

PEMS
PUBLICATION ETHICS AND MALPRACTICE STATEMENT
STRUCTURAL MAGAZINE

STRUCTURAL *MAGAZINE* (E-ISSN 2282-3794) is a quarterly independent Italian journal (bimonthly until 2023). Since its foundation in 1987, it has been a prominent voice in the field of structural engineering, materials science and technology.

In more than thirty years of activity, STRUCTURAL *MAGAZINE* has become an important link between the worlds of academic research, industry and professional activity. The journal has an "Aims and Scope" statement which defines the requirements for publication.

Initially called *L'Edilizia*, the journal has evolved and since 2013 it has abandoned paper for the digital format. This change resulted in the creation of a portal dedicated to structural engineering, www.structuralweb.it, which since 2013 has hosted [STRUCTURAL *MAGAZINE*](#).

The journal deals with structural engineering, materials science and technology for all kinds of construction: reinforced concrete, masonry, steel, timber, composite materials and light-weight structures. The members of the editorial board are recognized experts in the subject areas included within the journal's scope.

This document reports the journal's approach to the editorial process, including the duties of Authors and Reviewers, and the requirements to provide and maintain high quality and transparency at all stages of publication.

Papers submitted to STRUCTURAL *MAGAZINE* are subject to a refereeing process – *single-blind peer review* – by the Editorial Board and occasionally by other Italian or international experts in the fields of interest of the journal.

The contributions that are accepted for publication are assigned a DOI code, which is clearly displayed on each page of the published paper together with the ISSN, the Publisher's name and bibliographic details. The final version of the submitted manuscripts should be prepared and delivered as indicated in the "Instructions for Authors" section, and the Authors are required to sign a Contract with the Publisher.

No APC (article processing charges) are required from Authors.

Authors publishing with STRUCTURAL *MAGAZINE* surrender the copyright of their work. However, if they wish to retain the copyright of their work they must expressly specify it in the Contract with the Publisher.

EDITORIAL PROCESS

We are committed to editorial independence and strive in all cases to prevent this principle from being compromised through competing interests, fear, or any other corporate, business, financial or political influence. Our editorial processes reflect this commitment to editorial independence.

Transparency We strive to follow COPE's Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing and encourage our publishing partners to uphold these same principles.

Ethical Business Fair Access STRUCTURAL MAGAZINE grants free access to all Italian and foreign University Libraries that request it, in order to make its publications available to the academic world and promote scientific culture in the younger generations.

DUTIES OF AUTHORS

- **Definition of standards** Authors shall accurately report the work performed and shall provide an objective description of the results obtained (for example: results of experiments, numeric analysis, a design experience, an innovative idea). Underlying data shall be represented accurately in the manuscript. Fraudulent, erroneous or inadequately verified or documented statements constitute unethical behaviour by the author and are unacceptable.
- **Data access** If necessary, Authors can be invited to supply all of the data used to support the issues discussed in the manuscript under peer review. Authors should also keep all relevant data related to the submitted manuscript for an adequate period following its publication.
- **Originality and plagiarism** Authors shall ensure that they have written entirely original works. If the Authors have used texts or parts of texts written by others, these must be appropriately cited. Plagiarism takes many forms, from transcription of another paper as the author's own paper, to copying or paraphrasing substantial parts of another paper. Plagiarism in all its forms constitutes unethical behaviour and is unacceptable.
- **Multiple or redundant publications** Authors should not, in general, publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal constitutes unethical publishing behaviour and is unacceptable. In general, an author should not submit a previously published paper for consideration to another journal. Publication of some articles in more than one journal is sometimes possible, provided there is an agreement between the Publisher, the Authors and Editor involved; the secondary publication shall reflect the same data and interpretation of the primary publication and shall quote it clearly.
- **Acknowledgement of sources** Acknowledgement of the work of other authors shall always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in determining the nature of the reported work, whether as a starting point or in its conclusions. Information obtained in the course of confidential services, such as refereeing manuscripts or grant applications, must not be used without the explicit written permission of the author of the work involved.
- **Disclosure and conflict of interest** A conflict of interest may exist when an author or the author's institution has a financial or other relationship with other people or organizations that may inappropriately influence the author's work. All submissions shall include disclosure of any relationships that could be viewed as presenting a potential conflict of interest. All sources of financial support used to collect the data presented in the manuscript should be acknowledged. This declaration should be made under the separate section heading of "Acknowledgement".
- **Fundamental errors in published works** When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author's duty to promptly notify the Editor-in-Chief and cooperate with him/her to correct the paper. If the Editor-in-Chief or the Publisher becomes aware from a third party that a published work contains a significant error, it is the

obligation of the author to promptly withdraw or correct the paper or, otherwise, provide evidence to the Publisher of the correctness of the original paper.

- **Authorship of the paper** Authorship should be limited to those who have made any significant contribution to the production of the text of the reported study and they should be listed as co-authors. Any people who contributed to the preliminary definition of the work described in the manuscript should be acknowledged. A corresponding author should be designated, who is responsible for communication with the Editor-in-Chief and the Publisher, including any queries or issues that may arise during or after the publication process. The corresponding author shall ensure that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

DUTIES OF REVIEWERS

- **Contribution to editorial choices** Every reviewer shall help the Editor-in-Chief in taking decisions regarding the possible publication of a manuscript. Every reviewer shall contribute to the improvement of the manuscript. The Editor-in-Chief, following the indications of the reviewers, shall inform the Author of those modifications thought most appropriate in order to ensure an adequate scientific and editorial level.
- **Anonymity** The Reviewers shall remain anonymous and ensure this anonymity toward the Authors. The Reviewers shall inform the Editor-in-Chief of any conflict of interest with the author/authors of the manuscript and, in such cases, decline the review invitation.
- **Timeliness** Reviewers shall meet the deadline for revision indicated by the Editor-in-Chief and inform him/her about possible delays.
- **Privacy** The manuscripts received for peer review shall be treated as confidential documents. Thus they shall not be shown to or discussed with third parties, unless as authorised by the Editor-in-Chief and only for the purposes of the scientific evaluation of the publication.
- **Standards of objectivity** Peer reviews shall be conducted objectively. Personal criticisms of the Authors are not, therefore, appropriate. Reviewers shall express their opinions clearly with substantiated motivations.
- **Acknowledgement of sources** Reviewers shall check that the Authors of a manuscript always cite the original sources from which their work has originated and that the references in the article's bibliography are appropriate.
- **Disclosure and conflict of interests** Information or original ideas obtained during the peer review process shall be kept confidential and shall not be used to personal advantage. Reviewers shall also operate free from conflicts of interests. For this reason, reviewers shall decline manuscripts produced by authors with whom they compete or collaborate in relation to the work that is under evaluation.

DUTIES OF THE JOURNAL

The Editor-in-Chief of *STRUCTURAL MAGAZINE*, together with the Publisher and with the support of the Editorial Board, commit themselves to:

- Protect the journal's reputation as well as the reputation of published work by only publishing content of the highest quality and relevance in a timely and responsible manner.
- Provide detailed information concerning both understanding of publication ethics and implementation of the same. Emphasise a desire for prevention, rather than eventual detection, of ethical misconduct.
- When necessary, request proof of originality/accuracy from the corresponding author of any work submitted.
- Provide a transparent submissions and publication process, with full respect and care paid to the author. This includes detailed and dedicated instructions to authors, outlining referencing style, accepted article types and submission processes.
- Investigate thoroughly any suggestion of ethical misconduct detected during any stage of the submissions process, following the guidelines of the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE). This can include, but is not restricted to, the following: plagiarism, redundant publication, fabrication or misuse of data and authorial disputes.
- When necessary, retract articles that are deemed to be unethical, misleading or damaging.
- When necessary, publish errata, corrigenda and retractions in a timely and responsible manner.
- Remain in good communication with Authors and Reviewers.

PEER REVIEWING PROCESS

Papers submitted to *STRUCTURAL MAGAZINE* will be subject to refereeing process – *single-blind peer review* – by the Editorial Board and by Italian and international experts in the fields of interest of the magazine.

- **Submission of paper** The submitting Author submits the paper to the journal (following the [SUBMISSION GUIDELINES](#)).
- **Appraisal by the Editor-in-Chief** The Editor-in-Chief, with the help of the Assistant Editor, checks that the paper meets the editorial standards of the magazine (see [AIMS AND SCOPE](#)), and that it has a clear scientific character. If not, the paper may be rejected without being reviewed any further. Every submission will receive a reply from the Editor-in-Chief.
- **Invitation to Reviewers** The Editor-in-Chief assigns the paper to two editors of the Editorial Board and, if necessary, to other reviewers, who are experts in that specific subject; he/she operates according to the law regulating defamation, copyright and plagiarism.
- **Response to invitations** Potential reviewers consider the invitation. The reviewers shall inform the Editor-in-Chief of any conflicts of interest with the author/authors of the manuscript and, in such cases, decline the review assignment. They then accept or decline. If possible, when declining, they might also suggest alternative reviewers.
- **Review is conducted** The reviewers shall remain anonymous and shall ensure this anonymity toward the authors. *Timeliness*: the Editor-in-Chief, while assigning an article to a reviewer, shall set the maximum amount of time available for the review. *Privacy*: the manuscripts received for peer review shall be treated as confidential documents. *Standards of objectivity*: peer reviews shall be conducted objectively. Personal criticisms of the author are

not, therefore, appropriate. Reviewers shall express their opinions clearly with substantiated motivations. *Acknowledgement of sources*: reviewers shall check that the author of a manuscript always cites the original sources from which his/her work has originated and that the references in the article's bibliography are appropriate. *Disclosure and conflict of interests*: information or original ideas obtained during the peer review process shall be kept confidential and shall not be used to personal advantage.

- **Evaluation of the reviews** The review is then submitted to the Editor-in-Chief, with a recommendation to accept or reject – or else with a request for revision before it is reconsidered. The Editor-in-Chief considers all the returned reviews before making an overall decision. If the reviews differ widely, the editor may invite an additional reviewer so as to get an extra opinion before making a decision.
- **The decision is communicated** The Editor-in-Chief sends a decision email to the corresponding author, including any reviewer comments. The comments are anonymous. The paper, revised according to the comments given in the acceptance email, is checked by the Editor-in-Chief and – if accepted – is then ready for publication.

ESSENTIAL MANUSCRIPT INFORMATION

- **Title** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible. The title must be written in Italian and in English.
- **Author Names and Affiliations** Please clearly indicate the given name(s) and family name(s) of each author and check that all names are accurately spelled. Present the authors' affiliation addresses (where the actual work was done) below the names. Provide the full postal address of each affiliation, including the country name and, if available, the email address of each author.
- **Corresponding Author** Clearly indicate who will handle correspondence at all stages of refereeing and publication, also post-publication. Ensure that the email address is given and that contact details are kept up to date by the corresponding author.
- **Abstract** A concise and factual abstract is required (maximum 250 words). The abstract should briefly state the purpose of the research, the principal results and main conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, References should be avoided, but if essential, then cite the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself. Abstracts must be written both in Italian and in English.
- **Images** Authors are asked to provide a cover image with a minimum of 300 dpi. Preferred file types: JPG, TIFF.
- **References** Authors are asked to ensure that every reference cited in the text is also present in the reference list (and vice versa). Unpublished results and personal communications are not recommended in the reference list, but may be mentioned in the text. If these references are included in the reference list, they should follow the standard reference style of the journal. References have to be in Roman Script and in Harvard references style, progressively numbered (<http://www.citethisforme.com/harvard-referencing>).
- **Acknowledgements** All the sources have to be fully acknowledged.

PLAGIARISM – SIMULTANEOUS SUBMISSION – DUPLICATE/MULTIPLE SUBMISSION

One of the most common types of publication misconduct is plagiarism – when one author deliberately uses another’s work without permission, credit, or acknowledgement. Plagiarism takes different forms, from literal copying to paraphrasing someone else’s work and can include:

- Data, words and phrases, ideas and concepts.
- Simultaneous submission, which occurs when a person submits a paper to different publications at the same time, which can result in more than one journal publishing that particular paper.
- Duplicate/multiple publication, which occurs when two or more papers, without full cross-reference, share essentially the same hypotheses and results.

PUBLISHING ETHICS VIOLATION

- Plagiarism is considered a violation of the publishing ethics.
- Intentionally submitting or re-submitting work for duplicate publication is considered a violation of publishing ethics.
- Simultaneous submission is considered a breach of publishing ethics.
- Duplicate/multiple publication is considered a breach of publishing ethics.

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Upon acceptance of an article, authors will be asked to complete a ‘Contract with the Publisher’. An email will be sent to the corresponding author confirming receipt of the manuscript together with a ‘Contract with the Publisher’ form. Any dispute arising, including any claim, shall be governed exclusively by Italian Law 22 April 1941 n. 633 governing the copyrights.

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REVENUE SOURCES and ADVERTISING

STRUCTURAL MAGAZINE is on annual subscription and provides free access to abstracts (both in Italian and in English) of all published articles. Full text articles are available to readers, subject to a fee.

[STRUCTURAL ARCHIVES](#) include all the articles published since 2010. Every article can be searched by PUBLICATION YEAR, or by AUTHOR, TITLE, CATEGORY or KEYWORDS (selected articles published between 1987 and 2010 are being digitalized). The journal’s Archive is constantly updated (bimonthly), and therefore it is already conceived as an electronic backup and preservation of access to the journal content, in the event the journal will be no longer published.

Moreover, the portal publishes reports and technical articles from businesses promoting their services or techniques (for a fee), whereas reviews of technical books, information on events (such as: NEWS, EVENTS, BUSINESS & PRODUCTS) are free of charge.

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