

EDITORIAL ETHICS, GOOD PRACTICES AND ANTI-PLAGIARISM

AGER Editorial Board maintains a solid commitment to the scientific community to ensure compliance with the highest ethical and quality standards in the work it publishes. To regulate these aspects, AGER highlights a series of basic principles that are based on the international code of ethics of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).

This document contains the following information:

1. Commitments made by AGER.
2. Commitments made by the reviewers.
3. Commitments made by the authors.
4. Indications on the use of the IA.

1. COMMITMENTS MADE BY AGER:

1. Seek to meet the needs of all those involved in the editorial process, in the most complete and ethical manner possible, establishing mechanisms, periodically reviewed, to ensure the quality of what is published.
2. The review system used for the articles will be external and anonymous by peers (*double blind peer -external- review*), using systems that guarantee the confidentiality of the process, the protection of the identities of authors and reviewers and of the contents that are dealt with throughout the editorial process. In addition, only qualified personnel will be selected who are responsible, expert in the subject matter of the work, who do not present a conflict of interest and can carry out fair, impartial and constructive evaluations.
3. The editorial decisions, which will be motivated, will be based on the importance, originality, validity of the study, affinity to the thematic line of the journal and compliance with the guidelines for authors and will not be affected by reasons of nationality, ethnicity, political beliefs, race, religion or institutional affiliation of the author.
4. Expresses its strict respect for gender equality and, consequently, will ensure the use of non-sexist language in published works.
5. It has an agile and effective e-mail communication system, this being the mechanism to be used so that authors can appeal their editorial decisions. In the same way, it allows any interested party to communicate with the Editorial Board and present a congratulation, complaint, suggestion, correction, clarification, etc. Respect will be taken care of as quickly as possible.
6. It regularly and demonstrably uses systems to detect possible plagiarism in the texts it receives. For this purpose, AGER means:
 - 6.1. **Plagiarism:** the reuse of other people's ideas, processes, results or words without the explicit recognition of the original authors of the ideas, processes, results or words and of the sources from which they originate.

6.2. **Self-plagiarism:** the reuse by authors of substantial parts of their own previously published work, without indicating appropriate references.

6.3. **Scientific fraud:** the manifest fabrication, manipulation or distortion of data or results to reach preconceived conclusions.

AGER monitors these practices by submitting each manuscript to plagiarism detection software. Likewise, it is used as a redundancy tool for direct searches in Google of key phrases suspected of having been plagiarized or self-plagiarized.

The actions against these practices promoted by AGER are the following:

- a) The manuscript will be rejected immediately.
- b) The journal may consider the future publication of any manuscript proposed by the authors of articles previously rejected on the grounds of plagiarism, self-plagiarism or scientific fraud to be unfeasible.
- c) If plagiarism, self-plagiarism or scientific fraud have been detected after the definitive publication of an issue, the article in question will be removed from the table of contents and the files will be definitively removed from the journal's website.
- d) The Editorial Board reserves the right to contact the plagiarized authors and the organizations and institutions to which they belong, in order to give an account of the facts and their circumstances.

2. COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE REVIEWERS:

1. They must carry out the evaluation requested of them in an honest, constructive and quality manner, within the stipulated deadlines, trying to handle the material sent with confidentiality.
2. They will not misuse the unpublished material they receive.
3. Reveal any conflicting interests before reviewing a work.
4. Report any information relating to the originality, plagiarism, repeated publications, etc. of the material received and/or possible misconduct in connection with the research that the material describes.

3. COMMITMENTS MADE BY THE AUTHORS:

1. They are required to conduct themselves in an integral, ethical and responsible manner that declares and procures publication.
2. Each and every one of the authors interested in publishing in our journal must certify their express conformity with this declaration of ethical editorial conduct and good practices, ticking the corresponding box on the checklist for the preparation of submissions (file called: "[Authorship declaration](#)").
3. Make sure to submit original texts and adapted to the guidelines for authors of the journal and undertake to take the necessary steps to ensure an anonymous peer review.

4. Declare that your submissions have not been previously published, submitted, are not and will not be submitted for consideration by any other journal while under evaluation at AGER.
5. They shall ensure that they do not infringe the intellectual property rights of any material used in their texts that is foreign to their authorship. They will also be responsible for all the effects of the opinions reflected in their works.

4. INDICATIONS ON THE USE OF AI

Artificial intelligence is a tool that is increasingly being used in various fields. In the field of scientific publication, AGER-Revista de Estudios sobre Despoblación y Desarrollo Rural adheres to the [Unesco recommendations on the Ethics in the use of AI](#) (2021), as well as to the [European Commission's Guide on the responsible use of Regenerative AI in research](#) (2024). Authors submitting articles to the journal also adhere to and accept the [European Code of Conduct for Integrity in Research](#) (2023 or any future updates).

Authors are therefore required to indicate whether they have used artificial intelligence (AI)-assisted technologies (such as Large Language Models, chatbots or image creators) in the production of the submitted work. Authors using this type of technology should describe, both in the cover letter and in the submitted work in the relevant section if applicable, how they have used it. For example, if AI was used to assist in writing, this should be described in the acknowledgements section. If AI was used for data collection, analysis or figure generation, authors should describe this use in the methods. Chatbots (such as ChatGPT) should not be listed as authors because they cannot be responsible for the accuracy, completeness and originality of the work, and these responsibilities are necessary conditions for authorship. Accordingly, authors are responsible for any submitted material that includes the use of AI-assisted technologies. Authors should carefully review and edit the output, as AI may generate results that appear authoritative but may be incorrect, incomplete or biased. Authors must not mention AI or AI-assisted technologies as author or co-author or cite an AI product as author. Authors should confirm that there is no plagiarism in their article, both in the text and in AI-produced images, and should ensure that due credit is given for all cited material.

In view of the above, sending an article to AGER-Journal of Depopulation and Rural Development Studies implies that the author follows the ethical principles in scientific production indicated above and, therefore, by sending it, certifies that no portions of the text or material included have been plagiarised (i.e. when third party sources are not cited or, where appropriate, produced through IA). Likewise, it certifies that no previously published material by the same author is being reused without citation. It should be remembered that AGER does not place limits on the length of the bibliography section in research articles, i.e. it does not count towards the maximum length.

In addition, the journal management reserves the right to verify, by any means it deems appropriate, if the article submitted for evaluation contains fragments that have been written by third parties, by the author himself or, where appropriate, using AI, and that all of this is not recognised and indicated appropriately. In the event of detection and given that this is a departure from good practice and ethical principles in the generation of scientific knowledge, the article will be withdrawn. This will occur even if the detection occurs after publication.

Consequently, the submission of an article for evaluation implies:

- Firstly, the certification by the author(s) of a) absence of plagiarism, b) reuse of own material without the necessary citation, and c) the non-use of AI for the elaboration of the production of the basic material (which could be considered as a fraudulent practice) and, above all, the elaboration of the text, and which has not been acknowledged.
- Secondly, the express acceptance of the verification process that may be undertaken from the journal's management.

On the other hand, the journal management undertakes that the verification procedure will not expose the article to 'capture' by external tools.

Valencia (Spain), 13 March 2025