



COPE European Seminar 2014

in cooperation with the Representation of the State of Hessen to the
European Union

European perspectives on publication ethics

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Representation of the State of Hessen to the European Union, Rue Montoyer 21,
1000 Brussels, Belgium

Differences in publication ethics in Central and Eastern Europe

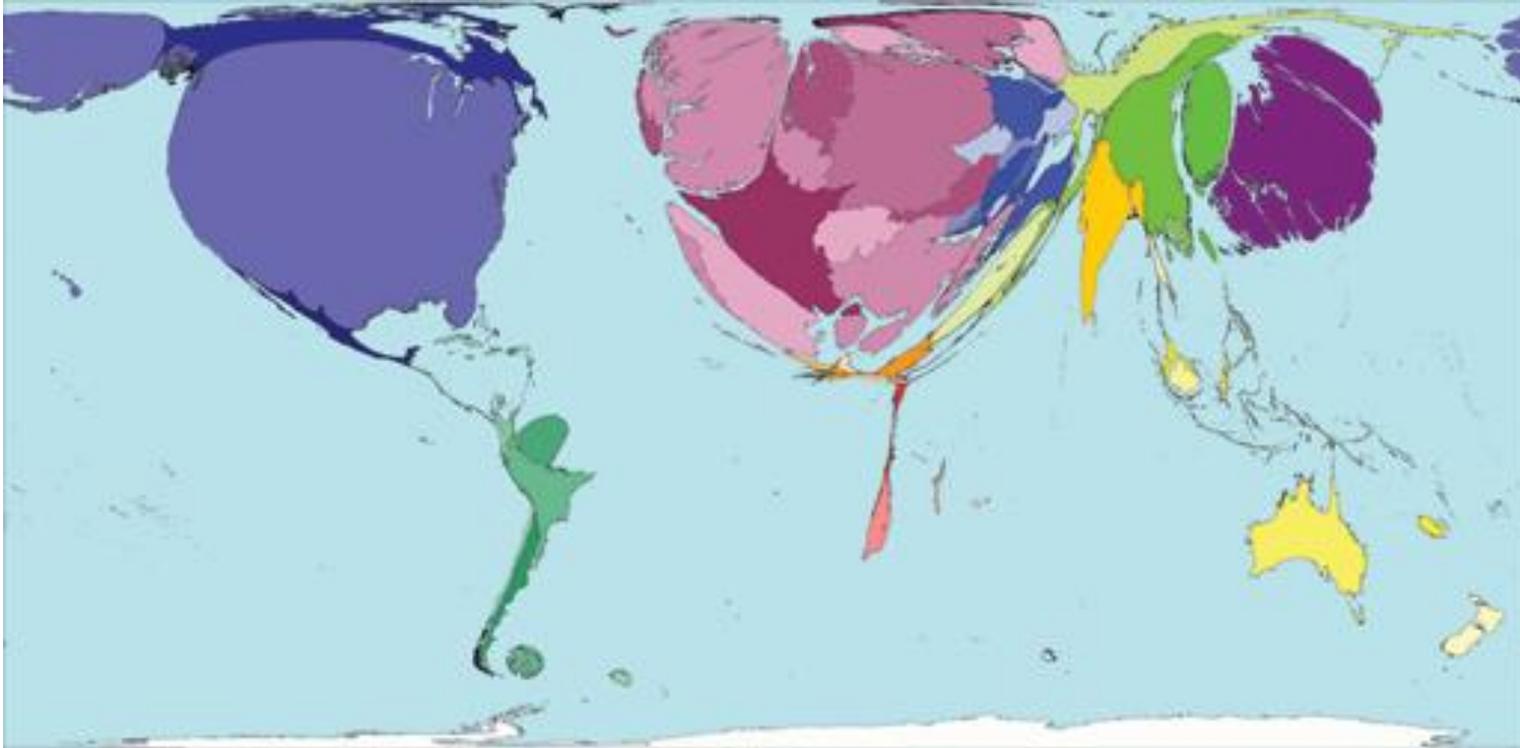
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Editor in Chief, *Journal of Global Health*

Journals at the scientific periphery

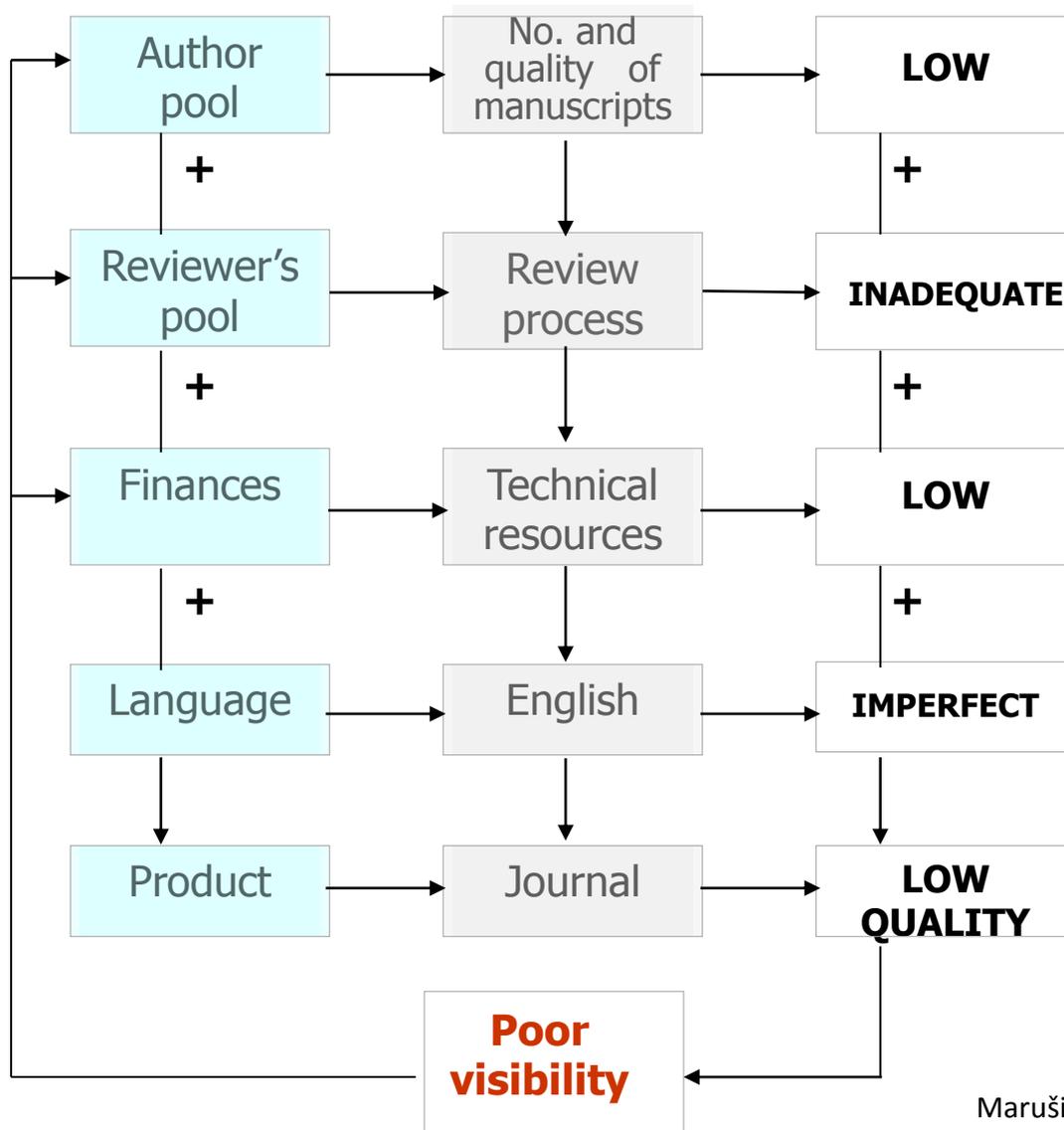
- Usually academic and scholarly journals, where the editorial position is not a full-time position.
- Published in small scientific communities – the so-called scientific periphery, characterized by:
 - smallness of the research community
 - lack of the critical mass of researchers to produce sustainable research output
 - lack of financial support
 - language barrier

Peripheral position to the mainstream science



World Mapper: <http://www.worldmapper.org/display.php?selected=205>
Territory size shows the proportion of all scientific papers published in 2001 written by authors living there.

Vicious circle for small journals



Publication Ethics in Biomedical Journals from Countries in Central and Eastern Europe

Mindaugas Broga · Goran Mijaljica ·
Marcin Waligora · Aime Keis · Ana Marusic

- **Aim:** to investigate possible differences in policies of biomedical journals between East European countries that are members of the European Union (Eastern EU) and South-East European countries (South-East Europe) that are not members of the European Union.

Journals included: Indexed in PubMed, guidelines for authors available on the web

Eastern Europe (EU)

- Poland 28
- Czech Republic 11
- Hungary 6
- Romania 5
- Slovakia 5
- Slovenia 1
- Lithuania 1
- Bulgaria 0
- Estonia 0
- Latvia 0

Southeast Europe (nonEU)

- Croatia 9
- Bosnia and Herzegovina 2
- Macedonia 0
- Serbia 0
- Montenegro 0
- Albania 0

Total

EU journals: 57

Non-EU journals: 11

Data extracted for policies on:

- Endorsement of international editorial standards
- Peer review process
- Redundant publications
- Authorship/contributorship
- Conflict of interest
- Disclosure of financial support
- Ethical conduct in research on humans and animals
- Approval from ethical committees
- Registration of clinical trial
- Privacy rights and confidentiality statements
- Image manipulation
- Conflicts of editors as authors in own journals

Results

Ethics policy	Journals from Eastern EU (%)	Journals from South-East Europe (%)	Chi square, <i>P</i>
→ Endorsement of international standards	10 (18 %)	9 (82 %)	18.90, <i>P</i> < 0.001
Description of process of manuscript evaluation	43 (75 %)	9 (82 %)	0.209, <i>P</i> = 0.648
Redundant publication	43 (75 %)	7 (64 %)	0.660, <i>P</i> = 0.417
Authorship policy	23 (40 %)	7 (64 %)	2.03, <i>P</i> = 0.154
→ Contributorship policy	9 (16 %)	6 (55 %)	8.06, <i>P</i> = 0.005
Conflicts of interest	21 (37 %)	6 (55 %)	1.21, <i>P</i> = 0.272
Requirements on disclosure of sources of financial support	16 (28 %)	4 (36 %)	0.305, <i>P</i> = 0.580
Requirements on ethical conduct of biomedical research with human subjects	26 (46 %)	8 (73 %)	2.71, <i>P</i> = 0.100

Results

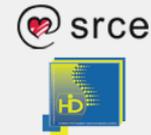
Ethics policy	Journals from Eastern EU (%)	Journals from South-East Europe (%)	Chi square, <i>P</i>
Requirements on ethical conduct of biomedical research with non-human subjects	27 (47 %)	3 (27 %)	1.51, <i>P</i> = 0.219
Ethical review by institutional review board	25 (44 %)	3 (27 %)	1.05, <i>P</i> = 0.306
Mandatory registration of clinical trials	1 (2 %)	1 (9 %)	1.74, <i>P</i> = 0.187
Privacy rights and confidentiality statements	11 (19 %)	5 (45 %)	3.51, <i>P</i> = 0.061
→ Copyright or license-to-publish	37 (65 %)	3 (27 %)	5.39, <i>P</i> = 0.020
→ Image manipulation	0 (0 %)	2 (18 %)	10.70, <i>P</i> = 0.001
Conflicts of editors as authors in own journals	1 (2 %)	1 (9 %)	1.74, <i>P</i> = 0.187

mean No. policies per journals:
 Eastern EU=5.2±3.2, SE Europe=6.6±3.7, *P*=0.176

Case study: follow-up of Croatian journals



Hrčak
Portal znanstvenih časopisa Republike Hrvatske



Scientometrics (2011) 86:227–233
DOI 10.1007/s11192-010-0207-7

<http://hrcak.srce.hr/>

Analysis of a number and type of publications that editors publish in their own journals: case study of scholarly journals in Croatia

Lana Bošnjak · Livia Puljak · Katarina Vukojević · Ana Marušić

Situation in 2008 (163 journals):

- A single journal had a policy on editors' self-publishing in the journal
- 14 (8.6%) had reference to an international editorial policy (13 to ICMJE, 2 to COPE, 1 to WAME, 1 to APA):
 - 9 had ref. to a web-page, 3 to journal articles, and 2 only name mentioned

Case study: follow-up of Croatian journals



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Situation in 2013 (n=298):

- 2 journals had a policy on editors' self-publishing in the journal
- 28 (9.4%) had reference to an international editorial policy (14 to ICMJE, 13 to COPE, 1 to APA)

Conclusions

- More transparency is needed about ethical issues in academic and scholarly journals from small scientific community
- There should be more guidance for editors how to present their journal's policies to the public.



Thank you

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European Association of Science Editors



Second Circular

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European
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TWELFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND CONFERENCE

The complex world of science editing