

PROMETHEUS

Guidelines for Contributors

Since its launch in 1983, *Prometheus* has pushed against the boundaries surrounding the understanding of innovation, in its broadest sense. The journal publishes critical papers, those that express – and justify – opinions on innovation issues. *Prometheus* is particularly attracted to papers that challenge prevailing views, and it encourages debate.

Aims and scope

Prometheus is an international, multidisciplinary journal publishing papers on innovation, by which is meant the production, introduction and diffusion of change. From a core interest in technological change and the information required to bring it about, the journal's scope has expanded to cover:

- the history of innovation
- information for innovation
- invention and creativity
- research and development
- diffusion of innovation
- science and technology policy
- organisational strategy for innovation
- intellectual property rights
- communication and information technology
- networks and spatial dimensions of innovation
- open innovation
- the social, economic and political environment of innovation
- the management of innovation
- the evaluation of innovation

Types of submission

Papers submitted to *Prometheus* should not be so technical or specialised that they cannot be appreciated by a readership that includes academics, practitioners and policy makers and excludes no one. All submissions to *Prometheus* should be addressed to Stuart Macdonald, the general editor, at s.macdonald@sheffield.ac.uk. Authors considering submitting to *Prometheus* are very welcome to consult Stuart Macdonald informally before submission.

Research papers

Research papers are the staple fare of *Prometheus*. There is NO compulsory format. Papers published recently in *Prometheus*:

- [‘Research and data-sharing policy in Sweden – neoliberal courses, forces and discourses’](#)

- [‘Innovation paradoxes: a review and typology of explanations’](#)
- [‘How to make an artificial satellite out of a nuclear reactor’](#)
- [‘Why invisible boundaries matter: imagined institutions and power’](#)
- [‘Marginalising homœopathy: an Australian case study’](#)
- [‘Sinking deltas: trapped in a dual lock-in of technology and institutions’](#)
- [‘Achieving impact: impact evaluations and narrative simplification’](#)

Book reviews and review essays

Prometheus is proud of its tradition of reviewing the literature in the fields it covers. A book review essay is longer and more expansive than a conventional book review, allowing the reviewer to set a book in wide context. The value of the book review and the book review essay lies largely in the opinion expressed and peer review is not appropriate for either.

Suggestions for books to review in *Prometheus*, and offers to review books, should be sent to Steven Umbrello, the *Prometheus* book review editor, at stevenumbrello@yahoo.com.

Debates

From time to time, *Prometheus* organises debates on contentious issues within its fields of interest. As a critical journal, *Prometheus* takes seriously its responsibility to encourage critical thought and writing. Its debates allow academics a degree of latitude in the expression of their opinions without the constraints of traditional academic format.

Prometheus debates focus on a proposition paper, the topic and author of which are selected by an editor. The editor then invites informed individuals to respond to the proposition paper. A balanced range of views is sought. The identity of the respondents is known only to the editor during the peer review process. Peer review of the proposition paper and the responses is by *Prometheus* editors. The whole debate – proposition paper and responses – is published in the same issue. Only then do authors of the proposition paper and the debate papers discover what the other authors have written. The author of the proposition paper has a right of reply. Recent debate topics include:

- *The Shaken Baby Syndrome*, a *Prometheus* debate published by Researchers.One and available at <https://www.researchers.one/article/2019-03-3>
- *The Academic Publishing Industry*
- *Whatever Happened to the University?*
- *The Rhetoric and Reality of Drugs Policy*
- *Libel Laws and Academic Debate*

Special Issues

Prometheus occasionally devotes a whole issue to a single theme (papers from a conference, for instance) and also invites proposals for thematic issues on specific topics. In such cases, an organiser familiar with the papers and their authors works as guest editor in close collaboration with a *Prometheus* editor. This helps ensure a balance between coverage of the theme and peer review of individual papers. Peer review of special issue papers follows the same procedure as peer review of research papers and is just as rigorous. Special issue topics have included:

- innovation in China
- traditional knowledge, innovation and intellectual property rights
- innovation and the futility of patent policy
- examining the Triple Helix
- revisiting Mode 2 learning
- innovation in the world's wine industry

Instructions for authors

Prometheus considers all submitted papers on the strict condition that they have been submitted only to *Prometheus*, that they have not been published already, and that they are not under consideration for publication or in press elsewhere.

Page charges

There are NO submission or publication charges for authors publishing in *Prometheus*.

Open access

Prometheus is a hybrid journal publishing both papers that are freely available to subscribers, and also open access papers, freely available to everyone. Authors who wish to take the open access route should consult the editors about the cost.

Impact factor

Prometheus has never had an impact factor and does not want one. The journal will have nothing to do with the ranking and gamesmanship that have done so much to damage academic publishing.

General guidelines

- Papers are accepted only in English. Either British or American spelling is acceptable, but consistency is essential.
- Abstracts of about 250 words should accompany all papers submitted.
- There is NO prescribed length of paper.
- Submitted papers need NOT be in *Prometheus* house style, though authors will be required to put accepted papers into the journal's style.
- Full names of all authors, their affiliations and email addresses should appear on the cover page of the submitted paper. One author should be identified as the corresponding author.
- Biographical notes on contributors are NOT required.
- Keywords are NOT required.
- A cover letter is NOT necessary, though authors are welcome to explain anything they think needs explaining.

Figures and tables

It is in the author's interest to provide the highest quality figures and tables. Both should be saved separately from the text and in an editable format, such as Word. Please do not embed figures and tables in the paper's file. All figures and tables should be numbered in the order in which they appear in the paper (e.g., Figure 1, Figure 2).

Reproduction of copyright material

Authors of academic papers may make very limited use, with attribution, of small passages, such as short quotations, from the papers of others. Beyond this fair use, contributors are required to secure permission for the reproduction of any figure or extensive extract from the text of a source that is copyrighted or owned by another party. This applies to direct reproduction as well as derivative reproduction, where the contributor has created a new figure or table that derives substantially from a copyrighted source. Authors are themselves responsible for the payment of any permission fees required by the copyright owner. Copies of permission letters should be sent with the submission to the general editor.

Supplementary online material

Authors are welcome to submit animations, movie files, sound files or any additional information for online publication.

Submission procedure

Papers should be submitted as email attachments to the general editor at s.macdonald@sheffield.ac.uk. All submissions will be acknowledged, and every effort will be made to ensure rapid processing. *Prometheus* does not use an automated manuscript submission system and authors should feel free to contact editors at any time. Desk review will determine whether the paper is suited to the journal and ready for peer review.

Peer review

A paper that passes desk review will be allocated to an appropriate editor, who will take charge of its peer review and will ultimately decide whether it should be published in *Prometheus*. If they like, authors may suggest an editor for their paper from the list of editors and their academic interests on the *Prometheus* website (www.prometheusjournal.co.uk), though there can be no guarantee that their choice will be available.

Because expert referees are likely to know who is writing in their area, *Prometheus* adopts a single blind review system: referees are anonymous, but not authors. Always the aim is that authors should find refereeing rigorous and helpful. *Prometheus* selects referees who are experts in each paper's subject, but referees provide only advice to the editor and do not determine a paper's fate. That lies in the hands of the editor in charge of each paper, who may (or may not) consult the general editor.

Revisions

It is extremely likely that the editor, guided by the referees, will require revisions to a paper. This is an iterative process that requires prompt attention from authors at every stage. Only exceptionally are revised papers returned to referees.

Proofs

Once a paper has been accepted and edited, it will be despatched for copyediting. Authors will each receive copyedited proofs to check typesetting, editing, completeness and accuracy,

and to answer questions that have arisen. Major change at this stage is not possible. It is absolutely essential that authors return corrected proofs within the time set.

Copyright

Prometheus is published online and in print. Authors will be asked to affirm in writing that their submission is original, has not previously been published, and does not plagiarise or otherwise copy someone else's work without attribution. They will then be asked to license rights to the publisher, who then re-licenses the author with non-commercial rights to copy the paper, and to use it in other publications, in teaching and oral presentations.

Publishing ethics

Prometheus adheres to the ethical standards endorsed by the Committee on Publication Ethics (<https://publicationethics.org/>). Be clear that the editors of *Prometheus* take infringement of these guidelines seriously. Where authors' explanation for their behaviour is unsatisfactory, our practice is to:

- reject the authors' submission
- inform interested authors and publishers of the circumstances
- inform organisations to which authors claim affiliation of our findings.