

**Statement on ethics and unfair practices in the publication of scientific works (“ethics code”)**

The aim of *Nazioni e regioni – Studi e ricerche sulla comunità immaginata* is to promote knowledge and researches on topics related to nations and nationalisms. Although the subtitle of the journal highlights a particular scientific position, namely the constructivist perspective, *Nazioni e regioni* accepts also contributions that question such a perspective; the Editorial Staff as such do not have a specific position on the issues discussed in the texts and articles published on the journal: the texts submitted for publication will be evaluated exclusively on the basis of their scientific and cultural value, and the journal’s authors, Editors and collaborators are required to be accurate and rigorous in their work. Since publishing involves several subjects besides the Publisher, each of them plays a fundamental role – be they authors, Editors, reviewers, members of the Editorial Staff or members of the Scientific Committee – therefore they are expected to abide by some ethical guidelines in all the phases leading to publication. *Nazioni e regioni* is committed to enforce and defend these ethical guidelines throughout the publication process, adopting and promoting the standards specified in COPE’s *Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors*. In the following paragraphs we will summarize what is required from the authors, the Editors, the reviewers, the members of the Editorial Staff and of the Scientific Committee.

**Publication decision**

*Nazioni e regioni* accepts only original texts for the “Studi” and “Rassegne e dibattiti” sections. Such texts must have been elaborated following the highest possible standards, must respect other authors’ copyrights and must not have been submitted to any other journal for publication. In the “Testi” section *Nazioni e regioni*, having previously obtained the related authorizations by their authors and Publishers, proposes Italian translations of articles and essays penned by well-known authors and already published on foreign journals or publications, in order to popularize in Italy the international trends and developments of this field of studies. In the “Recensioni” section *Nazioni e regioni* publishes reviews of books released either in Italy or abroad; reviews which have already been published in a different language on another journal can be accepted upon prior authorization by the author and the Publisher, provided that the original editorial data are included in a footnote.

As regards the “Studi” section, *Nazioni e regioni* selects the submitted articles, after a preliminary collective choice by the Editorial Staff, through a double-blind peer review process. Such process is supervised by a tutor appointed by the Editorial Staff on the basis of the tutor’s knowledge of the related field. For the “Studi” section this process is mandatory and rigorously applied to all the texts submitted for publication. No other selection procedures are accepted.

As regards the other sections (“Recensioni”, “Rassegne e dibattiti”, “Testi”), the decision to publish a text is taken collectively by the Editorial Staff and the Editors.

*Nazioni e regioni* will publish the corrections of any errors that should occur in published articles or ensure the latter’s withdrawal. The Editors and the Editorial Staff are the sole responsible for the decision to publish the articles submitted to the journal. The Editorial Staff and the Editors follow the editorial policy of the journal in full compliance with the existing law regulations on defamation, copyright infringement and plagiarism.

The reviewers and the Editorial Staff must evaluate the manuscripts exclusively for their scientific and cultural content, without any distinction of race, gender, sexual orientation, religious belief, ethnic origin, nationality, and independently of the scientific, academic or political orientation of the authors.

The Editorial Staff must not divulge any information on the submitted manuscripts to any party other than the authors, the reviewers and potential reviewers, the editorial consultants and the Publisher, depending on the case. The unpublished material included in the submitted manuscripts cannot be used by any member of the Editorial Staff for their own researches without the written consent of the author. If the Editorial Staff should find a problem or if a problem arises concerning errors or lack of precision, conflict of interest or plagiarism in a published article, the author and the Publisher will be immediately informed and the necessary steps will be taken to clarify the issue; if need be, either the article will be withdrawn or a retraction/Erratum will be published, in compliance with COPE's guidelines.

### **Peer reviewers' duties**

The peer reviewers, under the supervision of a tutor appointed by the Editorial Staff, help the latter take editorial decisions; they may also, by the reviews they send to the tutor, help the author improve the manuscript. A reviewer who does not feel able to accomplish the review s/he has been entrusted with must notify his/her decision to the Editorial Staff, thus renouncing the right to participate in the reviewing process. The manuscripts submitted for review must be treated as confidential documents. They cannot be shown to, or discussed with, anyone without the Editorial Staff's prior authorization. The reviews must be conducted in an objective way: personal criticism of the author is not acceptable. The reviewers must express their opinions in a clear way and support them with persuasive and well-documented arguments. The reviewers have the task to identify the presence of bibliographic material which is relevant for the article in question but is not acknowledged by the author. Every single statement, observation or point reported will be preferably accompanied by the related quotation. The reviewers must inform the Editorial Staff whenever they detect a substantial similarity or overlapping between the manuscript in question and any other published document they are aware of. The information or ideas obtained through the manuscript's revision must remain confidential and cannot be used to one's personal advantage. The reviewers must not accept any manuscripts in regard to which they can find themselves in a conflict of interest deriving from any kind of relations – whether of competition or collaboration – with authors, firms or institutes closely connected with the topic of the manuscript.

### **Authors' duties**

The authors must guarantee that their works are fully original and, if the words or works of other authors are used, that the latter are opportunely paraphrased or quoted verbatim; the correct reference to works by other authors must always be indicated. The authors must provide references of all the publications that have influenced and determined the course of their work. The authors of articles based on original research must present an accurate account of the work they have carried out and an objective discussion of its significance. The related data must be represented in the manuscript with the utmost precision. The manuscripts must contain enough details and references so as to potentially allow others to replicate the inquiry. Fraudulent or voluntarily inexact statements constitute unethical behaviour and are not acceptable. The submitted manuscripts must not have been published as copyrighted material on any other journal. The manuscripts under review cannot be submitted to any other journals for publication. The authorship of the manuscript is limited to those who have significantly contributed to its elaboration, planning, realisation and interpretation. All those who have provided a significant contribution must be indicated as co-authors. Whenever any other parties have provided a significant contribution to substantial aspects of the research project, they must be acknowledged as contributors. The chief author must guarantee that all the related co-authors are included in the manuscript, that they have seen and approved its final version and that they agree on its submission for publication. The authors must acknowledge in the manuscript any financial conflict or any kind of conflict of interest that may influence the results or the interpretation of the manuscript. All the sources of financial support must be acknowledged. Whenever an author should find any significant errors or inaccuracies in the published manuscript s/he must immediately inform the Editorial Staff or the Publisher and cooperate with them in order to withdraw or correct the manuscript.

### **Conflict of interest**

A conflict of interest may arise when an author (or his/her institution), a reviewer or a member of the Editorial Staff has personal or economic relations that could affect their behaviour in an inappropriate way. Such a conflict may exist even if the subject is convinced that the aforementioned relations do not affect him/her. The journal's Editors will make sure to deal with any potential conflict of interest in the best possible way (for example through a double-blind peer review process), and authors might be required to provide a statement on the issue.

### **Final temporary regulation**

In the first three years of *Nazioni e regioni*'s editorial existence (2013-2016), the Editors and the members of the Editorial Staff were categorically forbidden from submitting articles for the "Studi" section. Starting from January 2016, the potential articles submitted for publication in the "Studi" section by any of the aforementioned subjects will be subject to a double-blind peer review like all the others; the Editorial Staff will have to find the most appropriate way to ensure that the evaluation process takes place in the most transparent and objective way.