

Professional Ethics Involved in Peer-Reviewing Engineering and Other Papers

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The professional ethics involved in peer-reviewing engineering and other papers are given below.

Peer-reviewers should:

1. only agree to review manuscripts for which they have the subject expertise required to carry out a proper assessment and which they can assess in a timely manner;
2. respect the confidentiality of peer-review and not reveal any details of a manuscript or its review, during or after the peer-review process, beyond those that are released by the journal;
3. not use information obtained during the peer-review process for their own or any other person's or organisation's advantage, or to disadvantage or discredit others;
4. declare all potential conflicts of interests, seeking advice from the journal if they are unsure whether something constitutes a relevant interest;
5. not allow their reviews to be influenced by the origins of a manuscript, by the nationality, religious or political beliefs, gender or other characteristics of the authors or by commercial considerations;
6. be objective and constructive in their reviews;
7. acknowledge that peer-review is largely a reciprocal endeavour and undertake to carry out their fair share of reviewing in a timely manner;
8. provide journals with personal and professional information that is accurate and a true representation of their expertise;
9. recognise that impersonation of another individual during the review process is considered to be very serious misconduct.

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