

Mu'tah Lil-Buhūth wad-Dirāsāt, Humanities and Social Sciences Series

A peer-reviewed journal published regularly since 1986 by Mutah University

Publication Ethics and Malpractice Statement

Mu'tah Lil-Buhūth wad-Dirāsāt, Humanities and Social Sciences Series is a peerreviewed journal which is published regularly since 1986 by Mutah University, that is one of the most reputable public and nonprofit universities in Jordan. The Journal publishes one volume annually. Each volume contains six issues with ten articles per issue. The issues appear at the end of February, April, June, August, October, and December, respectively. Focusing on high quality academic research, the journal publishes genuine and solid articles in all the fields of humanities and social sciences.

Due to the huge volume of submitted articles on a daily basis (15-20 articles per day) from different researchers in many local and regional institutions, the journal follows and applies strict ethical standards that concern all the involved parties in the publishing process to confirm the quality of its published research. Such parties include the author, the journal editor, the peer-reviewer, and the publisher who all have responsibilities to meet expected ethical standards at all stages in their involvement from submission to publication of an article. Following ethical standards have contributed to research quality, in particular, and to the reputation of the journal, in general, over the past three decades.

Consequently, *Mu'tah Lil-Buhūth wad-Dirāsāt, Humanities and Social Sciences Series* is committed to applying and meeting the standards of ethics at all stages of the publication process. It follows closely the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), and the Publishing Ethics Resource Kit (PERK) developed by Elsevier that provide standards and guidelines for best practices in order to meet these requirements. The major expectations of editors, peer-reviewers, and authors are listed as follows, respectively:

Mu'tah Lil-Buhūth wad-Dirāsāt, Humanities and Social Sciences SeriesPage 1 of 5Publication Ethics and Malpractice StatementPage 1 of 5

First: Duties of the Editorial Board

1. Justice, balance, and independence: the Editorial Board evaluates the manuscripts submitted for publication on the basis of importance, originality, validity, clarity and relevance of the journal, regardless of the gender of the authors, their nationality or religious belief, so that they have full authority over the entire editorial content and timing of publication.

2. Confidentiality: the Editorial Board and editorial staff are responsible for the confidentiality of any information about the submitted manuscripts and not to disclose this information to anyone other than the author, reviewers, and publishers, as appropriate. The journal adopts a coding system that gives codes to the submitted article and the peer-reviewers to ensure confidentiality.

3. Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest: the Editorial Board and editorial staff are responsible for the non-use of unpublished information contained in the research submitted for publication without the written consent of the authors. The Editorial Board themselves avoid considering research with which they have conflict of interest, such as competitive, cooperative, or other relationships with any of the authors.

4. Publishing Decisions: the Editorial Board shall ensure that all manuscripts submitted for publication are subject to reviewing by at least two reviewers who are experts in the field of manuscript. The Board is responsible for determining which of the research papers will be published, after verifying their relevance to researchers and readers, and the comments of the reviewers.

5. Editorial Board Meetings: The Editorial Board meets regularly once a week to decide on which submissions should go to reviewers. Selection is based on assuring variation on quality, topic, field, institution, and geographical distribution.

6. Extra meetings are scheduled for the Editorial Board when needed to discuss any violation to the standards of ethics to take appropriate actions based on regulations.

7. Exceptional meetings are also scheduled to discuss complaints from authors. The Board usually gives authors a reasonable opportunity to respond to any complaints. Documentation associated with any such complaints should be retained.

8. The Editorial Board is responsible for arranging the date of publication for the accepted articles. This arrangement is based on assuring variation on quality, topic, field, institution, and geographical distribution.

9. Editors should not make any use of the data, arguments, or interpretations, unless they have the authors' permission.

Second: Duties of the Peer-Reviewers

1. Contributing to the decisions of the Editorial Board.

2. Punctuality: Any reviewer who is unable to review the submitted manuscript for any reason should immediately notify the Editorial Board, so that other reviewers can be contacted.

3. Confidentiality: Any manuscript received by the Journal for reviewing and publishing is confidential; it should not appear or discussed with others unless authorized by the Editorial Board. This also applies to the invited reviewers who have rejected the invitation for reviewing.

4. Objectivity: The reviewing process of the submitted manuscript should be objective and the reviewer comments should be clearly formulated with the supporting arguments so that the authors can use them to improve the quality of their manuscript away from the personal criticism of the author(s).

5. Disclosure and Conflict of Interests: Any invited reviewer must immediately notify the Editorial Board that he/she has a conflict of interest resulting from competitive, cooperative or other relations with any of the authors so that other reviewers may be contacted.

6. The confidentiality of information or ideas that are not published and have been disclosed in the manuscript submitted for reviewing should not be used without a written permission from the author(s). This applies also to the invited reviewers who refuse the reviewing invitation.

7. Reviewers should assist in improving the quality of the published paper by reviewing the manuscript objectively.

8. Reviewers should alert the editor to any published or submitted content that is substantially similar to that under review.

9. Reviewers are asked to provide a detailed feedback based on a systematic template and to submit their reports on a scheduled deadline. Reviewers who do not follow the required standards are removed from the database and no longer contacted.

10. If reviewers suspect misconduct, they should write in confidence to the editor.

11. Reviewers should not make any use of the data, arguments, or interpretations, unless they have the authors' permission.

Third: Duties of the Authors

 Manuscript Preparation: Authors should abide by publishing rules, technical specifications, publication procedures, and publication ethics available at the Journal website with both Arabic & English: Arabic Website: <u>https://www.mutah.edu.jo/darj/index.php</u>), English Website: <u>https://www.mutah.edu.jo/darj/index2.php</u>). When the manuscript is prepared, it should be submitted through the electronic system at the following link: <u>https://ejournal.mutah.edu.jo/index.php/hsss/index</u> A submitted article will not be sent for review if the required standards are not met. Authors should pay no fees to the Journal for the peer - review or publishing process.

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5. Authorship of the Manuscript: Only persons who meet the following authorship criteria should be listed as one of the authors of a manuscript as they should be responsible for the manuscript content: 1) present significant contributions to the design, implementation, data acquisition, analysis or interpretation of the study; 2) critically contribute to the manuscript writing and revision or 3) have seen and approved the final version of the manuscript and agreed to submit it for publication.

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Mu'tah Lil-Buhūth wad-Dirāsāt, Humanities and Social Sciences SeriesPage 4 of 5Publication Ethics and Malpractice StatementPage 4 of 5

clearly identify them in their work. In addition, if it involves the use or experimentation of humans or animals, the authors must ensure that all actions have been carried out in accordance with the relevant laws and regulations and that the authors have obtained prior approval of these contributions. Moreover, the privacy rights of human must also be considered.

8. Cooperation: Authors must fully cooperate and respond promptly to the requests of the Editorial Board for clarifications, corrections, proof of ethical approvals, patient approvals, and copyright permissions.

9. Fundamental Errors in Submitted or Published Work: If authors find significant errors or inaccuracies in their submitted or published manuscripts, they must immediately notify the Editorial Board to take the action of correcting or withdrawing their work.

10. Authors should confirm that all the work in the submitted manuscript is original. They should acknowledge and cite content reproduced from other sources and obtain permission to reproduce any content from other sources.

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Mu'tah Lil-Buhūth wad-Dirāsāt, Humanities and Social Sciences SeriesPage 5 of 5Publication Ethics and Malpractice StatementPage 5 of 5