

Astronomical Society of the Pacific Publications Ethics Policy

October 7, 2013

The ethical standards for publishing in the Publications of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific (PASP) and the Astronomical Society of the Pacific Conference Series (ASPCS) are guided by publication agreements and basic ethical standards associated with scholarly publication. In the following we describe the guiding aspects of these ethical standards.

1. Publication Originality and Plagiarism

The PASP and ASPCS publication agreements warrant that authored manuscripts are original and previously unpublished. One aspect of the originality of a manuscript is the uniqueness of its content. Reproduction of text or other content from other manuscripts without proper citation is plagiarism. This includes “self-plagiarism,” which is the reproduction of previously published material by the author(s) of a published manuscript. In addition to being a serious breach of ethics, plagiarism may be a violation of publication copyright. Authors found guilty of plagiarism will face possible revocation of their publication privileges.

It is understood that ASPCS articles are rarely the final version of an author’s work. The ASP encourages authors to publish final versions of their work in a refereed journal. The ASP will usually grant permission for figures or other elements of a Conference Series article to be reproduced with appropriate citation in the final version of a paper to authors who request it. Complete ASPCS articles should not be published in other journals without significant enhancement or revision.

2. Professional Civility

The process of publishing a manuscript in PASP or ASPCS involves a variety of individuals. All participants in this process are expected to conduct themselves in a professional and civil manner. Unprofessional behavior, such as verbal or written attacks, may result in refusal to publish manuscripts from authors who violate these basic tenets of a professional society.

3. Peer Review, Confidentiality, and Conflicts of Interest

Reviews of all PASP manuscripts are strictly confidential and all reviewers are anonymous. Reviewers can waive their anonymity with the concurrence of the PASP editor. The ASP and their editors will retain this confidentiality and anonymity standard in perpetuity. Reviewers are also bound by strict confidentiality, and may not share the content of the manuscripts they review nor their review correspondence with any other party without written permission from the PASP editor. Authors may share review correspondence with their co-authors only. Public distribution of review materials is considered a breach of ethics. All reviewers affirm that they are free of any conflicts of interest which might influence the veracity and appropriateness of their review. Individuals who are invited to review a manuscript should identify any potential conflicts of interest to the PASP editor.

4. Attribution and Citation

All manuscripts submitted for publication in PASP or ASPCS must include the proper citation of previously published research that is directly relevant to the content of the submitted manuscript. Refusal to properly credit or cite prior or corroborating results is professionally unethical, and may result in rejection of a manuscript. Authors are expected to follow the recommendations of reviewers and editors to correct and augment their manuscript citations when requested to do so. Furthermore, for manuscripts which have been accepted for publication but have not yet been published, it is the responsibility of the author to update, as appropriate, the references in their manuscripts prior to publication.

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