

STATEMENT ON THE USE OF GENERATIVE ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE IN SUBMISSIONS TO SOTER

SOTER recognizes the evolving role of generative artificial intelligence (AI) technologies in academic research and writing. We acknowledge that these tools can support scholars in the field of Religious Studies by assisting with tasks such as data processing, language translation, and preliminary drafting.

However, to uphold the highest standards of academic integrity and scholarly rigor, authors submitting manuscripts to [Journal Name] must adhere to the following guidelines regarding the use of generative AI:

- 1. Transparency.** Authors must disclose any use of generative AI tools in the research, writing, or editing process within the manuscript, preferably in the methodology section or an acknowledgments statement.
- 2. Authorship Responsibility.** The intellectual content and interpretive insights of the manuscript must be the original work of the authors. Generative AI cannot be credited as a co-author, as it does not meet authorship criteria.
- 3. Verification and Accuracy.** Authors are responsible for carefully reviewing and verifying all AI-generated content to ensure accuracy, appropriateness, and respect for religious texts and traditions.
- 4. Ethical Use.** The use of AI tools should comply with ethical standards, including the avoidance of bias and the respectful representation of religious beliefs and practices.

Researchers must disclose the use of generative AI in their methodology or writing process, ensuring transparency and accountability.

AI outputs should be carefully evaluated for accuracy, bias, and contextual relevance, especially given the sensitive nature of religious topics and the potential for misinterpretation.

All AI-assisted content must be appropriately cited or acknowledged, following the ethical standards of academic integrity.

5. Limitations and Responsibilities.

Generative AI tools are not infallible and may reflect cultural biases, inaccuracies, or incomplete understandings of religious traditions.

Scholars bear full responsibility for the final content of their work, including verifying facts, interpreting data, and contextualizing insights within established academic frameworks.

The use of AI must not undermine the respect and sensitivity owed to religious beliefs, practices, and communities studied.

6. Plagiarism and Originality.

Authors must ensure that AI-generated text does not constitute plagiarism. The use of generative AI does not absolve authors from the responsibility to produce original work and properly attribute all sources.

AI-generated content that reproduces existing texts without proper citation is unacceptable. Authors are expected to use AI tools as aids, not as sources of unoriginal or unacknowledged content.

Manuscripts will be subject to plagiarism detection tools, and any breach of originality standards, including those related to AI-generated content, will be treated seriously according to SOTER's ethical policies.

When used responsibly, generative AI can be a valuable aid in advancing research in Religious Studies. However, it is crucial that academic authors maintain a critical stance and uphold the highest standards of scholarship to ensure the integrity and respectfulness of their work.

SOTER reserves the right to request additional information regarding the use of AI in submitted manuscripts and to take appropriate action in cases where AI use undermines the integrity or quality of the work.

By adhering to these principles, authors contribute to responsible scholarship that balances technological innovation with the critical and ethical demands of Religious Studies.

Author Checklist for Use of Generative AI in Manuscripts

Before submitting your manuscript to SOTER, please confirm the following regarding your use of generative AI tools:

1. **Disclosure.** Have you clearly disclosed any use of generative AI tools in your research, writing, or editing process within the manuscript (e.g., in the methodology or acknowledgments section)?
2. **Originality.** Have you ensured that the intellectual content and interpretive insights are your original work, not generated or authored by AI?
3. **Verification.** Have you thoroughly reviewed and verified the accuracy and appropriateness of all AI-generated content, ensuring respect for religious texts and traditions?
4. **Ethical Use.** Have you ensured that the use of AI tools complies with ethical standards, avoiding bias and maintaining respectful representation of religious beliefs and practices?
5. **Plagiarism.** Have you confirmed that no AI-generated text constitutes plagiarism or unacknowledged reproduction of existing sources? All sources are properly cited.
6. **Authorship:** Do you acknowledge that AI tools cannot be listed as authors, and that responsibility for the manuscript's content rests solely with human authors?

By submitting, you affirm that you have addressed these points in accordance with SOTER's policies on generative AI use.