**Journal “Comparative Studies”**

**Publication Ethics and Publication Malpractice Statement**

Journal “Comparative Studies” has been issued annually by Daugavpils University (Latvia) since 2008.

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Editors and academic advisory board evaluate submitted manuscripts exclusively on the basis of their academic merit (importance, originality, study’s relevance, clarity, appropriate review of scientific literature and sources, appropriate use of research instruments and methods, completeness of conclusions) and its relevance to the journal’s scope, without regard to the authors’ race, gender, sexual orientation, ethnic origin, citizenship, religious belief, political philosophy or institutional affiliation. Decisions to edit and publish are not determined by the policies of governments or any other agencies outside of the journal itself. Editors have full authority over the entire editorial content of the journal and the timing of publication of that content.

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Editors (in conjunction with the publisher and/or society) will take responsive measures when ethical concerns are raised with regard to a submitted manuscript or published paper. Every reported act of unethical publishing behavior will be looked into, even if it is discovered years after publication.

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Peer review assists Editors and Academic Advisory Board in making editorial decisions and, through editorial communications with authors, may assist authors in improving their manuscripts. Peer review is an essential component of formal scholarly communication and lies at the heart of scientific endeavor. Journal “Comparative Studies” shares the view of many that all scholars who wish to contribute to the scientific process have an obligation to do a fair share of reviewing. A unified form is provided for reviewers of the journal “Comparative Studies”.

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Any invited referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should immediately notify the editors and decline the invitation to review so that alternative reviewers can be contacted.

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Any manuscripts received for review are confidential documents and must be treated as such; they must not be shown to or discussed with others except if authorized by the Editors (who would only do so under exceptional and specific circumstances). This applies also to invited reviewers who decline the review invitation.

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**Duties of the Publisher**

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