

## Policy on the Use of Artificial Intelligence (AI)

### 1. General Principles

The journal *Asian and African Studies* adheres to the principles of publication ethics promoted by the **Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)**. The use of artificial intelligence (AI) tools in the preparation and processing of manuscripts is permitted **only insofar as such use is transparent, responsible, and fully attributable to human authors.**

AI tools:

- **do not meet the criteria for authorship,**
- **cannot assume responsibility for the integrity of scholarly work,**
- **cannot replace human intellectual contribution, accountability, or ethical judgment.**

The responsibility for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of the manuscript rests **solely with the author(s).**

### 2. Use of AI by Authors

#### 2.1 Acceptable Use

Authors may use AI tools **as assistive technologies only**, including but not limited to:

- language editing and stylistic refinement,
- improving clarity or readability,
- technical formatting or consistency checks,
- summarising the authors' own notes or already published material.

AI tools **must not be used to generate original scholarly content**, including research questions, theoretical frameworks, interpretations, conclusions, or data.

#### 2.2 Unacceptable Use

In line with COPE recommendations, the following practices constitute unethical conduct:

- presenting AI-generated text as original scholarly work,
- using AI to fabricate, manipulate, or falsify research data,
- generating references that have not been verified by the author(s),
- failing to disclose the use of generative AI where such disclosure is required,
- using AI tools in ways that compromise academic integrity or copyright.

### 3. Disclosure of AI Use

Authors are required to **explicitly disclose any use of generative AI tools** that has had a material impact on the preparation of the manuscript.

Disclosure should include:

- the name of the AI tool and, where relevant, its version,
- the purpose of use (e.g. language editing, technical assistance),
- confirmation that the author(s) retain full responsibility for the content.

#### Placement of disclosure

The disclosure should appear:

- in the **Acknowledgements**, or

- in a dedicated section entitled **Declaration of AI Use**, placed before the References.

#### **Recommended wording:**

*The author(s) disclose the use of a generative AI tool (name, version) solely for language editing and/or technical assistance. The author(s) confirm that they are fully responsible for the content, originality, interpretation, and conclusions of this article.*

Routine use of spelling or grammar checkers that do not alter intellectual content does not require disclosure.

## **4. Use of AI by Editors**

Editors must ensure that editorial decisions are based on **human evaluation and scholarly judgment**.

In accordance with COPE principles:

- AI tools **must not be used to make or automate editorial decisions**,
- unpublished manuscripts **must not be uploaded to external AI systems**, particularly where confidentiality or data retention cannot be guaranteed,
- suspected misuse or non-disclosure of AI should be handled in line with COPE procedures and flowcharts.

## **5. Use of AI by Reviewers**

### **5.1 Confidentiality**

Peer reviewers are bound by strict confidentiality. Manuscripts under review **must not be shared with or processed by generative AI tools**, as this would constitute a breach of confidentiality.

### **5.2 Limited Assistance**

Reviewers may use AI tools **only to assist with language editing of their own review reports**.

AI must not be used to:

- evaluate the scientific merit or originality of the manuscript,
- generate substantive review content or recommendations.

Reviewers are encouraged to inform the editor if AI was used for language assistance in the review report.

## **6. Detection, Compliance, and Sanctions**

The journal reserves the right to:

- screen submissions using plagiarism-detection and AI-content identification tools,
- request clarification regarding the use of AI at any stage of the editorial process,
- apply corrective measures in cases of ethical breaches, including rejection of the manuscript or retraction of a published article, in accordance with COPE guidelines.

## 7. Policy Review

Given the rapidly evolving nature of AI technologies, this policy will be **reviewed periodically** to ensure continued alignment with:

- COPE recommendations,
- international standards of publication ethics,
- the Open Science policies of the Slovak Academy of Sciences.