



ATINER's Publication Ethical Policy and Statement

Prologue

The following statement of **Publication Ethics** and **Policy** serves ATINER's unique mission (www.atiner.gr/mission) and policy (www.atiner.gr/acceptance) which have been applied since its establishment in 1995. These are not repeated here but they are available on ATINER's website for everybody to review. ATINER follows a model of publishing that has its own ethical rules going back to classical Athens where virtue and real freedom of academic discourse was a priority. ATINER is a world association of academics and researchers (currently 2500 members from 116 countries). It aims to create an organization like **Plato's Academy** or **Aristotle's Lyceum**, where academics and researchers from all over the world, with a pedagogy similar to Ancient Athens, can gather in a symposium style of small meetings to exchange ideas on their research and discuss future developments in their disciplines.

Real Freedom implies that all publications are published and disseminated without *any* monetary and/or nonmonetary costs. Applying this principle, all ATINER's publications, including the e-journals, are open access, without any costs (submission, processing-editing, publishing, open access fees paid by authors, open access fees paid by readers etc.). They are independent of the presentations made at any of the many small academic events (conferences, symposiums, forums, colloquiums, courses, roundtable discussions) organized by ATINER throughout the year. *The intellectual property rights of the submitted papers remain with the author.*

ATINER does not collaborate with any private publishing company to promote its publications in a predatory or non-predatory manner. "Marketing" of ATINER's publications and activities is strictly forbidden by its constitution.

The quality of ancient Athens academic work is reflected in the following ethical guidelines, which are organized into (a) authors' responsibilities, (b) the process of submitting paper and editors' responsibilities, and, (c) reviewer's responsibilities as well as an epilogue.

Responsibility of Authors

1. Authors submit only original research (theoretical, applied, policy) in which they have used the basic criteria of honest acquisition of knowledge. In cases where human and non-human subjects are involved, authors must submit a detailed statement explaining how they retrieved their data and information. All raw



primary data and information must be available to the of the journal so that they can replicate the process of their findings. Secondary sources of data and information must be clearly cited.

2. Academic honesty implies all information has been acquired with a process that respects the academic ethics of all involved parties, including the subjects of the study. Authors must disclose any financial or nonfinancial conflict of interest.
3. Following this all authors are obliged to submit along with the paper a declaration form stating the following:
 - Confirm that the attached paper is an original work of the named author(s) and that neither this paper nor a similar research project has been published or considered for publication elsewhere, nor is it under review for possible publication at the time it is submitted to the Publications. In case that this is discovered after the publication, the paper will be retracted.
 - Confirm that the author-(s) have copyright permission to submit the attached version of the paper for inclusion in one of ATINER's Publications.
 - Authors agree to indemnify ATINER for any costs or inconvenience it incurs for violation of any copyright interest in this paper.
 - Authors agree that the paper, with minor revisions as a result of the reviewing process, will be uploaded in the list of the forthcoming papers of the journal as a "draft copy not to be cited".
 - Authors agree that only they are responsible for the material content of their publications. ATINER Staff does not have any responsibility for the substance of the publications. Any claim of forgery, fraud, copyright infringements, etc. are to be solely the responsibility of the authors. In cases of images, figures or artwork, authors must provide written permission before it considered for publication.
 - Authors agree that as part of the blind review process, an anonymous version of the paper will be sent to ATINER's reviewers and the same copy may be uploaded to the papers under review website (www.athensjournals.gr/review) inviting the world academic community to comment on the paper, as well as helping in the better communication of the paper. This serves the purpose of transparency of the entire blind review process.
 - Authors have the right of the final approval of the paper to be uploaded first in the forthcoming papers platform, by a written communication to the Managing Editor of the journal. At this stage, mistakes and misprints can be easily corrected, which may include the full withdraw of the entire paper as well.



The Process of Submitting a Paper and Editors' Responsibility

1. All papers are submitted through an online system simultaneously with an author's declaration form as already mentioned above (www.athensjournals.gr/paper-submission).
2. The General Managing Editor of all ATINER's Publications checks if the submission meets the basic requirements, codes the paper and makes it available to the Managing Editor of the specific journal.
3. The Managing editor of the specific Journal checks the paper for its originality using software as well as other characteristics such as proper English, abstract, keywords, references, structure etc. and informs the author (s) if something is missing.
4. If the originality and the other requirements are met, then the Managing Editor (a) informs one of the editors of the journal and (b) recommends potential reviewers.
5. It is the Managing Editor's responsibility to make sure that the process of reviewing is done professionally (blind review by at least two independent reviewers) and promptly. Professionalism implies that there is no conflict of interest between the authors and the anonymous reviewers. The Editors and the Managing Editors ensure that there is no discrimination according to race, color, gender, nationality, ethnicity, religions, and sexual, political or ideological orientation of the authors.
6. In many cases, the Managing Editor sends the paper to more than two reviewers because at ATINER the idea is that not only can reviewers improve a submitted paper, but that they can also benefit from reading a paper which is in their own research area.
7. The Managing Editor compares the referee reports and informs the editor who proceeds with a decision to publish or not the paper. The whole process is followed again in cases that the author(s) are asked to make changes to the paper. In any case, the final decision rests with one of the editors of the journal.
8. Decisions are solely based on the academic quality of the research reported in the paper. However, in many cases, authors come from non-Anglophone universities or countries, and what may be good applied research can be "lost" in the bad structure of the paper. ATINER promotes the publication of research, especially applied, – country - specific – research. In many cases in the past ATINER brought together these researchers – usually young researchers – to collaborate with academic members of ATINER who come from Anglophone universities and have mastered the "skills" of producing papers for the international publication industry. This serves two purposes. First, good research is published. Second, young researchers from non-Anglophone universities collaborate with experienced academics from the so



called advanced academic countries of the world. ATINER gives high priority to this accomplishment. This is the mission of ATINER!

Reviewers' Responsibility

1. Our blind-review process includes at least 2 referees who read and comment on the paper. In cases where the 2 referees differ in their opinion, the editor uses his/her discretion, and decides whether the paper should be accepted or rejected. In many cases it is sent to a third or more reviewers. All potential reviewers can refuse to evaluate a paper if they believe they are not qualified.
2. Each reviewer completes an evaluation form but they are also allowed to send separate comments on the paper itself. Each reviewer fills in a form with a score found here www.athensjournals.gr/referee-report-aj. This guarantees the confidentiality of the entire review process.
3. In addition to this, in order to increase transparency, ATINER's review process uploads an anonymous version of the paper and invites the world academic community to comment on the paper before it is published. This unique transparent process serves multiple purposes. First, the authors cannot concurrently submit their work to other journals. Second, the world academic community of ATINER is aware of a paper that is under consideration and has the opportunity to read and learn from emerging research. Third, given the real internationality of submitting authors, this open review process assures that the paper has not been published in identical or similar content in any other language.
4. Reviewers' check the English facility of the article first. If the article requires substantial English language editing, the reviewers point this out but a paper should not be automatically rejected on the basis of poor language expression alone.
5. For each article, the reviewers must evaluate if the paper has the proper academic structure such as informative, clear and worthwhile research questions, a review of the relevant literature, reference to the methodology used, the author's contribution to the answer of research question, conclusions, and, of course, the references. It is important that the reviewers evaluate the author's demonstration of his/her knowledge of current literature on the topic being researched, as well as the methodology used in such literature.
6. If a paper is rejected, the reviewers must give reasons why they have rejected it, its major shortcomings and perhaps a few suggestions with reference to published work on the topic.

Epilogue

ATINER's publication process is continuously evaluated by the academic committee of ATINER (<https://www.atiner.gr/committee>) which has appointed a Vice President



of Publications. Currently this position is held by Dr Zoe Boutsoli. Zoe has been with ATINER the last twenty years. Zoe holds a B.A. in Administration from the University of West Attica, a Master from LSE and a Ph.D. from the University of Kent. She is assisted by four managing editors whose responsibility is to coordinate the work of editors, reviewers and authors. Zoe and the managing editors of each journal publication safeguard the strict application of ATINER's ethical publication policy.
