



CENTRE FOR RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE OF RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS PUBLICATION ETHICS AND INTEGRITY POLICY

1. Preamble

Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University) is committed to upholding the highest standards of integrity, transparency, and accountability in research and scholarly publication. This Policy is aligned with the principles of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and incorporates guidance from national and international best practices.

The Policy applies to faculty, researchers, doctoral scholars, postgraduate students, and collaborators associated with the University. Its purpose is to provide a comprehensive framework to prevent misconduct, address ethical concerns, and safeguard the credibility of the University's research outputs. Oversight and enforcement of this Policy rest with the Institutional Review Board (IRB).

2. Scope and Applicability

This Policy applies to:

1. Research publications in journals, books, conference proceedings, or other scholarly outlets.
2. All forms of authorship, including single-authored and multi-authored works.
3. Collaborative research conducted with external partners, both national and international.
4. Funded projects and consultancy reports that lead to publications.
5. Editorial roles held by University faculty in journals or edited volumes.

3. Authorship Policy

3.1 Criteria for Authorship

An individual qualifies for authorship if they have:

1. Made significant contributions to conception, design, execution, or interpretation of research.
2. Drafted or revised the manuscript critically for intellectual content.
3. Approved the final version of the manuscript to be published.
4. Agreed to be accountable for all aspects of the work.





3.2 Prohibited Practices

- **Guest Authorship** – Prohibited, as it unjustly inflates the author list.
- **Gift Authorship** – Prohibited, as it adds individuals for personal or professional benefit without contribution.
- **Ghost Authorship** – Prohibited, as it excludes contributors such as statisticians, writers, or collaborators.

4. Research Misconduct

4.1 Definition

Research misconduct refers to any deliberate, reckless, or negligent practice that seriously deviates from accepted standards of academic, scholarly, and scientific integrity. It undermines the credibility of research and can cause reputational, ethical, and legal consequences for individuals and the institution.

For the purposes of this policy, research misconduct includes, but is not limited to:

1. **Fabrication** – Making up data, results, or outcomes and recording or reporting them as genuine.
2. **Falsification** – Manipulating research materials, equipment, processes, or data to misrepresent results.
3. **Plagiarism** – Presenting another's work, ideas, processes, results, or words without proper acknowledgment.
4. **Redundant (or Duplicate) Publication** – Publishing the same data, analysis, or findings in multiple outlets without disclosure.
5. **Salami Slicing** – Fragmenting one substantial piece of research into smaller parts and publishing them as multiple papers inappropriately.
6. **Authorship Misconduct** – Includes:
 1. *Guest authorship*: Listing individuals as authors who did not make a substantial contribution.
 2. *Ghost authorship*: Excluding contributors who made significant input.
 3. *Gift authorship*: Granting authorship based on status, influence, or hierarchy rather than contribution.
7. **Improper Acknowledgment of Funding/Conflict of Interest** – Failing to disclose sources of financial support, affiliations, or potential conflicts of interest.
8. **Ethical Non-Compliance** – Breaching ethical standards such as not obtaining IRB approval, violating informed consent, or mishandling sensitive data.
9. **Peer Review Manipulation** – Compromising the integrity of peer review by submitting fabricated reviews, suggesting fake reviewers, or breaching confidentiality.





10. **Data Mismanagement** – Failing to retain primary data securely, selectively reporting results, or deliberately withholding contradictory evidence.
11. **Other Misconduct** – Retaliation against whistleblowers, misrepresentation of credentials, or interference with investigations

5. Peer Review Integrity

1. Peer reviewers must declare conflicts of interest.
2. Confidentiality of manuscripts under review must be strictly maintained.
3. Reviewers must not use unpublished data for personal advantage.
4. Fabricated or biased peer reviews are treated as misconduct.

6. Transparency and Conflict of Interest

1. All authors must declare funding sources and potential conflicts (financial, institutional, or personal).
2. Editors and reviewers affiliated with the University must recuse themselves in case of conflicts.

7. Editorial and IRB Oversight

The Institutional Review Board (IRB) will function as the central monitoring body for publication ethics.

The IRB is empowered to:

- Investigate allegations of misconduct.
- Apply sanctions, including reporting to journals and funding agencies.
- Recommend retraction, correction, or expression of concern.

All investigations will follow natural justice principles, ensuring **fairness, confidentiality, and right to respond**.

8. Procedures for Handling Misconduct

The IRB shall adopt COPE flowcharts as standard operating procedures. These cover:

1. Suspected plagiarism.
2. Suspected fabricated data.
3. Suspected redundant publication.
4. Authorship disputes.
5. Suspected peer review manipulation.

(The complete set of flowcharts can be accessed at [COPE Guidance](#))





10. Sanctions

Depending on the severity of the misconduct, sanctions may include:

1. Formal warning and mandatory training.
2. Written apology to affected parties.
3. Withdrawal of University endorsement for the paper.
4. Reporting to publishers, funding bodies, or professional associations.
5. Suspension of research incentives or promotions.
6. In extreme cases, termination of research privileges.

11. Awareness and Capacity Building

1. Mandatory workshops on publication ethics for doctoral scholars and faculty.
2. Integration of publication ethics in the research methodology curriculum.
3. Annual refresher training aligned with COPE updates.

This Publication Ethics and Integrity Policy reaffirms Kristu Jayanti (Deemed to be University)'s unwavering commitment to fostering a culture of ethical scholarship, responsibility, and academic excellence. By adhering to internationally recognized standards, particularly the principles and guidance of Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the University seeks to ensure that all research and publications emerging from its academic community are credible, transparent, and socially responsible. The active participation of faculty, researchers, and students in upholding this Policy is essential to safeguarding the integrity of knowledge creation, strengthening public trust in research, and enhancing the University's national and global academic reputation.


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