Philosophical Practice: Journal of the APPA — Policy on the Use of Generative Artificial Intelligence

Philosophical Practice publishes original philosophical work. In philosophy, the formulation of an argument and the prose that articulates it are the substance of a contribution, not merely its vehicle. This policy sets out how generative AI tools (such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, and similar systems) may and may not be used in work submitted to the journal, and in its review.

1. Authorship

AI tools cannot be listed as authors or co-authors. Authorship entails intellectual responsibility for a work's ideas and arguments, which only persons can bear. Authors are accountable for the entire content of their submissions.

2. Permitted uses

Authors may use AI tools for language editing of text they have written themselves: grammar, spelling, style, clarity, and readability, as well as translation of the author's own draft into English. Routine spelling and grammar correction need not be disclosed. Substantial language editing or translation should be disclosed.

3. Uses permitted with disclosure

The following uses are acceptable if disclosed:

- Literature searching and source discovery, provided the author reads and verifies every source cited.
- Brainstorming or soliciting critical feedback on the author's own ideas or draft, provided the resulting argument and text remain the author's own work.

4. Uses not permitted

Submissions may not rely on AI tools to:

- generate the paper's thesis, central argument, or conceptual structure;
- generate substantive draft prose, including prose subsequently revised or edited by the author;
- generate citations, quotations, or characterizations of sources that the author has not personally verified against the original.

5. Disclosure statement

Any use beyond routine spelling and grammar correction must be described in a section titled "Use of Generative AI," placed before the references. The statement should name the tool(s) used, identify the specific tasks performed and the parts of the manuscript affected, and describe the author's own contribution. General statements of responsibility do not substitute for this description.

6. Verification of sources

Authors are responsible for the accuracy of every reference and quotation. Fabricated or misattributed references are grounds for rejection, or for correction or retraction after publication.

7. Editorial discretion

The editors may ask authors to clarify how a submission was composed, and may request notes, outlines, or earlier drafts. Submissions that do not meet this policy may be declined at any stage. AI-detection software will not be used as the sole basis for any editorial decision.

8. Use of AI by editors and referees

Submitted manuscripts are confidential. Editors and referees may use generative AI tools to assist with editorial and review work only under the following conditions:

- The tool's terms or settings must not permit submitted material to be used for model training.
- Permitted editorial uses include checking revisions against referee reports, copyediting, verifying references and quotations, and organizing or drafting reports and correspondence.
- Referee and editorial reports must reflect the reviewer's or editor's own reading and evaluation of the work. AI may assist in drafting or organizing a report, but its substantive judgments must be the reviewer's own.
- Decisions on submissions are made by the editors and are not delegated to AI tools.

Referees who are uncertain whether a tool meets these conditions should not use it and may consult the Managing Editor.

9. Composition of review

Referees are not identified to authors, in order to preserve candor and collegial relations within the discipline. Submissions are ordinarily reviewed by at least one external referee; a referee may be a member of the journal's editorial team.

10. Scholarship on AI

The journal welcomes work that takes AI as its subject, including its role in philosophical practice. Where AI-generated text is itself an object of analysis (for example, transcripts of AI-mediated counseling exchanges), it must be clearly marked and attributed as quoted material. Such use is not a violation of this policy.