

ETHICAL CODE

AGATHÓN is a peer-reviewed International Scientific journal that is inspired by the *Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors*, the Ethical Code of Publications developed by *COPE Committee on Publication Ethics*. All parties involved - Authors, Directors, Editors and Referees - must know and share the ethical requirements below. The submission of a contribution to the journal implies the transfer of all rights to it and the acceptance of the following.

THE DUTIES OF THE DIRECTOR AND THE EDITORS

Decisions on Publication - The Journal Directorate, the Scientific Committee and the members of the Editorial Board are solely responsible for the decision to publish the articles submitted to the Journal itself. In their decisions, they are required to respect the strategies and the editorial setting of the journal. They are also bound by the applicable laws on defamation, copyright infringement and plagiarism.

AGATHÓN adopts the scientific evaluation system of articles that are internationally known as peer-reviewing. Each text is assigned to be read by two referees anonymously (double-blind peer review). The responsible of the Referral Process is the Directorate in agreement with the Coordination of Editorial Board. Referees are identified according to a criterion of competence and high qualification in the field. AGATHÓN's Scientific Direction and Editorial Board are responsible for the final decision on the publication of the proposed articles.

Correctness - Direction and Editorial Board evaluate the articles proposed for publication based on their content without discrimination of race, gender, sexual orientation, religion, ethnic origin, citizenship, political orientation of Authors, as well as their didactic belonging, encouraging responsible behaviour and discouraging bad conduct. If the Editorial Board finds or receives reports of errors or inaccuracies, conflicts of interest or plagiarism in a published article, even after years of its publication, it will promptly notify the Author and the Publisher, undertaking the necessary actions to clarify the issue and, if necessary, withdraw the item or post a retraction.

Conflict of Interest and Transparency - Direction and Editorial Board undertake not to use in their own research the content of an article proposed for publication without the Author's written consent. Contributions submitted by the Editorial Board for Publication are subject to the same assessment procedure, that will be anonymous and objective. Articles in sponsored media should only be accepted on the merits and readers' interest and not be affected by commercial considerations. The articles of academic or academic personality not subject to peer-reviewed articles must be clearly identified. The list of Referees who collaborate in the journal will be inserted in the first issue of the following year in which the referral activities were carried out (without specifying the number of the journal and for which articles) as a thank you for the collaboration provided and as a form of transparency with respect to the procedure adopted.

Quality - Direction and Editors periodically evaluate the peer review in order to introduce possible improvements. They also reserve the right to turn to a third Referee in case of conflict between two opinions and then decide whether to publish or not a text that cannot be resolved internally. Collaboration with a Referee will be permanently interrupted if it is not respected, in one or more moments, times and ways provided by the evaluation procedure.

Errors in published articles- Direction and Editorial Board are always available to publish corrections, clarifications, retractions and apologies if need be.

DUTIES OF REFEREES

Contribution to Editorial Decision - Peer Review is a procedure that helps the Director and Editorial Board make decisions on proposed articles and can help the Author improve his/her contribution.

Time respecting - The Referee who does not feel qualified to review the assigned manuscript or knows that he or she is not able to perform the review within the required period, must immediately notify his or her decision to the Editorial Board, renouncing participation in the revision process.

Discretion - Any text, assigned to the Referee anonymously, must be considered confidential. Therefore, such texts should not be discussed with other people without the express permission of the Editors.

Objectivity - The peer-review must be conducted objectively. Any personal judgment on the Author is to be considered inappropriate. Referees are required to adequately motivate their own judgments by filling in a standard form provided to them by the Editorial Board.

Knowledge of the sources - Referees should identify relevant published works that have not been cited by the Authors. Any statement, observation, derivation, or argument previously mentioned should be accompanied by a specific quote. A Referee must also draw the Director's attention to any substantive similarity or overlap between the manuscript in question and any other published document he may have personal knowledge of.

Conflict of Interest and Disclosure - Confidential information or indications obtained during the peer-review process should be considered confidential and cannot be used for personal purposes. In case the Referee identifies the authorship of the essay submitted to his assessment and conflicts of interest due to any previous collaboration he or she is required to not accept the evaluation, the same applies in case a competitive situation arises. If the Referee asks for changes to the text as a condition of its publication, and the Editorial Board finds it appropriate, the Editorial Board may verify the adoption by the Author - to the extent that the Author decides to accept them - before giving the final consent to the publication.

DUTIES OF AUTHORS

Originality and plagiarism - Authors are required to submit to the exam for the publication of original and unpublished contributions and, if the work and/or words of other Authors have been used, they must be appropriately paraphrased or quoted literally; in any case, the reference to the work of other Authors must always be indicated. The Authors are obliged to quote all publications that have had an influence in determining the nature of the proposed work. Manuscripts must contain sufficient details and references to allow others to replicate the research done. Fraudulent or voluntarily incorrect statements are unethical and are inadmissible.

The Authors of the reports on original research should present an accurate presentation of their work, as well as an objective discussion of its importance. The cited data should be precisely represented in the manuscript that must contain sufficient details and references to allow others to replicate the research done.

Dangers and activities on humans or animals - If the paper refers to the use of chemicals, procedures or equipment that present unusual dangers, the Author must clearly identify them, if experiments or activities on humans or animals are described, the Author should ensure that the manuscript contains a statement that all the procedures have been carried out in compliance with relevant institutional laws and guidelines and that they have been approved by the competent institutional committees. Authors should include a statement, at the end of the manuscript, indicating that informed consent has been obtained for experimentation with human subjects. The right to privacy of human subjects must always be respected.

Multiple, repetitive and/or competing publications - The Author agrees not to publish articles that describe the same search results in more than one journal or volume. To propose the same text simultaneously to more than one magazine is ethically incorrect.

Recognizing the Sources - Appropriate recognition of the work of others must always be given. Authors must quote publications that have been influential in determining the nature of their own work. Private information, such as conversation, correspondence, or discussion with third parties, should not be used or reported without the express written permission of the source.

The Authorship of the work - The Author who submits the text for evaluation must ensure that all those who have made a significant contribution to the design, creation and re-elaboration of the research underlying

the article, appear to be co-Authors, and must ensure that they have given their approval to the final version of the article and the publication of AGATHÓN. If other people have participated significantly in some phases of research, their contribution must be explicitly acknowledged. The main Author should ensure that all co-Authors have seen and approved the final version of the document and have accepted their submission for publication.

Conflict of Interest and Disclosure - When presenting their contribution to AGATHÓN, the Authors implicitly admit that there are no conflicts of interest that may have affected the results achieved or the interpretations proposed. Authors should also indicate any financial sources of the research and/or project that enabled the article to be achieved.

Errors in Published Articles - When an Author finds a relevant error or inaccuracy in an article, he/she is required to promptly notify the Editorial Board by providing all the necessary information to report any necessary corrections.

Palermo, 2017.02.06