Code of Ethics for Journals and Series subject to *peer review*

The FrancoAngeli Code of Ethics is set out below.
Readers are invited to check the pages dedicated to individual journals and series to see if they refer to this code or have their own, more specific one.

The FrancoAngeli publishing house is actively involved in disseminating culture and scientific knowledge. It believes that everyone should have equal access to research findings and promotes this belief by publishing and disseminating peer-reviewed original articles and books in its journals and series. These articles and books are based on consistent and accurate sources and are the exclusive fruit of the authors' intellectual ingenuity, creative work and scientific and professional expertise.

These are fundamental and indispensable principles, particularly in light of recent and ongoing developments regarding the impact of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and, in particular, Generative Artificial Intelligence (GenAI), as enshrined in the recent Article 132/2025, which updated the Copyright Act, qualifying and defining a work of the mind as *'human'*, *the forms of expression of which* may be created *'with the aid of* artificial intelligence *tools*, *provided that they constitute the result of the author's intellectual work*'.



FrancoAngeli, in agreement with the editorial boards and committees of its journals and series, therefore guarantees that its publications are the result of the authors' intellectual work; authors are obliged to declare, in a clear, transparent and ethical manner, whether and how they have used AI as a writing aid. The Publisher and the editorial boards of the journals and series require this precise information in order to properly assess the risks associated with intellectual property and to fulfil their obligations towards the scientific community and their readers.

No content created exclusively by AI software and tools – which cannot be considered authors as they are not legal entities – will therefore be considered by the Publisher and the editorial boards, nor will it be published.

FrancoAngeli has drawn up a clear and detailed policy on the use of AI for its publications.

Furthermore, the Publisher condemns copyright infringement and plagiarism of content, whilst avoiding and condemning any conflict of interest – or discrimination on the grounds of gender, sexual orientation, religion, political affiliation or ethnicity – that could undermine the quality, rigour and integrity of its publications and of the entire editorial process that determines whether or not an article or volume is published.

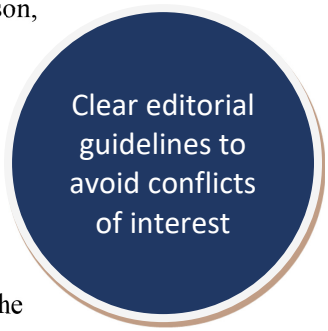
To meet the specific needs of scientific research, FrancoAngeli – which has always been attentive to developments in the national and international academic world and within institutions (the European Union, the Ministry of Universities and Research, ANVUR, CUN and CRUI), and which maintains constant dialogue with the AIE (Italian Publishers' Association), of which it is a member – adheres to the ethical standards established by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

The Publisher is aware that some of the required standards do not constitute a formal regulatory framework and that there are no courts empowered to adjudicate on compliance with them. However, precisely for this reason, it calls upon its partners (Management, Editorial Boards, Reviewers, Authors) of the journals and academic series to make an even more determined effort to apply 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, endorsed by COPE, DOAJ and OASPA.

1. Composition of the governing bodies of peer-reviewed journals and series: editorial responsibilities and the management of conflicts of interest and competing interests

Every peer-reviewed journal and series published by FrancoAngeli explicitly states the composition of its internal committees. They consist of at least one Scientific Editor, members of the Editorial Board and the Scientific Committee, who ensure the fairness, transparency and integrity of the process of accepting (*submission* and *triage* or *desk review*) or rejecting articles or volumes submitted by authors, of *the peer review process* and the anonymity of reviewers, as well as the protection of privacy, the protection and processing of personal data (GDPR, EU Regulation 2016/679 and Legislative Decree No. 101/2018), particularly in the management and protection of authors' content.
FrancoAngeli is committed to avoiding, as far as possible , any conflicts of interest (or competing interests) involving Editors, Reviewers, Authors or the Publisher itself. If, for any reason, this is not feasible, it will state this openly. Similarly, the Editorial Boards, Editorial Committees and Reviewers are required to notify the Publisher should they identify any conflicts of interest, instances of plagiarism, or the improper or unethical use of AI, which infringe copyright or the rights of third parties. In such cases, FrancoAngeli, in agreement with the Editorial Boards, will not accept the manuscript, unless the Author – who is guaranteed the right of reply to ensure a fair hearing – and following a due and necessary mediation process between the parties, agrees to revise their research appropriately for the purposes of peer review and, consequently, potential publication.

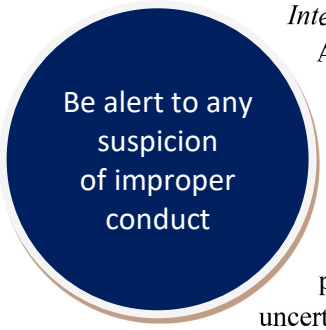


The Editorial Board, Scientific Committee and Reviewers are required, as indicated above, not to disclose information regarding the articles and volumes received to anyone other than the Authors themselves or those who have been authorised in advance. Furthermore, they may not use unpublished manuscripts received for their own research without the explicit written consent of the Author. Should they have the slightest doubt that AI systems not declared by the author have been used in the research (regardless of whether the submission has been accepted), they are required to alert the Reviewers, who will be responsible for carefully verifying and checking the information provided and reflecting this accurately in their final assessment.
Editors and members of the Editorial Board and Scientific Committees are entitled to submit their own work to the journal or series with which they collaborate, but they are expressly prohibited from taking part in any decision or assignment of tasks concerning their own papers.
In the case of sponsored publications, the peer review of articles and volumes will be based solely on their scientific merit.

2. Reporting of misconduct, complaints and appeals

FrancoAngeli, as publisher and a third party in the peer-review process, acts as guarantor and supervisor with regard to the conduct of the scientific journals and series it publishes. It will not condone any misconduct in the publication process on the part of individual editorial teams, nor will it knowingly allow any deviations from standard procedures to occur.
Should the Publisher become aware of any suspected conduct that does not comply with the Code of Ethics set out herein, it would urge anyone to contact our Journals Section at journals@francoangeli.it and our Editorial Office for monographs at universita@francoangeli.it. The report will be treated with the necessary

confidentiality to protect the identity of the whistleblower. An internal investigation will be launched to ascertain whether or not procedures have been followed and complied with.
For complaints regarding the conduct of FrancoAngeli employees or misconduct on the part of the publishing house itself, please write to: redazioni@francoangeli.it.



Intellectual property infringement and post-publication disputes

Any reports of suspected infringement of third-party intellectual property, plagiarism, misuse of AI, data manipulation, inaccuracies or other errors may be reported to the Editors of the Journals (journals@francoangeli.it) or Series and/or to FrancoAngeli (universita@francoangeli.it). The Publisher invites the partners of its journals and book series to pay close attention to readers' comments, as it believes that these form the very cornerstone of any publication. In the case of content that has already been published and where uncertainties arise, the editorial boards, together with the author designated as *the corresponding author,* will be consulted to resolve any doubts.
If necessary, following a thorough and in-depth investigation into any alleged scientific misconduct, the editorial board must publish a correction or invalidate the publication (retraction).

3. Peer review



FrancoAngeli, in conjunction with the individual editorial boards, facilitates and oversees the *double-blind peer review* process as a method for selecting and evaluating submissions. As provided for under this system, the review focuses solely on the originality, integrity, quality and theoretical coherence of the articles and works submitted.
To manage and track the peer-review process, each journal has a dedicated digital environment on the 'FrancoAngeli Journals' platform; series managed by editorial boards, on the other hand, use the 'Home – FrancoAngeli Series' platform.
This system helps Editors to liaise with Authors and Reviewers in a semi-automated manner, whilst keeping the personal information and data contained in the papers and evaluation forms confidential. Furthermore, reviews received via the platform are securely stored in a digital archive, thus remaining easily accessible for any future consultation or appeal.
Reviewers appointed by the Editorial Board are qualified professionals specialising in their respective fields. They must not accept proposals where they have obvious conflicts of interest arising from relationships with authors or organisations, that are in any way linked to the content of the research. They must ensure, within the specified timeframe, an objective, clear and well-documented assessment, highlighting relevant bibliographical sources not cited in the text and offering authors useful advice to improve their research.
Reviewers must also ensure that the anonymised article or work, or any part thereof, is not shared with AI models, as uploading it to tools accessible to the public would undermine the principles of confidentiality and data protection.
Furthermore, reviewers must not use AI tools to generate their assessment of the article or work; such assessments must be the formal outcome of professional and disciplinary expertise, rigorous methodology, knowledge of the sources and, not least, an understanding of the research's approach and significance. Like authors, they must inform the Editorial Board and, consequently, FrancoAngeli, if they have used AI systems as a tool to assist in formulating their review, specifying the reasons for such use and confirming that the principle of confidentiality has been respected.



Any researcher may apply to become a reviewer for the journals or book series published by FrancoAngeli: they may do so by ticking the relevant box when registering on the journal's or book series' webpage, or by contacting the editorial board of the publication in question. The Editorial Board, in consultation with the Scientific Committee, will assess the applications and assign review tasks, whilst ensuring that any potential conflicts of interest between the parties are avoided.

With regard to journals, depending on their frequency of publication, the names of those who have served as reviewers in the peer review process are published annually, biennially or triennially. The list may be published online or in the print edition, depending on the journal's preference and FrancoAngeli's editorial decisions. Published articles that have passed the peer review process display on the first page the dates of submission and acceptance, as well as their DOI (Digital Object Identifier) and the journal's ISSN (for both print and digital formats, where applicable). Invited articles, which are not subject to peer review, are accompanied by a note clarifying their status.

4. Reproducibility of data and research results

FrancoAngeli believes in the dissemination of knowledge. It considers the outcome of scientific research to be the starting point for a new and more significant study: a virtuous cycle that enables its publications to be increasingly recognised and valued within and by the scientific community, and beyond. For this reason, alongside traditional publications, it has offered the option of publishing in *Open Access* since 2015.

Depending on their respective subject areas and histories, the journals are published in various formats: by subscription and commercially distributed, as Open Access, or in a hybrid format.



The series may publish volumes under both *Gold* and *Green Open Access*.

Authors also have the option to publish their articles in advance – known as *'Online First'* – prior to the publication of the issue in which they will appear.

The policy of Open Access journals is published on Sherpa Romeo.

There are also dedicated *repositories* for both *Open Access* journals, such as the Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), and *peer-reviewed Open Access* book series, such as the Directory of Open Access Books (DOAB) and the OAPEN Library database.

There are also online platforms that index open-access digital resources in the social sciences, such as the Social Science Research Network (SSRN) and JURN. If publications are funded by the European Union, they will also be indexed on OpenAIRE.

The Creative Commons license for open-access journals or articles is indicated on the webpage for each article or in the footer of the journal article itself.

The licenses for Open Access publications in peer-reviewed series are, however, highlighted on the volume's copyright page.

For commercially published journals and series, the free citation of research data and results is permitted within the limits set out by the Italian copyright law currently in force.

Any publication fees or charges (APCs) are clearly stated on the journal's web page on our website.

FrancoAngeli guarantees perpetual access to the contents of its journals and series through its membership of Clockss and Portico.

5. Authorship and ethical conduct

With a view to complying with the Code of Ethics, FrancoAngeli encourages authors to maintain high standards of work.
Specifically, it requires authors to sign a document whereby:

- they will submit for publication only original, unpublished manuscripts that are not currently under consideration by any other Italian or foreign publisher;
- declare that they are free from any kind of conflict of interest that may have influenced their research;
- provide the Publisher with detailed information on the use of AI and the reasons or purposes for such use, being aware of the distinction between the use of AI as an assistive tool and the use of Generative AI (GenAI) to create content *from scratch*; the latter use would undermine and compromise compliance with the Publisher's Code of Ethics and the relationship of trust with the Editorial Board, the Publisher, the scientific community and readers;
- provide the necessary authorisations or releases regarding the publication of images, tables, graphs or other content in accordance with copyright law;
- guarantee that all sources cited in the manuscript are correctly referenced;
- declare the organisations and sources that have funded and supported the project;
- indemnify the Publisher and the Editorial Board against any liability.

Furthermore:

- if a text is co-authored, the Authors must list the names of all those who contributed to the research, specifying their academic affiliation, their institutional email address and their ORCID (if registered). FrancoAngeli will thus be assured that all Authors have participated equally in the research and are therefore equally responsible for it, unless otherwise specified;

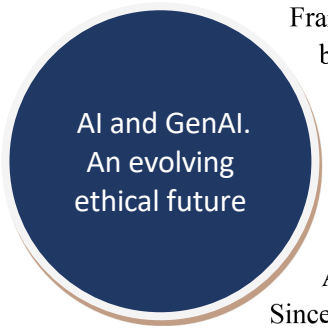


- if the proposed article or volume concerns natural persons or contains information that makes an individual identifiable, the author must declare explicit adherence to the provisions of the Declaration of Helsinki drawn up by the World Medical Association (WMA) and updated in 2013;
- If, however, the article or volume concerns experiments involving animals, the author is required to provide a statement confirming compliance with national and institutional standards for the welfare of laboratory animals, as recommended in 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 urges Authors and Editors to be mindful of all sensitivities and to act with due tact and common sense when working with sensitive material, whilst complying with the Code of Ethics of the relevant scientific association and the General Data Protection Regulation (Regulation No 2016/679).

6. Artificial Intelligence

In several sections of the Code of Ethics set out above, given the importance and current relevance of AI, its impact on scientific research and on the chain of processes involving the stakeholders in the editorial process leading to publication with FrancoAngeli has been addressed: the Author, the Editorial Boards and Scientific Committees, the reviewers in the peer review process, and the Publisher itself.
In this section, the Publisher aims to provide a summary of what has been set out in the preceding pages, including **links** at the end of the document **to its own key policies regarding the use of AI and GenAI**.



FrancoAngeli requires its authors to submit original and unpublished articles or books, in which data and sources are correctly cited in accordance with Italian copyright law.

Should an Author make use of AI tools in drafting content or creating images, tables and graphs, or for the collection and analysis of data for the purposes of their publication, they are required to declare this explicitly to the Publisher and the Editorial Board. They are also required to state in their article or book which AI tool they have used and how.

Since, in accordance with COPE's Position Statement, AI tools cannot be considered 'authors' – as they are not legal entities – the Author is solely responsible for the content of their research and, therefore, also for those parts that have been artificially generated.

It shall be the Editor's responsibility, in agreement with FrancoAngeli, to decide whether to accept an article or book for which the Author has made use of AI tools.

FrancoAngeli undertakes to closely monitor technological developments and the intense debate surrounding AI, to assess the guidelines proposed by academic, scientific and publishing institutions, and to take note of developments in European and/or national legislation which may in future regulate and/or modify its use, revising and updating its Code of Ethics where necessary.

FrancoAngeli's link AI policy Journals and Series

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FrancoAngeli would like to thank all our partners. We would like to reiterate that we are open to any suggestions and invite management teams and board members to contact us should any concerns arise.