



Tips for new authors

Scope

Thank you for considering the *Australian Journal of Human Rights* (AJHR) for the publication of your manuscript.

As Australia's first peer-reviewed journal devoted exclusively to human rights scholarship, the AJHR aims to raise awareness of human rights issues in Australia, the Asia-Pacific region and globally by providing a forum for interdisciplinary scholarship and discussion.

The AJHR examines the legal, political, philosophical, historical, social, and economic aspects of human rights. We welcome original research articles from all disciplines, reviews of books and films, and shorter less formal Current Perspective pieces such as field notes, discussions of recent developments in policy, practice and case law, creative interventions in human rights, interviews, and reflective pieces on what it means to work in and research human rights.

It is not uncommon for us to reject articles prior to peer review because they do not fit the scope of the journal or our word limits, so we encourage prospective AJHR authors to familiarise themselves with the journal and the various contributions we publish.

Type of contribution	Description	Length *inclusive of tables, references, figure captions, footnotes.	Type of peer review
Articles	Original research ("traditional forms of scholarship")	6000 – 10,000	Double-blind (at least two reviewers)
Commentaries	Less traditional forms of scholarship, such as articles based on the Australian Human Rights Institute's Annual Lecture, and interviews or conversation pieces with prominent human rights actors.	6000 – 8000	Single-blind peer review (two individuals) to contextualize contribution for AJHR

Current Perspectives	Exploration of various aspects of human rights scholarship and practice in a shorter and less formal format than articles (can also be experimental scholarship). Some of the contributions we envisage include (but are not limited to) field notes, discussions of recent developments in policy, practice and case law, creative interventions in human rights, interviews, and reflective pieces on what it means to work in and research human rights.	1500 – 3000	Open peer review by Section Editor and, if required by the Section Editor, single-blind peer review by one other academic from the Journal Board or Institute
Reviews	Shorter pieces of scholarship, engaging with published books, films, or other output of artistic and / or academic significance for the field of human rights. Reviews can include Review Essays, in which several items that would normally be considered for reviews are assembled thematically. Review Essays will be subject to the same review process as a Commentary piece.	1000 - 2000	Open peer review by Section Editor and Single-blind peer review by one other academic from the Board or Institute.

High-quality research

As the leading human rights journal in Australia, we look to publish high-quality research. [AJHR's Peer Review Policy and Practice](#) provides guidance to our reviewers and helps to explain our expectations of submissions.

Reviewers are asked to consider whether a manuscript:

- makes a compelling and novel intervention in terms of the particular discipline or sub-discipline in which it is inscribed.
 - A specialist reviewer will ask: how does this piece resonate with a community of specialist readers? And how does it advance knowledge within this field?
 - A generalist reviewer will ask: why might a non-specialist reader of this piece interested in human rights read this piece? What might they learn from it that would affect their own understanding of human rights?
- situates itself within, and engages sufficiently with, the relevant literature.
- is well structured, setting out the analysis logically.
- develops a coherent argument.
- appropriately acknowledges sources.

On occasion, we receive material that has clearly been prepared for another purpose (eg conference paper or student dissertation). While we welcome all submissions, authors need to ensure their manuscript has been reworked and restructured as an academic article. We encourage new authors to review recent issues of the journal to familiarise themselves with our requirements.

Citations, formatting and length

The AJHR uses [OSCOLA referencing style](#). Authors are responsible to ensure that references are complete and all quotations and citations in their manuscript are accurate.

Authors should also ensure that their manuscript complies with our publisher's formatting template.

Guidance and links can be found on our [Instructions to Authors page](#).

Submission process

All submissions to the AJHR should be submitted via our [submission portal](#). Manuscripts should be submitted in Word, in accordance with Taylor & Francis' formatting template and be anonymous.

1. When a manuscript is first submitted to AJHR, it will first be screened by the AJHR's student interns for compliance with our technical requirements including length and anonymity.
2. Manuscripts are then reviewed in-house by our Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief to determine 'fit' with the journal, and general quality of the manuscript. Papers that do not fit with AJHR's scope, that are significantly over- or under-length, and/or that are deemed not to be of a publishable standard, will be rejected.
3. If a manuscript is screened in following this initial review it will then move to the peer review process for assessment. For original articles, this is a double-blind review process, meaning that the reviewers and author(s) do not know each other's identities.

While the editorial team endeavours to move manuscripts through this process as quickly as possible, we are reliant on the availability and responsiveness of reviewers. The peer review process may be completed in 4-6 weeks, on occasion it can take up to 3 months. Where there are significant delays our Managing Editor will liaise with the author/s.

4. Once two reviews are received, the AJHR's Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief will evaluate the reviewer reports and return them to the author/s with a recommendation: accept without further amendment (very rare), minor or major revisions (most common outcome), revise and resubmit (signalling significant further work required), or reject.
5. If invited to revise the manuscript, author/s will be given a deadline by which revisions are due and instructions for re-submission. Authors should provide a tracked changes version of their revised manuscript and an account of how they have addressed the peer reviewer's feedback.
6. Revised manuscripts will be reviewed by the AJHR's Managing Editor and Editor-in-Chief. It is common to ask the original reviewers to reassess the revised manuscript. On occasion, the manuscript may also be sent to a different reviewer (eg if the original reviewers are unavailable).

There is no guarantee that a revised manuscript will be accepted for publication in the AJHR. Author/s may be asked to make further revisions to their manuscript at this stage; the manuscript may also be rejected following revision/s.

7. Once the editorial team, in consultation with the peer reviewers, determine a manuscript is ready, it will be accepted for publication and move into the production process. During this period, the AJHR's Managing Editor will liaise with the author/s via email about the copyediting process. This may require the author/s to provide additional information, particularly around references.
8. Once a manuscript is sent to production, it usually takes around 2 weeks for initial proofs to be produced. Authors will be asked to review the proofs for publication and address specific questions raised by the typesetters.

At proof stage only typographical errors can be corrected; it is not an opportunity for structural or editorial amendments.

9. On occasion, issues with typesetting will take several weeks to resolve. Once all corrections to the proofs have been taken in, an article will be approved for publication online and appear on the [Latest articles](#) page. AJHR's Managing Editor will advise the author/s of the article's link and which printed issue the article will appear in.
10. Within a few weeks of its publication online, the AJHR will promote articles via Twitter. Authors should advise AJHR's Managing Editor of relevant Twitter handles.

Timeframes

The editorial process may take some time. While our editorial team endeavour to progress manuscripts in a timely fashion, we are dependent on the quality and completeness of the original and revised manuscript, the availability and responsiveness of reviewers, authors' cooperation with timelines and external factors.

At best, an original article may move through our entire process in around 3 months, but various factors can draw this out into considerably longer timeframes. Our Managing Editor liaises with author/s to keep them informed of any delays.

If you have any queries about the journal or the processes outlined above, please contact us at ajhr@unsw.edu.au.

Thank you again for considering the AJHR for your submission.

AJHR Editorial Board

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