish. Our retraction policy ensures that any published content found to contain errors, ethical violations or fraudulent information is addressed promptly and transparently. The key principles and procedures governing retractions are as follows:

Purpose of Retractions

A retraction is issued to:

- Correct significant errors that compromise the reliability or validity of publications.
- Address instances of research misconduct such as plagiarism, data fabrication, or falsification.
- Ethical violations, such as undisclosed conflicts of interest or copyright infringement, must be resolved.

Grounds for Retraction

A publication may be retracted if:

1. The findings were unreliable owing to major errors (e.g. miscalculations and flawed methodology).
2. Research misconduct (e.g. plagiarism and falsified data) is confirmed.
3. Ethical violations (e.g. lack of informed consent and undisclosed conflicts of interest) were identified.
4. Legal issues, such as copyright infringement and defamation, may arise.
5. Duplicate publications without proper acknowledgement were discovered.

Retraction Process

1. **Investigation:**
 - Authors, readers, reviewers, and editors can raise concerns regarding a publication's validity or ethics.
 - The editorial team conducts a thorough investigation in consultation with relevant stakeholders (e.g. authors and reviewers).
2. **Author Notification:**
 - Authors are informed of the concerns and given the opportunity to respond and provide evidence during the investigation.
3. **Decision Making:**
 - Based on these findings, the editorial board decides whether a correction, expression of concern, or retraction is warranted.
4. **Retraction Notice:**
 - If a retraction is issued, a formal notice is published and linked to the original work online and in the print editions, where applicable.
 - The notice includes a clear explanation of the reasons for the retraction while preserving transparency and accountability.
5. **Preservation of Record:**
 - The original publication remains accessible with a clear watermark or label indicating its retraction status to maintain the integrity of the scholarly record.

Correction vs. Retraction

- **Correction:** Issued for minor errors that do not affect the overall findings or conclusions of the study (e.g. typographical errors).
- **Retraction:** Reserved for significant issues that compromise the validity or ethical integrity of the work.

Author Responsibilities

Authors must cooperate fully with investigations and provide all relevant information requested by the editorial team during the review process.

Publisher Responsibilities

Impact Compass Publishers ensures that all retractions are handled transparently, while protecting the rights of all parties involved. We follow industry best practices and guidelines from organisations such as the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) to ensure fairness and accountability. This policy reflects our commitment to upholding ethical publishing standards and fostering trust among authors, readers, and the academic community.

Conflict of Interest Policy

Conflict of Interest Policy

Impact Compass Publishers is dedicated to ensuring the integrity, transparency, and objectivity of all its publications. Our Conflict of Interest (COI) policy provides guidelines for authors, reviewers, editors, and other stakeholders to disclose and manage any potential conflicts that may influence the publishing process.

Definition of Conflict of Interest

A conflict of interest refers to any personal, professional, or financial relationship that could:

- Compromise judgment or objectivity in the submission, review, or editorial decision-making processes.
- It creates a perception of bias in the publication of research or creative works.

Examples include:

- Financial support from commercial entities with vested interests in study outcomes.

- Employment, consultancies, stock ownership, or honoraria related to the study subject.
- Personal relationships or professional competition that may affect impartiality.

Responsibilities

Authors

Authors must:

1. **Disclose Potential Conflicts:** Declare any financial, personal, or professional interests that could influence the manuscript during submission. This includes funding sources, affiliations, and relationships relevant to the study.
2. **Transparency:** A conflict-of-interest statement detailing all potential conflicts and funding involvement (for example, "This study was funded by [Funder Name], which had no role in study design or interpretation of results ") is included in the manuscript.
3. **Update Information:** The publisher will be notified promptly if new conflicts arise after submission or publication.

Reviewers

Reviewers must:

1. **Self-Identify Conflicts:** Disclose any relationships with authors or organisations that could bias their evaluation (e.g. personal connections or concurrent research on the same topic).
2. **Recusal:** Decline review assignments when conflicts arise to ensure impartial assessments.

Editors

Editors must:

1. **Avoid Bias:** Recuse themselves from handling manuscripts in which they have personal or professional conflicts of interest.
2. **Ensure Transparency:** Effectively manage disclosed conflicts among authors and reviewers while maintaining confidentiality.

Disclosure Process

1. Authors are required to submit a conflict-of-interest declaration as part of the manuscript submission process. This declaration will be included in the published work, if applicable (for example, "The authors declare no competing interests" or "The authors declare funding from [Sponsor Name]").
2. Reviewers and editors must disclose potential conflicts at the time of assignment and recuse themselves, if necessary.

Consequences for Non-Disclosure

Failure to declare conflicts of interest may result in:

- Rejection of the manuscript during the submission or peer review stages.
- Post-publication corrections or retractions if undisclosed conflicts are identified later are also included.

Management and Resolution

Impact Compass Publishers adheres to the industry's best practices for managing conflicts of interest, as outlined by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

- Disclosed conflicts are evaluated by the editorial team to determine their impact on the objectivity.
- Appropriate actions are taken to mitigate bias, including the reassignment of reviewers and editors or acknowledgement in publications.

Our Conflict of Interest Policy reflects our commitment to ethical publishing practices while fostering trust among authors, reviewers, readers, and stakeholders in the publishing process