

Ethical Practices in Sport Management Publishing: Consideration of a Voluntary Code of Conduct

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Ethics

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**60-minute symposium,
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In the Spring/Summer of 2012, a “voluntary code of conduct” for journal editors was circulated within the organization and management academy. The development of the code was prompted by several data fraud scandals reported in the world press, attention to coercive citation practices in the academy broadly, and public dialogue about research integrity in general. It was drafted by a group of editors from the fields of industrial/organizational psychology and management, with the goal of “hav[ing] a positive impact on the way journals conduct themselves, and on the quality and integrity of organizational research in general” (“Journal Editor Ethics, Background,” p. 1).

The code outlines, in brief, the following ethical practices (“Journal Editor Ethics, Welcome,” p. 1):

- I. Refraining from coercive citation practices, in submission guidelines and the peer review process.
- II. Encouraging one’s journal to keep marketing strategies separate from the peer review process (if applicable).
- III. In the face of global dialogue regarding data fraud, research integrity, and implicit pressures to manipulate findings, hide results, etc., encouraging (a) data transparency, (b) proper citing of archival data sources, (c) consideration of the publication of theoretically/methodologically-relevant null results, (d) support for substantive and important replication efforts, and (e) authors to avoid opportunistic and atheoretical post-hoc hypothesizing.
- IV. Communicating these and other relevant ethical standards to the journal’s associate editors and board members, and conveying them in appropriate public forums.

The authors of the Code encourage their colleagues to “publicly affirm” it, while welcoming comments and feedback that will allow them to “continue to revise the Code as our open dialog evolves” (“Journal Editor Ethics, Background,” p. 1). While the invitation to publicly affirm the code has not, to the best of our knowledge, been directed specifically to anyone in the sport management academy, we may presume that we are welcome to do so, if desired. At the least, the existence of this code prompts a discussion of ethical practices in sport management publishing, and perhaps the formulation of our own code, which is the purpose of this forum.

The forum panel comprises current Editors and Associate Editors of the Journal of Sport Management, European Sport Management Quarterly, and Sport Management Review, although participation is certainly not limited to representatives of these particular journals. They will engage the audience in a discussion of ethical practices, framed by an overview of the following:

1. The “Voluntary Code of Conduct” – its content, background, and current status;
2. The intent of codes of conduct – a brief philosophical consideration of such documents;
3. Ethical publishing issues in the field – as experienced by the journal editors and audience members, including a discussion of the dilemmas and confusion associated with these issues;
4. Existing codes, policies and practices directed to maintaining ethical standards of each journal;
5. Moving toward a voluntary code of conduct for sport management journal editors.

The session is timely, important, and is expected to be of interest to conference delegates broadly; they comprise the authors and reviewers, as well as former journal editors, for whom the system exists and upon whom it depends. Ethical issues in sport management publishing are issues for all of us. The session is expected to generate lively, informed, and important reflection, discussion and debate about these issues and how they are and should be

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handled within the sport management academy.

Reference

Journal Editor Ethics. (2012). Retrieved from <http://editorethics.uncc.edu/Index.aspx>