

# Norland Educare Research Journal

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# About the Journal

The Norland Educare Research Journal is an international double-blind peer-reviewed journal published annually and online only. It is a genuine academic ground-roots initiative intended to give voice to researchers of high calibre whose work is under-represented in the field of home-based educare and provide a home to experienced and new researchers. It is a fully open access journal, offering free of charge publication to researchers and authors and free access to papers for readers, reflecting Norland's commitment to democratise knowledge dissemination.

The Norland Educare Research Journal is a genuine academic ground-roots initiative intended to bring together existing research on home-based educare and, at the same time, to encourage further knowledge production in the field. It provides a medium for disseminating research that reflects international and global perspectives on professional practices and policies concerning home-based educare. It is unique among the existing publications in the field of early childhood, as it focuses on research aimed at advancing and enhancing the knowledge base for professional practices and policies, beyond institutional/centre-based childcare.

Funded by Norland Foundation, the journal is a tribute to the legacy of the educational pioneer Emily Ward, the founder of Norland, who recognised the significance of educare. Emily Ward viewed education and care as indistinguishable ingredients of childcare, arguing that young children should be cared for by trained tutors and that their care should be more structured, centred around the child and offered in a loving and nurturing environment. After founding Norland in 1892, Emily Ward regularly published the Norland Quarterly. The *Norland Educare Research Journal*, is an extension of Emily Ward's original visionary publication, addressing home-based childcare which remains a relatively under-research area in comparison to centre-based childcare.

# Scope and aim

The scope of the *Norland Educare Research Journal* is to deepen iterations of established early childhood discourses, practices and policies, and to construct situated knowledge on home-based educare of local significance and global relevance. The journal is intended to provide multiple perspectives and alternative views, broadening the knowledge space on home-based professional practices, policies, and workforce training.

The journal welcomes papers exploring contemporary issues pertaining to the childcare of young children, but it aims to publish papers that offer different, alternative, and unique perspectives to the established discourse and convey thought leadership substantiated by rigorous and credible research, and argumentation. It allows both experienced and new researchers to disseminate their research through a journal which has a distinct thematic focus on the interplay of care and education.

#### Values and commitment

The journal adheres to the principles of respect, dignity, autonomy, and privacy of individuals; research integrity; and researcher responsibility for societal advancement and benefit. It is committed to:

- high-quality, credible and trustworthy research
- evidence-based and research-informed professional practice and policy



• democratising knowledge generation and dissemination to serve best the most precious and important members of our society – the children.

With the launch of the journal, the editors of the journal wish to be aspirational, creative, and innovative, whilst maintaining the rigor required in published research. The editors are particularly interested in disseminating learning stories co-constructed by practitioners, policy makers, researchers, and caregivers.

# Thematic focus of the journal

The journal accepts papers that consider the interplay of care and education from discipline-specific or interdisciplinary perspectives such as child psychology, sociology, philosophy, economy, policy, health, education, caring professions, neuroscience and neurobiology. Submitted papers may address topics such as:

- characteristics and quality of home-based educare; parents'/guardians' motivations for home-based educare; policy and regulation of home-based educare
- training, qualifications and continuing professional development of home-based educarers
- breastfeeding, weaning and child nutrition; child health and vaccination; sleeping and sleep problems; routines and self-regulation; wellbeing, mental health and behaviour; early stimulation and brain development; emotionality, rationality and relationality
- family, and intergenerational educare practices; deprivation; postnatal depression; toxic stress; disability, special educational needs and inclusion; culture, language and family literacy; immigration/forced migration; trauma and resilience
- research with children and parents and guardians; professional and research ethics
- new and innovative research methodologies, involving children and families
- advances in disciplines such as neuroscience and neurobiology and their implications for young children's educare
- contemporary global and local challenges (e.g., climate change and natural disasters, epidemics and pandemics, local conflicts and global warfare) and their impact on young children's development and wellbeing, and on provision of educare.

This is not an exhaustive list and papers concerning relevant topics are welcome.

# Type of papers

The journal accepts empirical research papers, conceptual papers and methodological papers, systematic literature reviews and scoping studies, critical reviews and commentaries, and research digests, as briefly outlined below.

#### **Empirical research papers**

Empirical research papers should be highly scientific and of qualitative, quantitative, or mixed methods, or any other methodology appropriate to the field and/or topic of study. Discipline-specific and interdisciplinary papers that address and integrate theory, practice and policy in innovative and original ways are particularly welcome. Research papers should present an accurate account of the research, provide references and attribution to other studies in the field, present findings, and discuss their significance.



### **Conceptual papers**

Conceptual papers, including philosophical and position papers, should provide reasoned arguments of a particular stance the author(s) take on a specific issue, theory or theories, debate, or controversy. Papers should have an original, innovative, or even provocative take on the issue discussed and argued.

#### **Methodological** papers

Methodological papers should introduce new, innovative, and creative methodologies and methods of collecting data. Papers which explore, validate, and ascertain the ontological and epistemic assumptions of such methodologies are particularly welcomed.

#### Systematic literature reviews and scoping studies

Papers based on systematic literature reviews and scoping studies should clearly define the specific topic or issue that is explored, provide methodological details of how the review/scoping study was conducted, summarise key evidence or critical points of current knowledge about the topic or issue, and conclude with recommendations for professional practice or further research. The journal seeks submissions of systematic literature reviews focusing on professional practice issues which might have been extensively researched but for which evidence is largely inconsistent and/or the issues remain debatable or contested.

#### **Critical reviews and commentaries**

Critical reviews and commentaries should provide a close reading and analysis of a passage of text to pose a question and provide an explanation of the kind of effects that the text's argument may have on professional practice or policy implementation.

#### **Research Digests**

Research Digests are reserved for empirical and conceptual papers, and systematic literature reviews and scoping studies conducted within the broadly defined context of centre-based educare, with its findings explored and discussed for their relevance to home-based educare. Papers must be explicit in their exploration of the relevance of findings to home-based educare practices and/or invite a dialogue among researchers, academics and practitioners working along the spectrum of early childhood provision.

The inclusion of research digests is aimed at opening the dialogue between researchers, academics and professionals working within the wider spectrum of early childhood provision to:

- Strengthen professional collaboration and enable cross-fertilisation of ideas and practices centred around the child.
- Recognize the wider remit of the work of educarers as knowledge brokers and bridgers within children's wider (micro and macro) social and spatial habitus, beyond education and care offered in a particular type of provision.

All papers should follow the academic conventions concerning their structure and organisation, though alternative, innovative and creative presentations which provide coherent and well-substantiated arguments are welcomed.



# **Guidance for authors**

### Abstract submission

For papers to be considered for publication in the *Norland Educare Research Journal*, authors are invited to submit an extended abstract of 500 words, including any references. Submitted abstracts should:

- Indicate clearly that the paper/research falls within the aim, purpose, and remit of the journal, i.e., home-based educare, and issues pertaining to professional and parental practices.
- Provide a rationale, state the aim of the paper, and identify research objectives/ questions.
- Make explicit the theoretical framework adopted and reference to extant research/knowledge.
- Outline the study methodology (applicable to both empirical research and literature reviews).
- Raise ethical issues, beyond receiving approval from institutional research ethics committees.
- Refer to salient key findings.
- Consider implications of findings, for instance for further research, practices, policies etc, according to the focus of the paper.
- Cite and list key references.

All extended abstracts are blind peer-reviewed, providing authors constructive feedback.

### Length of papers

- Empirical, conceptual and methodological papers must be between 5,000 and 7,000 words, including illustrative materials, appendices, and references.
- Papers based on systematic literature reviews and scoping studies may be longer up to 10,000 words including illustrative materials, appendices, and references, subject to feedback from peer reviewers
- Critical reviews, commentaries and research digests must be up to 3,000 words, including illustrative materials, appendices, and references (see further guidance in this document).

#### Language

The Norland Educare Research Journal accepts papers in British English only. The papers should be written in plain and clear language, following the British English language rules, and academic and scientific conventions. Foreign words or expressions that convey specific meaning, have cultural connotations or denote culture-bound concepts should be elaborated for the benefit of the reader.

# Declaration of authorship and no conflict of interest

Authors should ensure that they have written and submitted only original work. Author(s) are required to declare that the paper has not been submitted or published previously elsewhere, including under a different title, and they must declare that there are no known conflicts of interest associated with the paper.

The <u>Declaration of Authorship and No Conflict of Interest</u> form should be completed, signed and submitted together with the abstract and the full paper files. The form can also be completed online, signed and dated. If submitting digitally, which is the journal's preference, the form should be saved as a PDF file and submitted along with the manuscript files.



### Duplicate publications

If a paper overlaps substantially with ones that they have already published or are preparing to publish, then the author(s) must make a full statement which contains details of all previously published, submitted or in-preparation papers that might be regarded as having similar content. Copies of such material, including papers in press, may be requested to be included with the submitted paper to assist the editors in determining acceptance of the paper for review.

Papers that have been printed or submitted to other journals, that have content that does not correspond to the scientific area of the journal or that do not conform to the instructions to authors will be rejected. In the event of rejection, the paper will be returned to the corresponding author with a note detailing the reason for the rejection.

# **Research ethics**

The journal adheres to the principles of respect for the autonomy, privacy and dignity of individuals and communities; scientific integrity; social responsibility; and maximising benefit and minimising harm (BPS, 2018), as well as the guidelines for early childhood research issued by EECERA (2015) and for educational research issued by BERA (2018), and adheres to the guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethis (COPE) and the UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO). For further details, see:

- BPS (2021) Code of Human Research Ethics [<u>www.bps.org.uk</u>]
- BERA (2018) Ethical Guidelines for Educational Research, fourth edition [www.bera.ac.uk]
- EECERA (2015) *Ethical Code for Early Childhood Researchers*, revised version 1.2 [www.eecera.org]
- The Norland Research Ethics Handbook (2021)
- The Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) [https://publicationethics.org]
- UK Research Integrity Office (UKRIO) [<u>https://ukrio.org</u>].

The journal expects author(s) to consider and discuss research ethics, demonstrating that the research was conducted in compliance with relevant laws and the guidelines of professional bodies. If applicable, the author(s) should also confirm that an appropriate institutional committee has approved the research. In addition, the author(s) should include a statement confirming that informed consent was obtained from participants and privacy and confidentiality rights were observed.

# Structure of the manuscript

The manuscript must comply with academic writing conventions and its structure must be organised as follows:

#### The title of the paper

This is short and concise and contains key terms that reflect the focus of the paper and aim at attracting the attention of the reader at a glance.

#### The name(s) of the author(s) and their institutional affiliation

These details are removed from the full paper and submitted separately as outlined in the *Submission of manuscript* section below.



### The abstract

The abstract concisely summarises the content of the paper. It states the aim or objectives and the research questions of the paper, the work undertaken, key results, and conclusions. The abstract should be under 200 words in length and should not contain undefined abbreviations or jargon.

### Keywords

Five to seven keywords are given in italics, separated by commas and located after the abstract.

### The main body of the manuscript

The main body of the manuscript is organised as follows:

**The introduction** clearly states the aim of the reported research, provides contextual information and makes reference to relevant published work.

**The theoretical or conceptual framework** locates the paper within extant theoretical frameworks and published research, and establishes the conceptual framework of the reported research. In this section, the author(s) locate their paper in relevant theories and extant literature to substantiate their argument, as well as identifying any research gaps.

#### Methodology and methods of collecting data

- For empirical research papers, this section should include information about the research design, research sample, analysis of data and ethical considerations, as well as discussing the trustworthiness of the reported research.
- For systematic literature reviews and scoping studies, authors should outline the methodology and steps followed in searching and locating studies, inclusion/exclusion criteria, and the method used for analysing the selected studies.
- For philosophical, position or critical review papers, authors should clearly articulate their thesis, methodological paradigm, ontology and epistemology to substantiate their arguments.
- For methodological papers, especially when referring to new and innovative methodologies and methods of collecting data, authors should discuss and demonstrate the research trustworthiness, considering ontological, epistemic and ethical arguments.

**The results and discussion** section presents the results of the research and critically discusses them in the context of other recent published work, indicating their significance and impact.

The conclusions and recommendations section summarises key results and may include any plans for relevant future work.

#### References

The reference list should include only work that is cited in the manuscript and should be according to Harvard referencing, see Pears, R. and Shields, G. (2019) *Cite Them Right: The Essential Referencing Guide.* 11th edn. London: MacMillan.

References for work not originally published in English shall be listed in the original language of the publication and afterwards transliterated in English in square brackets. Transliterations should follow the rules for transliteration, see: <a href="http://www.google.com/inputtools/services/features/transliteration.html">www.google.com/inputtools/services/features/transliteration.html</a>. If the title has an official translation in English, the English title is to be specified first with the original title in the brackets.



# Citations, footnotes and endnotes

Direct citations of up to 40 words are included in the body text, using "", followed by the name(s) of the author(s), date of publication and the page number. Citations longer than 40 words should be arranged as a separate paragraph, indented without using "".

Footnotes and endnotes are not recommended.

#### Illustrative and/or additional material

Illustrative and/or additional material such as tables, graphs, figures, charts and photos must be carefully chosen to enhance the quality and clarity of the paper. The material should be self-explanatory and easy to read. The location of such material should be clearly indicated in the body text and the material should be submitted as separate files.

#### Declarations and acknowledgements

**Acknowledgements.** The author(s) must acknowledge anyone who has contributed towards the article but does not meet the criteria of authorship, e.g. a person who acted in an advisory capacity, has provided sources of information and/or has offered purely technical support (e.g. proofreading services) or any other general support.

**Funding.** The author(s) must declare all sources of funding for the reported research, if applicable. Indicate the role of the funding body, if any, in determining the aims, the design of the study, methods of collecting and analysing data, and input in interpreting and reporting findings and conclusions.

**Conflict of interest.** The author(s) must confirm that there are no known conflicts of interest, financial or material, associated with this publication and there has been no significant financial support for their work that could have influenced its outcome <u>**OR**</u> they need to draw the attention of the editor to facts which may be considered as potential conflicts of interest regarding the funding received (e.g. in determining the aims, the design of the study, methods of collecting and analysing data, and input in interpreting and reporting findings and conclusions).

# Typographic guidance for manuscript preparation

#### Headings

- Heading 1 Font: Calibri, size 14pt, bold
- Heading 2 -Font: Calibri, size: 12pt, bold italics
- Heading 3- Font: Calibri, size 12pt, italics
- Heading 4 Font: Calibri, size 11, bold
- Font colour for all headings: black

#### Body text

- Font: Calibri
- Font size: 11pt
- Text style: normal
- Font colour: black

#### Page set-up

- A4
- Normal margins (top: 2.54cm, bottom: 2.54cm, left: 2.54cm, right: 2.54cm)



- Header: 1.25cm
- Footer: 1.25cm
- Double line spacing
- Insert page numbers to the right, bottom of page, calibri 9pt

#### Tables

- Font and font size: Calibri 11pt
- Accent colours light grey

Table example – please keep tables within the page margins.

| Bold heading |  |  |
|--------------|--|--|
| Body copy    |  |  |
|              |  |  |
|              |  |  |

Diagrams, charts, graphs, illustrations and photos must be labelled as figures and the title must be positioned <u>below</u> them in Calibri 11pt.

#### Proofreading

It is the responsibility of the author(s) to proofread the manuscript before its publication.

#### **Document saving**

- Documents must be saved as .doc or .docx files.
- Tables may be created in word, saved as .doc or .docx files, or in Excel, saved as .xls files.
- Charts, illustrations, figures and photos must be saved as .jpg or .tiff files with a minimum resolution of 300dpi.

# Permissions for copyright-protected materials

All sources used in a paper should be clearly cited. To use copyright-protected material (e.g. reproduction of large amounts of previously published work or figures and diagrams from another paper), the author must obtain the written permission of the publisher or the author of such work and submit it with the manuscript.

The author(s) are responsible for evidencing the originality of their work and may be requested to submit a copy for verification by plagiarism-detection software (e.g., Turnitin or iThenticate). Based on the plagiarism report, the editors may ask the author(s) to edit their manuscript, or the manuscript may be rejected.

# **Co-authored papers**

Anyone who has made a significant contribution to the research and writing of the paper should be listed as an author. All co-authors should be made aware of the paper and agree to its submission. The authors should reach an agreement on the order in which author names are listed on the paper.



### Corresponding author

The corresponding author is responsible for all communication as the manuscript moves through the submission process. Please provide the corresponding author's name, title, institutional affiliation, address and email address.

### Addition, deletion, or rearrangement of author names

Requests to add or remove an author, or to rearrange the author names, must be made by the corresponding author only and must include (i) the reason for the requested change and (ii) written confirmation from all authors for such change, including added or deleted authors if applicable. Requests that are not sent by the corresponding author will not be acted upon. Any requests to add, delete or rearrange author names after an article has been published will result in a corrigendum.

# Submission of manuscript

The abstract and the full manuscript, including illustrative materials, must be submitted via email to: <u>journal@norland.ac.uk</u>

### Abstract submission

The author or corresponding author must submit the following files:

- File 1 includes the manuscript title, name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation(s) and author/corresponding author contact details.
- File 2 includes the manuscript title, the abstract and keywords.

#### Full manuscript submission

The author or corresponding author must submit the following files:

- File 1 includes the manuscript title, name(s) of the author(s), institutional affiliation(s) and author/corresponding author contact details.
- File 2 consists of the Declaration of Authorship and No Conflict of Interest.
- File 3 includes the manuscript title, abstract, keywords and the full manuscript.
- File 4 includes illustrative and additional materials, e.g., tables, diagrams, figures, appendices, etc., if applicable. *A separate file is required for each piece of illustrative/additional material.*
- File 5 consists of the written permission of the publisher or author of any copyrighted work, if applicable.

All files should be saved anonymously, so no personal data is identifiable. Files should be named consistently, with the initial part of the paper title abbreviated and appearing the same across all files, followed by an indication of the content of each file (e.g., abstract full paper, table 1 etc.), followed by author name only for non-anonymized files.

# Manuscript peer review

Peer review is an essential component of formal scholarly communication and lies at the heart of the scientific endeavour of the journal. Peer review assists editors in making editorial decisions and, through editorial communications with authors, may assist authors in improving their manuscripts.



### Manuscript double-blind peer review

Submitted manuscripts are double-blind peer-reviewed, meaning that both authors and reviewers are anonymous. Two reviewers are chosen by the editors to review the manuscript and complete the *Manuscript Review Form*.

#### Reviewer expertise and anonymity

The reviewers are chosen based on their expertise and reviewing experience. The reviewers' identity is kept strictly confidential.

### Reviewer confidentiality

Manuscripts received for review are confidential documents and must not be shown to or discussed with others. Information or ideas obtained through peer review should not be used in a reviewer's own research or for their own professional advantage. This applies also to invited reviewers who decline the review invitation.

#### **Reviewer impartiality**

To uphold impartiality, reviewers agree to declare any potential conflict of interest, e.g.:

- direct competition with the authors
- collaboration or co-working with the author or any of the authors
- a position which may prevent them from giving an objective opinion of the work.

Any invited reviewer who has a conflict of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative or other relationships or connections with any of the authors should notify the editor-in-chief and decline the invitation to review the manuscript.

#### **Reviewer promptness**

Any invited reviewer who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should immediately notify the editors and decline the invitation to review so that alternative reviewers can be contacted.

#### Standards of objectivity

The reviewers judge the quality of the manuscript objectively, against the review criteria, which are:

- appropriateness for the journal
- originality and significance
- methodological rigour
- clarity and conciseness
- language, academic writing style and length of the paper
- citations and references
- declarations and acknowledgements.

Comments and observations should be formulated clearly with supporting arguments so that authors can use them to improve the manuscript. Personal criticism of the authors is inappropriate and unacceptable.

#### **Reviewers' comments**

Reviewers complete the *Manuscript Review Form* and are expected to provide supporting remarks and comments suggesting ways to improve the quality of the manuscript. Reviewers may highlight the omission of any relevant work and suggest its inclusion by explaining its significance. When inclusion of a reviewer's own work is recommended, the editor-in-chief reserves the right to exclude excessive citation to maintain their anonymity. Reviewers should also notify the editor-in-chief of any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under review and other manuscripts, published or unpublished. Reviewers should refrain from any personal criticism of the authors.

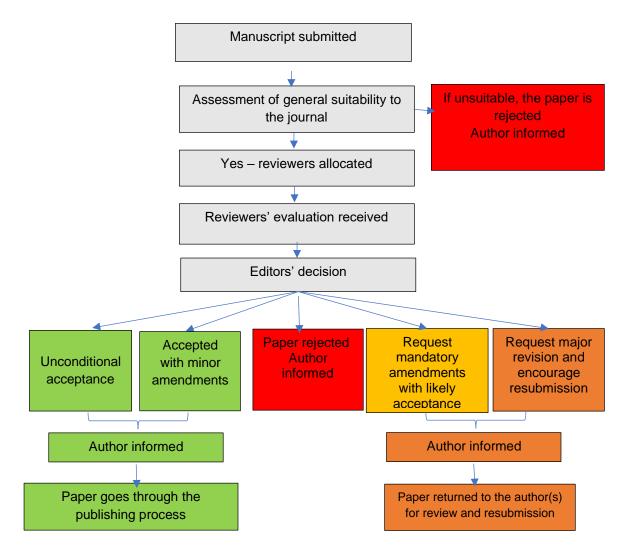


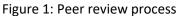
#### Reviewers' recommendations

The reviewers may make an initial recommendation to (see Figure 1, below):

- unconditionally accept the paper
- accept the paper after minor corrections
- request mandatory amendments that will lead to likely acceptance
- request major revision and encourage resubmission
- reject the paper outright.

The reviewers' decisions serve as a guide to editors to make a final decision.





# **Author obligations**

#### **Review process**

The author(s) should respond promptly to the comments of the reviewers and any requests by the editor-in-chief. If revisions are required, the author(s) should respond systematically to all comments



made by the reviewers and/or submit any additional materials requested by the deadline given to assist the timely publication of the journal.

### Author and NERJ publication agreement

Once the paper has been accepted and its final version has been submitted as per the journal's *Information and Guidance for Authors*, adhering to its *policies*, the *Author and Norland Educare Research Journal Publication Agreement* is signed by both the author/corresponding author and the editor-in-chief, in advance of the paper's publication.

# Manuscript rejection, errors and appeals/complains

### **Rejection of manuscripts**

Manuscripts that have been published by or submitted to other journals, that contain content that does not correspond to the scientific area of the journal or that do not conform to the instructions to authors will be rejected. In the event of rejection, the *corresponding author* will be informed with a note detailing the reason for the rejection, and any electronic copies of the paper will be deleted.

### Significant errors in published work

When significant errors or inaccuracies are found in published work, it is the author's obligation to either correct or retract the paper or provide evidence to the journal editors of the accuracy of the paper.

#### Appeals and complaints

Appeals and complaints are considered if the corresponding author provides sufficient justification in writing within 12 months of the publication date. Appeals and complaints are settled by the editorial board. Appeals and complaints must be emailed to: <u>journal@norland.ac.uk</u>

# **Book reviews**

Academics, students, and early years educators are invited to submit book reviews of publications relevant to home-based educare, research, teaching and learning, and professional practice. The book review editors are keen to invite authors to write double reviews of the same book (i.e., two reviews, one conducted by an academic and one by a student, or other pairings, such as an academic and a practitioner, or a student and a practitioner).

We ask that book reviews are 500- 750 words long and provide succinct and comprehensive information concerning:

- Book overview (e.g., introduction to the topic of the book and why it matters, whether the book is based on research and/or is study/practice-oriented, the author and their credentials, the intended readership of the book, i.e., academics, students professional etc)
- Brief synopsis of the book, outlining chapters and/or key themes.
- Critical evaluation concerning the strengths of the book, any issues omitted, and suggestions for elements that would have benefitted from further exploration, with the reviewer stating their stance.
- Concluding thoughts with clear recommendations be it for academics, students, or practitioners (e.g., to read the book, use it as a reference or main/supplementary text),



All book reviews are peer reviewed. If you are interested in providing a review, please contact us at: <u>journal@norland.ac.uk</u>

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# **Open access policy**

The *Norland Educare Research Journal* publishes all accepted papers as open access without any charges to the author(s) for article submission, processing and publishing. The papers are available to anyone worldwide, free of charge.

The journal defines its open access policy according to the Budapest Open Access Initiative (https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org), aiming to promote open access to research for the wider benefit and advancement of society.

# Journal privacy policies

Authors should also consult Norlands privacy and use of cookies policies

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