

## **PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT**

*AlterNative: An International Journal of Indigenous Peoples* is committed to meeting and upholding the standard of ethical behaviour at all stages of the publication process. The ethics statement for *AlterNative* is based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) [Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors](#). These guidelines include the editor following certain rules on relations with readers, authors, and reviewers as well as procedures for handling complaints. Conformance to standards of ethical behaviour is expected of all parties involved: Authors, Editors, Reviewers, and the Publisher. Moreover, this ethics and malpractice statement sets out the specific responsibilities for all parties involved to ensure *AlterNative* complies with internationally accepted guidelines on carrying out ethical and culturally competent research involving indigenous peoples.

### **Author Responsibilities**

**Reporting standards:** Authors should present an accurate account of the research performed, and offer an objective discussion of its significance. Underlying data should be represented accurately. The manuscript should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to replicate the work.

**Cultural competency and community representation:** Authors of research that involves indigenous communities should have approval from recognized knowledge holders of the band, tribe, sub-tribe or nation involved in the form of research agreements and Ethics committee's approval. Authors are expected to understand and respect indigenous worldviews and involve the community in determining the conduct of the research. They should design a study with participatory research and give the community and individual participants say in the anonymity and use of data. Dishonest, false or culturally incompetent statements and research conduct constitute unethical behaviour and are unacceptable.

**Originality and plagiarism:** Authors should ensure they have written entirely original works. The work and words of others must be appropriately cited or quoted. Plagiarism in all its forms is unethical and unacceptable.

**Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication:** The manuscript should offer new, original insights or interpretations that have not been published before or are under consideration for publication at another journal. Articles that have emerged from PhD theses or conference presentations are justifiable provided they meet the standards of presentation for a peer-reviewed article.

**Acknowledgment of sources:** The work of others must be properly acknowledged. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of their work.

**Authorship:** Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution or interpretation of the reported study. All those who

have made a significant contribution should be listed as co-authors. Others who have contributed in certain substantive aspects to the manuscript are listed in the acknowledgments section. All co-authors and responsible authorities at the institute or organisation where the research was carried out should have approved the submitted version.

**Disclosure and conflicts of interest:** Authors should declare all funding sources and any actual or potential conflicts including any financial, personal or other relationships with other people and organisations. Examples of potential conflicts of interest which should be disclosed include employment, consultancies, honoraria, paid expert testimony, grants or other funding.

**Fundamental errors in published work:** Authors are obliged to promptly notify the journal editors or publisher to retract the article or publish an appropriate erratum if they discover a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her published work.

## **Editor Responsibilities**

**Publication decision and accountability:** The editors are accountable for everything they publish and have sole responsibility for the acceptance or rejection of a manuscript. The editors may confer with reviewers or editorial board members when making publication decisions. Articles are considered and accepted on their academic merit and without commercial influence. The editors will guard the integrity of the published record by issuing corrections and retractions and pursuing suspected or alleged research and publication misconduct when needed.

**Cultural competency and community representation:** The editors should ensure articles published in *AlterNative* show an understanding and respect of indigenous worldviews, knowledges and traditions and that the research reported was carried out in accordance with internationally agreed guidelines on ethical and culturally competent research with indigenous peoples. The editors expect authors to have obtained approval from recognized knowledge holders from the indigenous community under discussion and will only publish articles that advance indigenous knowledge.

**Fair play:** Unbiased consideration should be given to each manuscript, judging each on its merits without regard to the race, religion, nationality, sex, political philosophy, seniority, or institutional affiliation of the author.

**Confidentiality:** The editors and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers and the publisher, as appropriate.

**Disclosure, conflict of Interest, and other issues:** Unpublished material disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used in an editor's own research without explicit written consent of the author. The editors should seek to ensure a fair and appropriate peer-review process. Submissions from authors with whom the editors have a conflict of interest will be assessed by a member of the Editorial Board. Submissions by members of the Editorial Board

will be assigned to an Associate or Guest Editor to ensure a fair and appropriate process. Editors should require all contributors to disclose relevant competing interests and publish corrections if competing interests are revealed after publication.

The editors will be guided by COPE's Guidelines for retracting articles when considering retracting, issuing expressions of concern about, and issuing corrections pertaining to articles that have been published in *AlterNative*. They should take reasonable responsive measures when handling ethical complaints about suspected or alleged research and publication misconduct.

## **Reviewer Responsibilities**

**Contribution to editorial decision:** Peer review assists the editor in making editorial decisions and may also help the authors in improving their work.

**Promptness:** Peer reviewers should only agree to review manuscripts for which they have the subject expertise required to carry out a proper assessment in a timely manner and should notify the editorial office immediately if they cannot fulfil this task so that alternative reviewers can be assigned.

**Confidentiality:** Peer reviewer should respect the confidentiality of peer review and not reveal any details of a manuscript or its review, during or after the peer-review process with anyone except if authorized by the editor. Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used in a reviewer's own research without the written consent of the author.

**Standards of objectivity:** Reviewers should be objective and constructive in their review. Reviewer decisions should solely depend on academic merit, relevance to the subject, and scope of the journal rather than on financial, racial, ethnic origin etc. of the author. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Reviewers should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

**Cultural competency and community representation:** Reviewers should further evaluate manuscripts in regards to accurate and ethical representation of indigenous worldviews and community representation.

**Acknowledgement of sources:** Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that an observation, derivation, or argument has been previously reported should be accompanied by the relevant citation. A reviewer should also call to the editors' attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

**Disclosure and conflict of interest** Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connection with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.

## **Publisher Responsibilities**

**Editorial autonomy:** The relationship between the *AlterNative* editors and the publisher Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga is firmly based on the principle of editorial independence. Moreover, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga is committed to ensuring that indigenous worldviews and values remain centred and that advertising, reprint or other commercial revenue has no impact or influence on editorial decisions.

**Intellectual and cultural property and copyright:** Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga protects the intellectual copyright of *AlterNative*, its imprints, authors and publishing partners by promoting, and maintaining each article's published version of record. Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga will also guarantee that indigenous communities whose cultural and sacred knowledge, cultural practices and traditions are under discussion in articles published in *AlterNative*, retain the rights to their cultural property and supports mechanisms for the protection of such knowledge and traditions. Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga ensures the integrity and transparency of each published article with respect to: conflicts of interest, publication and research funding, publication and research ethics, cases of publication and research misconduct, confidentiality, authorship, article corrections, clarifications and retractions, and the timely publication of content.

**Scientific misconduct:** In cases of alleged or proven scientific misconduct, breach of understanding and respect of indigenous knowledge or betrayal of an indigenous community's or participant's trust, fraudulent publication, or plagiarism, Ngā Pae o te Māramatanga will collaborate with the editors and, where possible, facilitate in the resolution of these cases.

## **References:**

COPE (2011): Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors available at [http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New\\_Code.pdf](http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/New_Code.pdf)

Kleinert, S. & Wager, E. (2011). Responsible research publication: international standards for editors. A position statement developed at the 2nd World Conference on Research Integrity, Singapore, July 22-24, 2010, pp 317-328 in T. Mayer & N. Steneck (Eds.), *Promoting Research Integrity in a Global Environment*. Singapore: Imperial College Press / World Scientific Publishing.

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