DISCURSIVE SOCIETIES

A Journal of Social Theory and Discourse in Contemporary Society

Guidelines for Authors

1. General Information and Legal Status

DISCURSIVE SOCIETIES is an international, peer-reviewed scholarly journal dedicated to the publication of high-quality research addressing **society, governance, culture, discourse, and social change**. The journal primarily serves the **Social Sciences** while accommodating interdisciplinary and humanities-based scholarship that demonstrates explicit social, political, cultural, or policy relevance.

The journal is published by **Knowledge Empowerment Foundation** and is issued **biannually**. It operates under a **full open-access publishing model**, ensuring immediate and permanent access to all published content. The journal **does not charge any Article Processing Charges (APCs), submission fees, review fees, or publication fees** at any stage.

The journal follows international best practices in scholarly publishing and adheres strictly to the principles and procedural frameworks of the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**.

Submission of a manuscript constitutes the author's **explicit agreement** with all policies, legal terms, and ethical standards stated herein.

2. Categories of Manuscripts Accepted

The journal accepts original, unpublished scholarly contributions that fall within its Aims & Scope. All submissions must demonstrate academic rigor, originality, ethical compliance, and disciplinary relevance.

2.1 Original Research Articles

Original Research Articles report **novel empirical, theoretical, or analytical findings** that advance knowledge in social sciences or socially grounded humanities.

These manuscripts must:

- Address clearly articulated research questions or objectives
- Employ appropriate qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methodologies
- Demonstrate critical engagement with existing scholarship
- Offer original interpretations or evidence

Indicative length: 6,000–8,000 words (including references)

2.2 Reviews

Review articles provide **systematic, critical, and integrative assessments** of existing literature within a defined thematic or disciplinary domain.

Such manuscripts must:

- Synthesize major debates, trends, and methodological developments
- Identify research gaps and future directions
- Demonstrate analytical depth beyond descriptive summaries

Indicative length: 7,000–9,000 words

2.3 Conceptual and Theoretical Contributions

These manuscripts develop **original theoretical frameworks, conceptual models, or critical interpretations** grounded in social inquiry.

Purely speculative or non-scholarly essays are not considered.

Indicative length: 5,000–7,000 words

2.4 Policy Analysis and Commentary

Policy papers critically examine **public policies, governance mechanisms, institutional practices, or regulatory frameworks** using evidence-based analysis.

Opinion-only or advocacy pieces without scholarly grounding are not accepted.

Indicative length: 3,000–5,000 words

2.5 Case Studies

Case studies present **in-depth analytical examinations** of specific social phenomena, institutions, communities, movements, or events, with broader theoretical or comparative relevance.

Indicative length: 3,000–5,000 words

2.6 Book Reviews

Book reviews critically assess **recent scholarly books** relevant to the journal's scope. These are typically commissioned or accepted with prior editorial approval.

Indicative length: 1,000–1,500 words

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3. Scope Compliance and Editorial Authority

Authors bear sole responsibility for ensuring that their submissions conform to the journal's **Aims & Scope**.

The editorial office reserves the **absolute right**, at its discretion, to:

- Desk-reject manuscripts without external review
- Request revisions prior to review
- Decline submissions that are out of scope, ethically non-compliant, methodologically deficient, or academically unsuitable

Editorial decisions are final and not subject to negotiation.

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4. Manuscript Preparation Standards

4.1 Language and Academic Style

Manuscripts must be written in **formal, precise academic English**. Either British or American English may be used, but consistency is mandatory. Authors are responsible for linguistic accuracy and clarity.

4.2 Length Compliance

Authors must strictly adhere to prescribed word limits. Excessively long submissions may be returned without review.

4.3 Mandatory Manuscript Structure

Except for Book Reviews, manuscripts must follow this structure:

1. **Title** – Concise, specific, and reflective of content
2. **Abstract (150–250 words)** – Background, objectives, methodology, principal findings, conclusions
3. **Keywords (4–6)** – Core concepts and disciplinary terms
4. **Introduction** – Research problem, rationale, objectives
5. **Literature Review** – Critical engagement with relevant scholarship
6. **Methodology / Analytical Framework** – Research design, data, methods, ethics
7. **Results / Analysis** – Findings supported by evidence and interpretation
8. **Discussion** – Theoretical, social, or policy implications
9. **Conclusion** – Contributions, limitations, future research
10. **References** – Complete and accurate citations

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5. Formatting and Technical Requirements

- File format: Microsoft Word (.doc or .docx)
- Font: Times New Roman, 12-point
- Line spacing: 1.5
- Margins: 1 inch on all sides
- Pages must be numbered

Authors are legally responsible for the originality, accuracy, and permission status of all tables, figures, images, and supplementary material.

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6. Referencing and Citation Integrity

Authors must use a **single, consistent citation style** throughout the manuscript. The journal **recommends APA Style (7th Edition)**.

Inaccurate, incomplete, or manipulated references may result in rejection or post-publication correction.

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7. Publication Ethics and Author Responsibilities (COPE-Aligned)

The journal enforces strict ethical standards in accordance with **COPE Core Practices**.

Authors are legally and ethically responsible for ensuring:

7.1 Originality and Plagiarism

All submissions must be original. Plagiarism, self-plagiarism, duplicate publication, or redundant publication constitutes misconduct.

7.2 Authorship Integrity

Authorship must reflect **substantial scholarly contribution**. All authors share collective responsibility for the content. Authorship changes after submission require written consent from all authors and editorial approval.

7.3 Data Integrity and Transparency

Fabrication, falsification, selective reporting, or manipulation of data is strictly prohibited. Authors must retain data for verification if requested.

7.4 Human Subjects and Ethical Approval

Research involving human participants must comply with applicable ethical standards, including informed consent and institutional approval where required.

7.5 Conflicts of Interest

All potential conflicts—financial, institutional, or personal—must be disclosed transparently.

7.6 Misconduct, Corrections, and Retractions

The journal follows COPE procedures for investigating misconduct and issuing corrections, expressions of concern, or retractions when necessary.

8. Peer Review Process (COPE-Compliant)

All manuscripts undergo a **rigorous double-blind peer review process**.

1. **Initial Editorial Screening** – Scope, originality, ethics, compliance
2. **External Review** – Minimum of two independent reviewers
3. **Editorial Decision** – Accept, minor revision, major revision, or reject
4. **Revision & Verification** – Author response and re-evaluation
5. **Final Decision** – Determined by Editor-in-Chief or Handling Editor

All review materials are confidential. Reviewer identities are protected.

9. Galley Proofs and Production Responsibility

Following acceptance, authors receive galley proofs for final verification. Only minor typographical or formatting corrections are permitted. Substantive changes are prohibited.

Failure to respond within the specified timeframe may result in publication without further author input.

10. Open Access, Copyright, and Licensing

The journal operates under a **full open-access policy**.

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11. Submission Declaration and Legal Disclaimer

By submitting a manuscript, authors legally affirm that:

- They have read and accepted these Guidelines
- The work complies with ethical and legal standards
- Responsibility for content rests entirely with the author(s)
- The journal and publisher bear no legal liability for published content