

---

# costituzionalismo britannico e irlandese

## Code of Ethics

### Art. 1 – General Principles

1. Costituzionalismo britannico e irlandese (British and Irish Constitutionalism) is an open-access online journal published biannually that receives papers related to constitutional law of the United Kingdom and Ireland. Rooted in the scientific expertise of the Devolution Club, the cultural endeavor underlying the journal aims to fill a new space not occupied by other Italian editorial proposals within the constitutional and comparative studies landscape. The objective is to establish a platform for the development of ideas, interpretations of events, analytical frameworks, centered around a broad yet defined subject: the British Constitution and all its historical and cultural derivatives from a comparative, synchronic, and diachronic perspective, combining rigorous methodology and accurate analysis to offer broad, deep, articulate, and diverse reflections to all potential readers (scholars, students, intellectuals, and the curious).
2. The Journal's activities, in all its areas, adhere to the guidelines set forth by the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) regarding the publication of scientific works. These guidelines are referenced and detailed in this Code of Ethics, publicly accessible on the Journal's website. Authors, editors, and reviewers are mandated to be familiar with and to uphold these principles.
3. The Journal's bodies follow meticulously the COPE best practices in the oversight and rectification of irregular conduct, transparency towards authors and the public, handling reports, managing conflicts of interest, intellectual property, and data ownership.

### Art. 2 – Bodies, Procedures and Rules of Conduct

1. The bodies of the Journal are:

- a) The Board
- b) The Scientific and Reviewers Committee

The Board is supported by an Editorial Committee, entrusted with organizational and coordination tasks.

The names of the members of these bodies are made public through the Journal's website.

**2.** The Board, which is responsible for the editorial line of the Journal, shall always make a preliminary assessment of the papers received, with the aim of checking their adherence to the aims and objectives of the Journal, and the existence of the minimum requirements for publication.

Preliminary evaluation is aimed solely at screening the conformity of papers to the Journal's themes and the presence of the minimum scientific standards and the requisites for authors, and ensures the greatest pluralism of opinions.

**3.** In the case of successful preliminary evaluation, the Board shall assign the paper to a reviewer, according to the single blind peer review method.

The Board shall ensure that the entire evaluation process, from the stage of selection of the reviewer, takes place in absolute confidentiality.

To this end, the journal is equipped with electronic systems with access limited to the Board. Similarly, the Journal, together with the reviewers and the Board, undertakes not to use for its own research the contents of articles not yet published, and guarantees confidentiality of data and information in the submitted papers.

It is the responsibility of the Board, once the reviews are received, to transmit the outcome of the evaluations to the authors, oversee any requests for corrections and additions suggested by the reviewer, as well as to archive, for at least three years, the evaluation forms, divided for each article, on a dedicated platform with access restricted to the Board.

**4.** The Board shall arrange the publication on the Journal's website, at least annually, of aggregate data concerning the volume of papers submitted to the Journal, the proportion of those submitted for evaluation, those approved, and those not approved by the reviewers.

**5.** In the event that papers are submitted to the Journal that are considered to be of particular value because of their originality and relevance or because of the stature of the author, the Board may decide to proceed with the publication without prior evaluation. This decision shall be mentioned in the foot of the paper.

**6.** The Board shall supervise the authors' and reviewers' compliance with the principles set forth in this Code of Ethics, and shall intervene promptly to settle disputes that may arise in the pre-publication or post-publication stages, and shall ensure anonymity for any report of irregularity or misconduct by any person involved in the publication.

To this end, the Board designates between its members, a three-member ethics committee, to whose e-mail address – duly published on the Journal's website – anyone can turn to report irregularities ascribed to the conduct of authors, reviewers or any other person at any stage of the review and publication process, including plagiarism, undisclosed conflicts of interest, illegitimate use of data, and any hypothesis of scientific misconduct provided for in the COPE guidelines.

In cases where information comes to the ethics committee that makes it necessary to correct, rebut, withdraw, or publish expressions of concern about a paper published in the Journal, the Committee, once it has consulted with the author and others involved and ascertained the facts, shall order the publication of a notice on the Journal's website and in the next issue, giving an explanation of the events and of any action taken.

In any proceeding in which it is called upon to ascertain the violation of the ethical principles of the Journal, the Committee shall ensure confrontation and publicity of opinions.

### **Art. 3 – Conduct of the Authors**

1. The Journal, sharing the principles of open access to science, accepts papers without any fee for publication.

2. Authors wishing to submit papers to the Journal should send them to the e-mail address of the Editorial Committee, duly indicated on the website, making a declaration that they have produced an unpublished and original work in its entirety, and that they have cited the materials used.

They must indicate, in accordance with editorial criteria and editorial standards, the sources and contributions mentioned in the paper.

3. The Journal's Board may arrange for the publication of papers edited, or intended for print editions, or published in journals or other foreign publishing products not freely accessible in Italy, including translations, as long as in agreement with the relevant authors and editors, and giving specific mention at the foot of the article.

4. The authorship of every paper must be correctly attributed, indicating as co-authors those who have significantly contributed to the conception and realization of the research.

5. Authors must explicitly declare that there are no conflicts of interest that might have affected the results achieved and the interpretations proposed in the paper, and must indicate the funding bodies or projects, if any, of the research from which the paper derives.

6. The author, who must be handed over the anonymous review, is required to follow the directions in the review form, actively cooperating with the editorial bodies of the Journal.

7. If the author detects errors or inaccuracies, he/she shall inform the journal in a prompt manner and provide all necessary indications to point out at the foot of the article the necessary changes.

8. Submission of the article by the authors entails granting permission for the use of the work to the journal under Creative Commons BY-NC-ND license, which allows free distribution of the work for non-commercial purposes only, provided that the author's citation is maintained, and prohibits any addendum and modification of the work without the author's permission.

#### **Art. 4 – Conduct of the Reviewers**

**1.** The reviewer is required to comply with the request for evaluation coming from the Board within the deadline indicated and in accordance with the appropriate form, unless he/she considers that he/she is not competent on the subject of the paper. In that case, it shall notify the Board, which shall reassign the review. In the case of late or failure to deliver the review, the evaluation shall be reassigned.

**2.** The reviewer is required to carry out the evaluation with fairness and objectivity, giving reasons for his evaluations in a clear and documented manner, refraining from any form of personal judgment inspired by critiques of ideological nature or dictated by scientific-cultural assumptions of personal nature.

He/she is also required to observe the utmost confidentiality, and not to accept the review of articles from which a conflict of interest emerges due to specific relationships, previous collaboration or competition with the Author.