

Guidelines for Referees

Report Form

The Referee's Report form is divided into two main sections.

The first section is for recommendations, which deals with how publishable and how appropriate an article is for the Journal. Please indicate your assessment by ticking the appropriate boxes.

The second section of the form is for you to write your comments for the Editors and Editorial Board. Anonymised excerpts of these comments may be fed back to the author(s).

Editorial Policy

BioSocieties is an innovative new journal in the social sciences, dedicated to advancing analytic understanding of the social, ethical, legal, economic, public and policy aspects of current and emerging developments in the life sciences. Its cross-disciplinary analyses of genomics, neuroscience, psychopharmacology, biomedical and reproductive technologies, and biosecurity will become essential reading for all those in the life science community concerned with the social implications of their work.

As the first journal of its kind, *BioSocieties* publishes scholarship across the social science disciplines, and represents a lively and balanced array of perspectives on controversial issues. In its inaugural year *BioSocieties* demonstrated the constructive potential of interdisciplinary dialogue and debate across the social and natural sciences. We are becoming the journal of choice not only for social scientists, but also for life scientists interested in the larger social, ethical and policy implications of their work. The journal is international in scope, spanning research and developments in all corners of the globe.

BioSocieties appears quarterly, with occasional themed issues that highlight some of the critical questions and problematics of modern biotechnologies. Articles, response pieces, interviews, book reviews, and self-standing editorial pieces by social and life scientists form a regular part of the journal.

Writing Your Report

We ask that you consider the following points in your comments:

- **Appropriateness:** Is the subject matter appropriate for *BioSocieties*?
- **Originality:** Is the work original? Do you know of other publications containing similar data and/or arguments? If so, does the work contain significantly new material to what has already been published?
- **Clarity:** Are the arguments expressed clearly? Are potentially unfamiliar disciplinary theories and concepts fully explicated? Is the article free of jargon?
- **Methodology:** Is the methodology adopted appropriate to the aims and research questions of the study? Has it been rigorously applied?
- **Referencing:** Are the most relevant works cited? Is the referencing adequate?
- **Conclusion:** Are the conclusions sound and supported by the material presented.
- **Title:** Is the title appropriate for the content of the article?
- **Abstract:** Does the abstract adequately summarize the article?
- **Diagrams, figures, tables and captions:** Are these clear and appropriate?

Returning Your Report

Referees are encouraged to submit their reports electronically to BioSocieties@lse.ac.uk in MSWord or PDF formats. Where electronic reports are submitted, printed version is not necessary.

Suggestions for Alternative Referees

In cases where referees are unable to review a paper, suggestions of alternative referees are welcomed.

We ask that referees do not send manuscripts to third parties.

Refereeing Policy

Anonymity: It is the policy of the Journal that the names of referees are kept confidential.

Confidentiality: Upon agreeing to referee an article, the referee must ensure that the article is kept confidential. The article must not be redistributed to third parties.

Conflicts of interest: Referees are asked not to review articles where there is a significant conflicts of interest.

Timeframe: Referees should aim to submit their report within the specified time period. The Journal office should be informed without delay if this is not feasible.

Resubmissions: Resubmissions may be sent to original referees and/or additional referees.

Notification of final decision: Referees will be informed of the final decision taken by the Editors on the articles they have reviewed.

Referees play an important role in helping to maintain the high standards of the Journal. We would like to thank all our referees for their freely dedicated time and energy, and for their ongoing support.