

Statement of Ethics and Malpractice

The *Journal of Chinese Ritual, Theatre and Folklore* is committed to fulfilling its ethical obligations for responding to public expectations regarding academic journal publication. It requires that all parties involved—including its editors, authors, and reviewers—uphold the highest standards of ethical behavior. Any cases of ethical misconduct are treated seriously and will be dealt with following the guidelines set out by the Committee on Publication Ethics ([COPE](#)). The relevant duties and expectations of the *Journal's* editors, authors, and reviewers are set out below.

DUTIES OF EDITORS

The *Journal* utilizes a collective decision-making system. The Editorial Board is expected to offer clear guidelines to prospective contributors and reviewers regarding the *Journal's* submission and review policies, and also bears ultimate responsibility for selecting articles to be published. Editors should not allow any conflict of interest between staff, authors, reviewers, and board members, specifically in cases where an editor is also author of a submitted manuscript. In addition, they should ensure the operation of double-blind peer review in which the identities of the authors and reviewers are not disclosed. When ethical complaints and appeals concerning a submitted or published article are presented, the Editorial Board will follow COPE's guidelines in taking reasonable responsive measures.

DUTIES OF REVIEWERS

Reviewers are free to decline invitations to review particular manuscripts at their discretion and must be aware of potential conflicts of interest involving reviewed articles. Those who have accepted review assignments are expected to evaluate a manuscript exclusively based on its academic merit and submit their reviews within a specified period. Privileged information or ideas obtained by reviewers during peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviewers must call the Editorial Board's attention to suspected misconduct on an author's part, or if they become aware of close resemblances between a manuscript and other published or unpublished works.

DUTIES OF AUTHORS

By submitting a manuscript to the *Journal*, authors warrant that the manuscript is their original research that has yet to be published and is not being considered for publication elsewhere. Authors should ensure that any source used in the manuscript has been appropriately acknowledged and referenced. They should also indicate if the manuscript is a revised version of published or forthcoming work and disclose any potential conflicting interests. Authorship should be limited to those who have contributed significantly to the conception and writing of the manuscript. Plagiarism and copyright infringement in any forms constitute unethical behavior for which the *Journal* has zero tolerance.