

## **Journal of Belarusian Studies Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**

Journal of Belarusian Studies is committed to ensuring ethics in publication and quality of articles. A selection of key points is included below.

### **For authors:**

- Authors should present an objective discussion of their research and provide correct references. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable. Articles' reviews should also be objective, comprehensive, and provide accurate accounts of the state of the art.
- Authors should ensure that their work is entirely original, and if the work and/or works of others have been used, this has been appropriately acknowledged. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.
- Information obtained privately (from conversation, correspondence or discussion with third parties) must not be used or reported without explicit, written permission from the source.
- Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable. Authors should not submit articles describing essentially the same research to more than one journal.
- The corresponding author should ensure that there is a full consensus of all co-authors in approving the final version of the paper and its submission for publication.
- Authors should at the earliest stage possible disclose any conflicts of interest that might be construed to influence the results or their interpretation in the manuscript.
- Authors are obliged to participate in the peer review process and respond promptly to editors' requests for raw data, clarifications, and proof of ethics approval, patient consents and copyright permissions.
- When authors discover significant errors or inaccuracies in their own published work, it is their obligation to promptly notify the journal's editors and cooperate with them to either correct the paper in the form of an erratum or to retract the paper.

### **For editors:**

- Editors should evaluate manuscripts exclusively on the basis of their academic merit. They should encourage debate and academic integrity and also protect individual data.
- Privileged information or ideas obtained through by editors as a result of handling the manuscript must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage.
- Editors have a duty to act if any misconduct is suspected and to ensure the integrity of the academic record. The editors must not use unpublished information in the editor's own research without the written consent of the author.
- Editors should take reasonable responsive measures when ethical complaints have been presented concerning a submitted manuscript or published paper.

- Decisions to edit and publish are not determined by the policies of governments or any other agencies outside of the journal itself.
- The editors ensure that all submitted manuscripts being considered for publication undergo peer-review by at least two reviewers who are expert in the field.
- The Editor-in-Chief is responsible for deciding which of the manuscripts submitted to the Journal will be published, based on its importance to readers and meeting the legal requirements regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism.

**For reviewers:**

- Any manuscript received for review must be treated as a confidential document.
- Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage.
- Reviews should be conducted objectively, and observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments, so that authors can use them for improving the paper.
- Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript should notify the editor and excuse himself from the review process.
- Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions.
- Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that is an observation, derivation or argument that has been reported in previous publications should be accompanied by the relevant citation.

**For publisher:**

- In cases of alleged or proven scientific misconduct, fraudulent publication or plagiarism, the publisher, in close collaboration with the editors, should take all appropriate measures to clarify the situation and to amend the article in question.
- The publisher shall commit to the permanent availability and preservation of scholarly research and ensure accessibility by partnering with organizations and maintaining the digital archive.