

RETHINKING Behavior: AI Use Policy for Authors

Scope: This policy applies to all submissions to RETHINKING Behavior (Voices, Strategies, Media, Features, After Hours, etc.).

1. Purpose

Generative artificial intelligence (AI) tools (e.g., large language models, image-generation tools, synthetic-data generation) are becoming increasingly common in writing and publishing. RETHINKING Behavior welcomes innovation while maintaining the integrity, authenticity, and transparency of its content. This policy aims to:

- Promote responsible use of AI tools in article development.
- Ensure that human authors maintain full responsibility for the content.
- Clarify disclosure, authorship, originality, and accountability.
- Protect intellectual property, confidentiality, factual accuracy, and the magazine's voice.

2. Definitions

- **AI Tool:** Any software or platform that uses artificial intelligence (i.e., generative models, large language models, image synthesis, code generation) to produce or assist in producing text, images, tables, or other content.
- **Assistive AI Use:** Use of AI tools for language polishing, grammar/spell checking, formatting, or organizational structure (when the author retains full control and authorship).
- **Generative AI Use:** Use of AI tools to generate substantive content (text, figures, images, data) that contribute to the submitted work beyond simple technical/formatting assistance.

3. Permitted Use of AI Tools

Authors may use AI tools in the following ways, provided they follow the disclosure and oversight requirements in Section 4:

- Assistive tasks such as improving readability, language clarity, correcting grammar, or helping non-native-English authors express their own ideas.
- Idea generation, brainstorming, structuring drafts, as long as the author fully reviews, edits, verifies, and retains ownership of the final content.
- Searching or summarizing literature to help authors identify sources, provided the author checks accuracy and does not rely solely on AI-generated summaries.

4. Required Disclosure & Oversight

When authors use generative AI (i.e., beyond simple assistive tasks), they must:

1. Include a **declaration** in the manuscript (e.g., in a “Declaration of AI Use” or “Acknowledgments” section) specifying:
 - The name and version of each AI tool used (e.g., “ChatGPT 3.5”, “DALL-E 2”).
 - The specific purpose of the use (e.g., “Generated initial draft of section X”, “Created figure 2 image”).
 - The author’s role in reviewing, editing, validating, and approving the output.
2. Ensure that the final submitted content fully reflects the author’s critical oversight, interpretation, analysis, and writing—i.e., the AI tool may assist but does not substitute for the author’s responsibility.
3. Verify that any AI-generated content is free of factual errors, fabricated citations, inappropriate bias, or unacknowledged reuse of third-party intellectual property.
4. Confirm that the terms of use of the AI tool permit the intended public publication and that no rights have been granted that would restrict publication or reuse of the submitted work.
5. Do not list the AI tool as a co-author. Authorship must remain with human individuals who take responsibility for the content, its ethical integrity, and its submission for publication. (See Section 5.)

5. Authorship

- Do **not** name AI tools as authors or co-authors.
- Each named author must have made a substantive intellectual contribution, be accountable for the work, and approve the submitted version.
- Using AI does not relieve authors of responsibility for originality, proper attribution, avoiding plagiarism, or ensuring the work meets the magazine’s editorial standards.

6. Prohibited Use of AI Tools

The following uses are disallowed unless previously approved in writing by the Editor:

- Use of AI tools to generate content that authors present as entirely their own without disclosure or oversight.
- Use of AI to fabricate or manipulate data, results, citations, or references.
- Creation or alteration of images, figures, or tables via generative AI in a way that misleads or changes meaning unless clearly identified and disclosed.

- Uploading of confidential/manuscript content to AI tools without confirming the tool's terms of service and data-privacy safeguards.

7. Citation, Attribution & Originality

- Authors remain responsible for correctly citing sources, even if an AI tool suggested or summarized them.
- Any substantial text or quoted passages generated by an AI tool should be clearly identified (e.g., via quotation marks) and accompanied by attribution.
- The submission must represent an original contribution that is not previously published and not generated in large part by AI without human oversight.
- The magazine reserves the right to subject submissions to checks for inappropriate AI usage or undeclared AI content.

8. Review and Editorial Use of AI

- The editorial team retains the right to use AI tools (e.g., for language checking, editorial suggestions) provided appropriate human oversight is maintained.
- Reviewers, editors, or staff should **not** upload unpublished manuscripts or confidential author data into third-party generative AI tools absent clear data privacy and confidentiality assurances.
- If editorial use of AI raises confidentiality concerns, authors may request disclosure of such use.

9. Non-compliance

- Failure by authors to disclose required AI use may lead to editorial rejection, a request for revision, or retraction of a published piece.
- Misuse of AI tools (e.g., undisclosed automated writing, fabrication, misattribution) is considered a breach of the magazine's ethical standards.

10. Updates to the Policy

This policy may be reviewed and updated as AI technologies evolve and as publishing best practices develop. Authors are encouraged to check for the latest version each time they submit.