costituzionalismo britannico e irlandese

British and Irish Constitutionalism

Code of Ethics

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Devolution club

Art. 1 — General principles

1. Costituzionalismo britannico e irlandese is an online, open-access journal published twice a year, devoted to the constitutional law of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Its cultural project, rooted in the scholarly experience of the Devolution Club, is to fill a space not yet occupied in Italy by other publications in constitutional and comparative studies: a place for ideas, interpretations and readings around a broad but defined subject, the British Constitution and all its historical and cultural offshoots, in a comparative, synchronic and diachronic perspective, combining methodological rigour and clear writing for all potential readers (scholars, students, intellectuals, the curious).

2. In all its activities the journal follows the Core Practices and guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE), the Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing (COPE, DOAJ, OASPA, WAME) and the COPE flowcharts for handling cases. This code refers to and specifies them. Authors, reviewers, board members and editorial staff must know and comply with them.

3. The journal charges authors no fees, either for review or for publication. It carries no advertising. Editorial decisions are independent of the publisher and of any funder.

4. This code is approved by the Editorial Board, published in Italian and English on the journal's website and reviewed at least every two years. Each version bears its date of approval.

Art. 2 — Bodies and journal management

1. The bodies of the journal are: a) the Editorial Board, chaired by the Editor-in-Chief; b) the Scientific and Referee Committee. The Editorial Board is assisted by an Editorial Staff responsible for organisation and coordination. The names and affiliations of the members of all bodies are published on the website and kept up to date.

2. The website clearly states the publisher and its address, the ISSN, the frequency, the licence, the open-access policy, the editorial contacts, the review procedure, this code, the style guidelines and the content preservation policy.

3. Every published contribution receives a DOI. Contents are preserved permanently by the publisher and deposited with the Internet Archive. Authors may deposit, with no embargo, the published version, the preprint and the accepted manuscript in institutional or subject repositories of their choice, citing the journal and the DOI.

Art. 3 — Initial assessment and peer review

1. The Editorial Board carries out an initial assessment of each submission, solely to verify its fit with the journal's aims, the presence of minimum scholarly standards and compliance with the style guidelines. The initial assessment guarantees the widest pluralism of opinion and is normally completed within thirty days of receipt.

2. If the outcome is positive, the Editorial Board assigns the contribution to at least one expert reviewer, normally from the Scientific and Referee Committee, under double-blind peer review: the author's identity is not disclosed to the reviewer, nor the reviewer's identity to the author. The reviewer must have no relationship with the author that could compromise impartiality (Art. 6).

3. The reviewer completes the journal's review form and recommends one of the following: publishable; publishable with minor revisions; publishable with major revisions, subject to re-review; not publishable. The final decision rests with the Editorial Board, which gives reasons and sends it to the author together with the reviewer's anonymous report.

4. The whole process is strictly confidential. The journal uses restricted-access systems: reviewers' identities and named review forms are accessible to the Editor-in-Chief only. Review forms are kept, article by article, for at least three years.

5. The journal, its reviewers and its staff do not use the content of unpublished submissions for their own research and keep it confidential.

6. At least once a year the Editorial Board publishes on the website aggregate data on submissions received, sent for review, accepted and rejected, and on average review times.

7. When a member of the Editorial Board or of the Editorial Staff submits a contribution, he or she takes no part in its handling: the contribution follows the ordinary procedure under another member of the Editorial Board, and the reviewer's identity remains unknown to the author.

8. By reasoned decision, the Editorial Board may publish without prior review contributions of particular value for their originality and relevance or the standing of the author, as well as editorials, introductions, conference papers and book reviews. This is stated at the foot of the contribution. The table of contents distinguishes peer-reviewed contributions from the others.

Art. 4 — Duties of authors

1. Authors submit contributions as indicated on the website, declaring that the work is unpublished and entirely original, that it is not under consideration elsewhere and that all sources are correctly cited according to the style guidelines.

2. Plagiarism in any form, including self-plagiarism and undeclared reuse of one's own published work, and the falsification or fabrication of data or sources are serious breaches of this code. Every submission is screened for textual similarity with dedicated software before the initial assessment.

3. Authorship is attributed to those who made a significant contribution to the conception, development and writing of the work and approve its final version; all authors are accountable for it. In co-authored works, where parts are attributed separately, this is stated in a note. Changes to the list of authors after submission require the written consent of all authors.

4. Authors disclose any conflict of interest, even potential, that may have influenced the work, and state the institutions, projects and funding from which it derives.

5. Authors may freely use tools, including AI-based ones, for grammar, spelling and style correction, translation and literature searching, with no need to declare it. Generative artificial intelligence may not be used to produce or rework the content of the contribution (text, summaries, arguments, analysis, conclusions, sources): the contribution must be the author's own work. The author remains fully responsible for the accuracy of the text, citations and sources, and checks them personally.

6. By decision of the Editorial Board, the journal may publish works already published or intended for print, or published in foreign journals not freely accessible in Italy, including in translation, with the consent of authors and publishers and with a note at the foot of the contribution.

7. Authors receive the reviewer's anonymous report and work with the editorial staff to make the requested changes, giving reasons for any choice to depart from them.

8. If authors discover significant errors or inaccuracies in a published contribution, they inform the journal promptly and cooperate in correcting them under Art. 8.

9. Authors retain copyright in their contributions. By submitting, they grant the journal the right to publish them under the Creative Commons Attribution — NonCommercial — NoDerivatives licence (CC BY-NC-ND 4.0), which allows free distribution for non-commercial purposes with attribution to the author and the journal, and prohibits any modification without the author's permission.

Art. 5 — Duties of reviewers

1. Reviewers accept an assignment only if they are competent on the subject and can meet the deadline; otherwise they inform the Editorial Board at once, which reassigns the contribution. If a report is late or not delivered, the review may be reassigned.

2. Reviewers assess fairly and objectively, using the journal's form, and give clear and documented reasons. They refrain from personal remarks about the author and from criticism driven by ideological positions or subjective scholarly or cultural assumptions.

3. Reviewers treat the contribution as confidential: they do not share it, discuss it with others without authorisation, use its content before publication, upload it to artificial intelligence tools that may store or reuse it, or seek to discover the author's identity beyond what the work itself reveals.

4. Reviewers report to the Editorial Board any substantial overlap with published work, missing citations or suspected plagiarism or other misconduct.

Art. 6 — Conflicts of interest

1. Authors, reviewers, board members and editorial staff disclose any conflict of interest, even potential, whether personal, academic, professional or financial.

2. Reviewers decline to review a contribution when, in the last three years, they have collaborated, co-authored or belonged to the same research group as the author, when they are related to or in competition with the author, or when for any reason they feel unable to be impartial.

3. A member of the Editorial Board with a conflict of interest on a contribution abstains from any decision concerning it.

Art. 7 — Ethics Committee, allegations and complaints

1. The Editorial Board appoints from among its members an Ethics Committee of three, which oversees compliance with this code. Its e-mail address is published on the website.

2. Anyone may report to the Ethics Committee alleged breaches of this code by authors, reviewers, board members or staff at any stage of review and publication: for instance plagiarism, duplicate publication, citation manipulation, undisclosed conflicts of interest, unlawful use of data or sources, and any other form of research misconduct covered by the COPE guidelines. The identity of whistleblowers is protected.

3. The Ethics Committee handles every allegation following the COPE flowcharts: it hears the persons involved, ensures that all sides are heard, establishes the facts and decides within a reasonable time, normally within sixty days. Where necessary, it informs the institution of the author or reviewer.

4. Authors may lodge a reasoned appeal against an editorial decision with the Editorial Board within thirty days of notification. The appeal is examined by members other than those who took the decision, who may request a further review. The decision on the appeal is final.

5. Complaints about the management of the journal are addressed to the editorial office or to the Ethics Committee and receive a written reply.

Art. 8 — Corrections, retractions and expressions of concern

1. The journal promptly corrects significant errors in published contributions. Depending on their seriousness, and in line with the COPE retraction guidelines, the Editorial Board issues: a) a correction, for errors that do not affect the conclusions; b) an expression of concern, while investigations are ongoing or evidence is inconclusive; c) a retraction, when the contribution proves unreliable or seriously breaches this code.

2. Corrections, expressions of concern and retractions are published on the website and in the following issue, linked to the original contribution and given their own identifier. A retracted contribution remains available, clearly marked as retracted with the reasons, except in exceptional cases where the law requires its removal.

Art. 9 — Personal data and confidentiality

The journal processes the personal data of authors, reviewers and readers in accordance with Regulation (EU) 2016/679, solely for purposes connected with review and publication. Reviewers' data are never disclosed to authors or third parties.