

TO: Core Board of Directors

TOPIC: Post-Publication Concerns Policy – Draft for board review

ACTION / INFORMATION / REPORT: INFORMATION

ACTION REQUESTED BY: Jeremy Myntti, Chair, Publications Coordination Committee

SUBMITTED: June 13, 2024

Post-Publication Concerns Policy

Approved by Core Publications Coordination Committee, 10 June 2024

Introduction

Core publications benefit from engaged readers and welcome feedback from the community. Core recognizes its obligation to correct errors in work that it has published and to consider readers' criticisms of that work. The respective editorial boards will investigate and respond to concerns raised about published works in their respective publications. To initiate this process, please email the publication's editor. Errors in published works will be addressed in a correction, an editorial response, or both.

Letters to the Editor

Core journals welcome signed letters to the editor in response to published articles.

Corrections

In rare cases, the respective editors may make changes to a previously-published article to correct factual errors that are not essential to the substance of the article and are unlikely to have altered the peer-review decision (for example, unlinking a reference to a website that has been repurposed). In such cases, the editors may correct the reference to point to the new location or to remove the original link if no equivalent replacement exists. Changes of this nature will be noted as a "Correction" at the end of the published article and include the date, a description of the change made, and at whose request the change was made.

Editorial Responses

The editors may publish signed notes, expressions of concern, or retractions in response to concerns about a published article; in rare instances, the editors may remove a published article.

- An **editor's note** is a notification inserted in the article that the journal has initiated an inquiry in response to concerns raised about a published article. This note will be removed if the investigation does not identify any malfeasance.
- An **editorial expression of concern** notifies readers of an addition of information to an article, for example in response to a reader's request for clarification or correction of a significant omission. Such addenda are published when the editors decide they are crucial to the reader's understanding of a significant part of the published contribution.
- A **retraction** notifies the readership of unsound results or misconduct, following an investigation of the issue by the editor and publisher. The original article will remain available but will be marked as retracted through a published note from the editor.
- Published articles are removed: only in rare instances. Core publications may be obliged to remove an article as a consequence of legal action. In these cases, a notice indicating removal will replace the article contents.

Further Information

For further information on professional standards in publishing, see the website of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE).