

## *I-LanD International Peer-reviewed Journal*

### **Editorial Policy**

The *I-LanD Journal* provides an outlet for publication to international practitioners, with a view to disseminating and enhancing scholarly studies on the relation between language and ethnic/cultural identity, language and sexual identity/gender, as well as on forms of language variation derived from instances of contamination/hybridization of different genres, discursive practices and text types. Scientific quality and scholarly standing are the only criteria applied in the selection of papers for publication.

Through a bi-annual Call for Proposal of Special Issue, the editorial team of the *I-LanD Journal* intends to solicit high-quality proposals that will be evaluated in a competitive procedure by the Chief Editors, with the potential support of the Advisory Board.<sup>1</sup> Prospective Guest Editors (at least two, and from at least two different countries of affiliation to improve the *Journal's* geographical variety and favour internationalization) should send a 500-word rationale clearly explaining the scope and significance of the proposed theme, and the name of 15 prospective reviewers (number to be increased if need be) who are not involved in any way in the preparation of the Special Issue. Proposals for a Special Issue should have a unifying theme and reflect, at an international level, the work in a particular research area in which future investigation may be boosted by the publication of a set of excellent papers.

The selection of the best proposal of Special Issue is the outcome of a collaborative evaluation by all members of the editorial team according to the following criteria:

- suitability of the topic for the *I-LanD Journal*;
- quality of the proposal in terms of originality and contribution to the field;
- theoretical background of the rationale and of individual papers;
- methodological adequacy of individual papers;
- feasibility of the plan for delivery.

All the proposals are examined by the Chief Editors of the *I-LanD Journal*, together with a number of Advisory Board members selected according to their expertise on the proposed topic(s).

Selection of proposals by the Chief Editors results in the appointment of Guest Editors, who can then prepare the call for papers for the special issue. Guest Editors are asked to accept and comply with the time schedule proposed by the Chief Editors. Guest Editors take the initial decision on the acceptance/rejection/revision and resubmission of proposed articles; however, the final decision on all submissions (after the double peer-review process) rests with the Chief Editors of the *Journal*.

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<sup>1</sup> Advisory Board: Giuseppe Balirano – University of Naples L'Orientale (Italy); Marina Bondi – University of Modena and Reggio Emilia (Italy); Delia Chiaro – University of Bologna (Italy); David Katan – University of Salento (Italy); Don Kulick – Uppsala University (Sweden); Tommaso Milani – University of Gothenburg (Sweden); Oriana Palusci – University of Naples L'Orientale (Italy); Alan Scott Partington – University of Bologna (Italy); Paul Sambre – University of Leuven (Belgium); Srikant Sarangi – Aalborg University (Denmark); Christina Schäffner – Professor Emerita at Aston University (UK); Vivien Schmidt – Boston University (USA); Stef Slembrouck – Gent University (Belgium); Marina Terkourafi – Leiden University (The Netherlands); Girolamo Tessuto – University of Campania Luigi Vanvitelli (Italy); Johann Unger – Lancaster University (UK).

Throughout the publication process, Guest Editors are responsible for correspondence with authors, they shall send the papers back to authors for revision and then verify that the two reviewers' suggestions have been closely and thoroughly followed by authors. Guest Editors should also provide a table of contents (detailing the contributions included), write the general introduction to the special issue and ensure that all articles comply with the stylesheet and editorial policy of the *Journal*.

Following the selection of abstracts (between 200 and 250 words each) by Guest Editors, authors are notified of the outcome of the selection process and usually given six months to submit their articles. A first review of all submitted contributions is carried out by the Guest Editors to verify that they are of sufficient quality to be sent out for external review. All articles submitted to the *I-LanD Journal* go through a double, blind peer-review process involving experts in the field, either from the *Journal's* Advisory Board or from a larger list of reviewers. Guest Editors should assign the article to at least two reviewers to make recommendations on the suitability of articles for publication. Following the external review, the authors are sent copies of the reviewers' comments (in a review form) and are notified as to their suggestion ("accept as is"; "accept with minor changes"; "accept with major changes", "reject").

Full-length articles should be about 7,000-8,000 words, excluding references (longer articles can be accepted, if justified). Submitted articles should report on original research or present original content. Submission of an article implies that the work has not been published previously, that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, and that it will not be published in the same form without the written consent of *I-LanD Journal* and its publisher. Accordingly, authors must sign the copyright agreement and transfer copyright to the publisher.

## Ethical Statement

In order to submit a contribution for publication in our peer-reviewed journal, all the parties involved in the act of publishing (prospective authors, Chief Editors, Guest Editors, peer reviewers and the publisher) need to agree on a series of standards of expected ethical behaviour, as further specified. Our ethical statements are based on the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE)'s Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors.<sup>2</sup>

Authors are expected to consider the following ethical issues:

- Authorship of the paper: Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, execution, interpretation and writing of the reported study, and they should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no inappropriate co-authors are included on the paper, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.
- Originality and plagiarism: Authors should ensure that they have written entirely original works and, if they have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately quoted and all sources properly acknowledged. Authors should also ensure that the material submitted for publication has not been published in whole or in part elsewhere, and it is not currently being considered for publication in another journal.
- Data access and retention: Authors may be asked to provide the raw data related to a paper for editorial review, and should be prepared to provide access to such data.
- Multiple, redundant or concurrent publication: Authors should not publish contributions describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication.

### The double peer-review process

The *Journal* relies on the peer-review process to uphold the quality and validity of papers, therefore peer review plays an important role in ensuring the integrity of the scholarly research publication. The process depends, to a large extent, on trust, and requires that everyone involved behaves responsibly and ethically.

In order to assign appropriate reviewers, Guest Editors must match the reviewers' expertise with the content of the article to get the best reviews possible. Guest Editors should provide the *Journal* with potential reviewers' academic information (e-mail address) and affiliation. However, the identities of both reviewers and authors are concealed from each other.

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<sup>2</sup> See [http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/Best\\_Practice.pdf](http://publicationethics.org/files/u2/Best_Practice.pdf) (last accessed May 2019).

Reviewers determine the validity, significance and originality of the contribution. On their recommendation, Guest Editors will accept, accept with (major/minor) revisions, or reject a contribution. They are encouraged to be objective and constructive in their review, providing feedback that will help authors to improve their contribution. They should be specific in their critique, providing supporting evidence to substantiate their statements, thus helping the Guest Editors in their evaluation. It is, therefore, important for them to remain unbiased in relation to nationality, religious or political beliefs, gender. Reviewers make decisions and evaluate articles on the basis of a set of parameters:

- the article is based on rigorous academic standards, it makes a significant contribution to its field of study, it has clarity of presentation, it is well organised and clearly written;
- the topic is relevant, timely, and of interest to a wide academic audience;
- the rationale of the paper is well-grounded and the material is accurate and sound;
- the research methodology is appropriate and applied properly;
- the paper provides strong evidence of reliability and validity, basing discussion of the results on analysis of data.

### **Publication decisions**

The Guest Editors are responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the *Journal* should be published. The Chief Editors are responsible for approving the Guest Editors' decisions and may confer with the *Journal's* Advisory Board for further advice.

### **Confidentiality**

Editors and any editorial staff must not disclose any information about submitted contributions to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, other editorial advisers and the publisher, as appropriate. Editors and reviewers must respect the confidentiality of the peer-review process and refrain from using information obtained during the peer-review process for their own advantage.

### **Disclosure and conflicts of interest**

Unpublished materials disclosed in submitted contributions must not be used in an editor's own research without the agreement and express written consent of the author.

### **Disclaimer**

Articles published in the *I-LanD Journal* do not represent the views held by the Chief Editors and members of the Advisory Board. Authors are responsible for all aspects of their articles.