**NATURE AND CULTURE ETHICS STATEMENT**

**PUBLICATION PROCESS**

*Nature and Culture* (NC) is a peer-reviewed journal. Articles are sent for review to at least two scholars with relevant experience and expertise. Referees are asked to advise the editors whether the article should be published and if so, with what recommended changes. The editors respond to the author with their decision and a list of any changes needed for the article to be accepted for publication. They may also send the anonymous referees’ comments directly to the author.

Manuscripts that have been accepted for publication but do not conform to the style guide may be returned to the author for amendment. The editors also reserve the right to alter usage to conform to the style guide issued by the publishers. Authors may not supply new materials or request major alterations following the copyediting stage, so should ensure that all text is final upon acceptance. Contributors of articles and other article-length pieces will receive one free copy of the relevant issue.

While every effort is made by the publishers and the editorial board to see that no inaccurate or misleading data, opinions or statements appear in this journal, they wish to make it clear that the data and opinions appearing in the articles herein are the sole responsibility of the contributor concerned. Accordingly, the publishers, the editorial board and editors and their respective employees, officers and agents accept no responsibility or liability whatsoever for the consequences of any such inaccurate or misleading data, opinions or statements.

**DUTIES OF AUTHORS**

All submitted articles should be original works and not concurrently under consideration by any other publication. An author should not borrow substantially from his or her own previously published works nor submit manuscripts describing essentially the same research and conclusions in more than one journal or primary publication.

Proper acknowledgment of the work of others must always be given. Authors should cite publications that have been influential in their own work. If authors have drawn on the work of others and/or directly quoted the words of others, such works and direct quotes must be appropriately acknowledged and cited in notes and/or listed in the references at the end of the article, according to the style of the individual journal.

An article should contain sufficient detail and references to permit others to locate published sources. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behaviour and are unacceptable.

In the event that an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author’s obligation to promptly notify the journal editor or publisher and cooperate with the editor to retract or correct the paper.
Corresponding Author
The corresponding author is the author responsible for communicating with the journal for publication. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are included on the paper. All co-authors should have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Acknowledgment of Funding Sources
Sources of funding for the research reported in the article should be duly acknowledged at the end of the article. All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript.

DUTIES OF REVIEWERS
Peer review assists the editor(s) and the editorial board in making editorial decisions, while the comments which arise from peer review may also assist the author in improving the paper.

Any reviewer who feels unqualified to review the assigned manuscript or unable to provide a prompt review should notify the editor and excuse himself/herself from the review process.

Manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to, or discussed with, others except as authorized by the chief editor.

Reviews should be conducted objectively. There shall be no personal criticism of the author. Reviewers should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. A reviewer should also call to the chief editor's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

Reviewers should decline to review manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors.

DUTIES OF EDITORS
The editors are responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published. The editors may be guided by the policies of the journal's editorial board, contingent upon any legal requirements regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism.

Manuscripts shall be evaluated solely on their intellectual merit.
The editor(s) and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher.

Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript must not be used by anyone who has a view of the manuscript while handling it in his or her own research without the express written consent of the author.