



Philosophical Counselor (Filozofski savjetnik), ISSN 3102-5528

Guidelines for Authors

1. About the Journal

Philosophical Counselor, an international peer-reviewed scientific journal with ISSN number 3102-5528, is dedicated to promoting interdisciplinary and transdisciplinary dialogue between the humanities and biomedical sciences. The journal provides an academic platform for exploring the theoretical and practical intersections of philosophy and mental health, and is published by the Croatian Association for Philosophical Practice.

1.1. Scope and Focus of the Journal

The journal publishes scientific contributions addressing a range of primary areas.

Philosophical practice and applied ethics cover research into methodologies, ethical frameworks and applications of philosophical inquiry in individual and group settings, with particular attention to the practical implementation and popularization of philosophical counseling and consultation.

Philosophy of psychotherapy and psychoanalysis refers to critical examinations of the ontological and epistemological foundations of various therapeutic and psychiatric models, including comparative analyses of different psychotherapeutic schools and their underlying philosophical assumptions.

Phenomenology of psychopathology and philosophy of health encompass research into the lived experience of mental difficulties and analyses of the structures of consciousness in clinical contexts, as well as broader philosophical investigations of the concepts of health, illness and wellbeing.

Classical phenomenology, *Lebenswelt* and the body represent an area of research into classical phenomenological themes, such as structures of experience, intersubjectivity, embodiment, temporality and the lifeworld. Contributions are welcome that continue the



tradition of continental philosophy and bring it into dialogue with contemporary questions about human being in the world, perception, space and everyday life.

Biomedical humanities involve the integration of philosophical, social and cultural perspectives into medical practice and theory, including medical ethics and the existential and social dimensions of health care.

Metaphilosophical research involves reflections on the nature, methods and limits of philosophy itself, particularly in relation to practical and clinical applications.

Although the areas listed above form the primary focus of the journal, *Philosophical Counselor* actively encourages submissions that extend beyond these boundaries and explore innovative intersections between philosophy and related disciplines. Contributions addressing topics from philosophical theology, religious studies, phenomenology, philosophical anthropology, bioethics, neuroethics, philosophy of mind, philosophy of medicine, narrative medicine, medical humanities, existential psychology, philosophical pedagogy, social philosophy, philosophy for children, philosophy of disability and philosophy of care are equally welcome for consideration.

2. Categories of Contributions

The journal *Philosophical Counselor* accepts contributions in several categories.

An original scientific article is a paper containing original research results that have not previously been published.

A preliminary communication covers a paper presenting new scientific results that require urgent publication while the research is still in progress. This category also includes announcements of forthcoming research and excerpts from dissertations.

A review article means a paper providing an original, concise and critical overview of a particular scientific field or part thereof, with a significant contribution from the author.

A professional (stručni) article is based on professional knowledge and content useful to a particular profession, and does not necessarily need to represent original research.



In addition to the above, the editorial board also accepts book reviews and critical discussions, philosophical travelogues published in the Logopis section, as well as fine art contributions published in the printed edition of the journal.

3. Student Participation

The journal *Philosophical Counselor* welcomes submissions from doctoral students, whose applications are considered under the same conditions as those of more experienced authors. Students at the graduate or master's level may also submit their work. In such cases the editorial board applies a mentoring approach, actively helping and supporting less experienced authors in improving their papers through constructive feedback and guidance.

4. Submission Deadlines

The journal is published four times a year, and submission deadlines recur on the same schedule. The first deadline falls on May 4 and applies to the first issue of the volume. The second deadline falls on August 4 and applies to the second issue. The third deadline falls on November 4 and applies to the third issue, while the fourth and final deadline of the year falls on February 4 and applies to the fourth issue.

Papers may be sent to the editorial office at any time of year. A submitted paper will be published in the issue following the nearest submission deadline, depending on when the manuscript is received.

5. Manuscript Preparation

Manuscripts are submitted in Microsoft Word format, that is, in files with the extension .docx or .doc, or as an RTF file. Files created in open office suites such as LibreOffice or OpenOffice are also accepted. For accurate rendering of Greek text and logical symbols, authors may use LaTeX or TeX.

Manuscripts should be prepared in Times New Roman, size twelve point, with 1.5 line spacing and justified text alignment. Papers may be submitted in English, German, Croatian or other related South Slavic languages.



5.1. Title Page Requirements

The title page of the manuscript must include the author's full name, institutional affiliation if applicable, contact email address and, where possible, an ORCID identification number. An abstract in English must also be included, while papers written in German or Croatian require an additional abstract in the original language of the paper.

Authors should also provide up to five keywords, information on any research funding or on experiments conducted on animals or humans where applicable, and acknowledgments if they wish to express gratitude to individuals or institutions that contributed to the paper.

5.2. Contributions Based on Interviews and Other Empirical Data

Papers based on interviews, questionnaires or other forms of data collection from participants require particular attention to research ethics. Authors are required to obtain informed consent from each research participant prior to conducting an interview or survey, and where the nature of the research requires it, approval from the relevant ethics committee.

The identity of participants is protected through data anonymization, except where a participant has explicitly and in writing consented to being named in the published paper. Authors are advised to submit interview transcripts or other source data as an appendix to the manuscript (for example netnographic data), with a clear indication of the circumstances and conditions under which the data were collected. The same recommendation applies to other data lists, images, charts and similar materials supporting the research results.

5.3. Citation and Reference Style

All manuscripts submitted to *Philosophical Counselor* must follow the formatting guidelines of the Chicago Manual of Style, and authors are required to ensure that all citations, references and bibliographic entries follow the conventions of this style.

The editorial board allows authors to submit the manuscript in another citation format as well, for example using in-text citations instead of footnotes, since this is left to the author's discretion. Once such a manuscript is received, the editorial board will convert the references



into Chicago style with footnotes in order to preserve all information and maintain the visual identity of the journal.

What is explicitly required of authors is that every reference, regardless of whether it cites a direct quotation, states a specific piece of information or simply points to a source, must include the page number being referenced. The editorial board introduced this requirement because, in a period of growing use of artificial intelligence, it has become considerably more difficult and time consuming to verify citations in formats such as Oxford or APA style that do not include page numbers. The choice of Chicago style as the primary reference format reflects respect for the scientific community and the effort the editorial board invests in reviewing each manuscript.

6. Code of Ethics and Code of Conduct

At every stage of the editorial and review process, *Philosophical Counselor* follows high standards of scientific and publishing ethics, and in shaping its own guidelines relies on the principles advocated by the Committee on Publication Ethics, known by the abbreviation COPE. The purpose of this code is to ensure transparency, honesty and accountability among all participants in the publishing process, including authors, reviewers and editors.

6.1. Artificial Intelligence Policy

Philosophical Counselor applies a strict policy regarding the use of generative artificial intelligence in the preparation of contributions. The use of generative AI tools to write any part of a submitted manuscript, to produce artistic or visual contributions, or to create any other content included in the submission is not permitted. Every paper submitted to the journal must represent the original intellectual and creative effort of the named authors. The use of spell-checking tools is permitted.

6.2. Author Responsibilities

Authors submitting a manuscript to *Philosophical Counselor* guarantee that the work is original, has not previously been published, and is not simultaneously under consideration for publication in another journal or publication. Taking over other people's ideas, data, formulations or research results without proper attribution is considered plagiarism and



constitutes a serious violation of scientific ethics that may lead to rejection of the paper or, if discovered after publication, to its retraction. The retraction procedure is described in section 6.6.

Authors are required to present the results of their own research accurately and honestly and to refrain from fabricating, falsifying or selectively presenting data. All co-authors listed on the paper must have made a genuine contribution to its creation, and a person who contributed to the research in a way that does not meet the criteria for co-authorship should instead be listed in the acknowledgments.

6.3. Reviewer Responsibilities

Reviewers evaluate manuscripts impartially, objectively and within a reasonable timeframe, and formulate their comments constructively in a way that allows the author to improve the paper. A reviewer who recognizes that they are not sufficiently qualified to assess a particular manuscript, or whose circumstances prevent a timely review, must inform the editorial board without delay.

The content of a manuscript under review is considered confidential, and the reviewer may not use it in their own research or disclose it to third parties prior to publication.

6.4. Editor Responsibilities

Editors decide whether to accept or reject a manuscript solely on the basis of its scientific quality, originality and relevance to the journal's field, regardless of the author's origin, institution, nationality, or religious, national, ethnic, gender background or political affiliation. Editors are required to maintain the confidentiality of the review process and to ensure that the identities of authors and reviewers remain protected in accordance with the principle of double-blind review.

6.5. Conflict of Interest

Authors are required to state in a cover letter or on the title page of the manuscript whether any financial, professional or personal relationship exists that could affect the objectivity of the



research conducted or the interpretation of its results. If no conflict of interest exists, it is sufficient to state this explicitly. Disclosure of financial support alone is not sufficient to constitute disclosure of a conflict of interest.

Reviewers withdraw from the evaluation of a manuscript if they determine that a conflict of interest exists with the author, for example due to close collaboration, personal acquaintance, institutional affiliation or a prior dispute with the author. Editors similarly withdraw from decisions on manuscripts in whose preparation they participated or with whose authors they have a conflict of interest. In such cases the decision on the manuscript is made by another member of the editorial board.

6.6. Retraction and Correction of Papers

Philosophical Counselor distinguishes between correcting a published paper and retracting it entirely. Minor errors that do not call into question the scientific validity of the paper, such as typographical errors, incorrectly stated author information or minor citation oversights, are corrected through publication of an official erratum that is linked to the original text and remains permanently available alongside it. After publication of the paper and prior to printing, there is a thirty day period during which the article is considered Online First, during which errors may be corrected by direct amendment of the online document. This is in accordance with the Zenodo system.

Full retraction of a published paper applies in more serious cases, such as established plagiarism, fabrication or falsification of data, multiple publication of the same paper in several publications, serious violation of research ethics, or a subsequently established lack of foundation for the paper's main conclusions.

Retraction of an article is also recorded in the CrossRef, OpenAIRE and Zenodo systems, as well as in a dedicated section of the printed edition of the following issue of the journal.

The retraction procedure is initiated by the editorial board on its own initiative, on the basis of a substantiated objection from a third party, or at the request of the author. Before making a final decision, the editorial board informs the author of the reasons for initiating the procedure and allows them to respond. A retracted paper remains available in the journal's archive with a



clear indication that it has been retracted, along with an explanation of the reasons for retraction, while the original text is not removed from the public record in order to preserve the transparency of the scientific record.

6.7. Handling of Complaints and Disputes

Any person who suspects a violation of scientific ethics in connection with a paper published in *Philosophical Counselor*, whether an author, reader, reviewer or third party, may submit a complaint to the editorial board at the email address filozofskisavjetnik@proton.me.

The editorial board is required to consider each complaint conscientiously and within a reasonable timeframe and, where necessary, to request additional clarification from the author or independent experts before reaching a decision. An author whose paper is the subject of a complaint has the right to full insight into the allegations against them and the right to respond before the editorial board reaches a final decision.

6.8. Preprint Policy

Philosophical Counselor allows publication of a preprint of a paper, but only under certain conditions. A preprint may be published only after the manuscript has undergone the review process and been accepted for publication in the journal. Publication of a preprint prior to completion of the review and the decision on acceptance is not permitted.

When publishing a preprint, authors are required to clearly indicate that the paper will first be published in *Philosophical Counselor*. Once the paper has been published in the journal, authors retain all rights to it and may use it freely as they wish.

6.9. Translation Policy

The journal currently does not accept papers that represent a translation of a previously published text. Every submission must represent an original scientific contribution or a paper being published for the first time, regardless of the language in which it is written.

7. Open Access and Copyright



Philosophical Counselor operates on a fully free publishing model in both directions of the process. Readers pay nothing to access published papers, and authors pay nothing to publish their work. The journal does not charge a submission fee, an article processing fee or a review fee, and authors incur no hidden costs throughout the entire process.

It is sufficient for authors to write and submit the manuscript to the editorial board, and if accepted, it is published at no cost to the author. Authors retain full copyright over their work, and the paper is published under the Creative Commons 4.0 license, known by the abbreviation CC BY 4.0, which allows readers to freely use the work provided the original authorship is credited.

8. Review Process and Publication Details

Philosophical Counselor is published four times a year in print by the Croatian Association for Philosophical Practice. The review process follows a double-blind review model, in which the identity of the author remains unknown to the reviewers and vice versa.

9. Statement on Authorship and Ethics

By submitting a paper to the editorial board of the journal, the author confirms that the submitted text is entirely their own work, that they have the right to submit it as their own, and that no violation of scientific or research ethics occurred during the research and writing of the paper.

All contributions undergo a rigorous double-blind review process conducted by domestic and international experts in the relevant fields, and authors can expect initial feedback within eight to twelve weeks of submission.

9.1. Submission Procedure

Manuscripts are submitted via the email address filozofskisavjetnik@proton.me. For all inquiries related to paper submission, thematic issues or general editorial questions, authors are asked to contact the journal's editorial board at the same address.