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Editorial Note: Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia's Responds to Political Challenges in Scientific Publication

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Editorial Note: Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia's Responds to Political Challenges in Scientific Publication

Catatan Editorial: Jawaban Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia terhadap Tantangan Politik dalam Publikasi Ilmiah

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Editorial Note

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Three challenges of political nature were identified in 2022: increasing number of institutions in many countries in Asia to require journal article publication for graduation of an academic degree, changes in Journal Citation Index (JCITM) policy, and a retraction case in Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology. As a response to these challenges, Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia made several changes. First, we now publish incrementally to accommodate the requirement to publish in time. In Indonesia, as well as in many parts of Asia, publications in journals are increasingly used to satisfy administrative requirements. We have received requests for faster publication due to graduation requirements from authors from Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan. The importance of journal publication is increasing in the region. Second, the everchanging scientific landscape triggers a response from Clarivate Analytics that decided to include Journal Impact Factor (JIFTM) in the subsequent publication of the Journal Citation Reports (JCRTM) in 2023.

Currently Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia has a Journal Citation Indicator (JCITM) of 0.34 in 2021 and 0.40 in 2020. Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia is placed in the Social Sciences, Interdisciplinary category ranking 148 out of 263 journals in 2021. In total the journal has accumulated 514 citations in Web of ScienceTM of which only 12 are self-citations. Furthermore, data from Scopus shows an increasing number of citations. In 2021 we have received 62 citations, the highest ever received by the journal in a single year. We do hope that 2022 will be even better, and we look forward to receiving a Journal Impact Factor (JIFTM) next year.

On top of the increasing quantity in items being published in the journal and the number of citations received by the journal. We as the editor would like to remind our readers and authors that our journal remains loyal to the scientific principle, ethical statement from the Committee on Publication Ethics, and the Declaration of Helsinki. We are concerned by a recent retraction in the Journal of Cross-Cultural Psychology (JCCP). The article "Beyond Autonomy? Moral Socialization Goals of German and Indonesian Preschool Teachers" by Melanie Schwarz, Sri Indah Pujiastuti, and Manfred Holodyski were retracted because of a letter from a local government official from the Special Region of

Yogyakarta (DIY, Daerah Istimewa Yogyakarta) in Indonesia stating that participants and local government officials need to approve the final manuscript before publication (RETRACTION NOTICE, 2022). One reason for retraction is the concern that participants may experience a loss of income and career advancement due to the publication.

Here we would like to remind our reader the importance of gathering informed consent, ethical approval, and local institution approval prior of collecting data. In the informed consent sheet and local institution approval sheet it is possible to write the expected results of the study and perhaps, the possible consequences that the participants and the local institution may receive. Furthermore, there is a difference between obtaining consent and obtaining effective consent. A consent can be considered not effective if the participants were not informed in whole regarding the study, even including due to negligence (e.g., did not read the sheet carefully). One way to make sure that the consent we obtained from participants is effective is to test the comprehension of the participants regarding the consequences of the study or read the important points from the consent form once more to ensure comprehension.

However, this retraction reminds us of the role of journals in exercising academic freedom. Currently on the Committee of Publication Ethics (COPE) website there is a similar ethical issue that is ongoing. In case number 22-04 the publication of a manuscript may result in dismissal of an author's employment status (Academic Freedom, 2022). One of the advice was to publish the manuscript anonymously. Another advice was to remove the author with a neutral editorial note to protect the safety of the author (Authorship and Politics, 2017). COPE recommends to safeguard the safety and wellbeing of humans above other ethics.

As a response to possible future challenges in academic freedom that have been recognized by COPE to be increasingly under pressure, the journal is publishing a new item called correspondence letter. A correspondence is a significant critic or re-analysis of a previously published article in *Makara Human Behavior Studies in Asia*. The aim of the journal publishing correspondence is to (1) uphold academic freedom; and (2) encourage academic discussion. Correspondence letters are not peer-reviewed, but we may invite replies from the authors of the original publication by passing the letter to the author. The letter must reach us within three weeks of publication of the original item, no longer than 300 words, and submitted in the manuscript submission system. The letter should contain a maximum of one table or figure, no more than ten references, and five authors. The correspondence letters are copyedited, and proofs will be sent to authors before publication.

Thus, we would like to recommend authors several steps if there is ever concern regarding safety of the authors or the participants. First, we have the option to publish

manuscript anonymously, and the name of the authors would then be added later on once the political climate has cooled down, which is one of the advices from COPE (Authorship and Politics, 2017). Second, we have the option of publishing non-peer-reviewed correspondence letter for any party that disagrees with or aggrieved by the content of one of our published articles. By writing a correspondence letter, the aggrieved party may make transparent their position regarding the published item and thus freedom of speech is upheld without aggrieving any party. Third, we do retraction as a last resort.

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