

Has WSEAS been ever engaged in Predatory Publishing Practices?

First of all, in WSEAS, we believe (this the culture that we cultivate since 1996), that Journals and Conferences without peer review cannot survive for a long period and disappear soon. Even if they eventually manage some good indexing, the academic community cannot recognize them as serious and valid academic outlets. To run Journals and Conferences without peer review is the absolute craze and a clear suicide for publishers or societies.

According Wikipedia, Predatory publishing, sometimes called write-only publishing or deceptive publishing, is an exploitive academic publishing business model that involves charging publication fees to authors without checking articles for quality and legitimacy and without providing the other editorial and publishing services that legitimate academic journals provide, whether open access or not.

But, has WSEAS been ever engaged in Predatory Publishing Practices?

Absolutely, no.

Here you can find databases containing all submitted articles to the WSEAS Journals for the past 5 years <http://www.wseas.org/main/journals/JournalsDB.zip>
You can see what papers have been accepted and what papers have been rejected.

[Acceptance rates, which are approx 20%, can be found within.](#)
[Similar statistics are available for the conference databases.](#)

It is totally unfair and unethical to include publishers such as Biomed Central (part of the Springer-Nature group), Frontiers In, Bentham, Hindawi, MDPI etc in lists of predatory publishers and practices, all of which are thoroughly respected and reputable publishers. This does not mean that these 5 publishers are predatory, and the same rule applies here. WSEAS has promptly and clearly addressed all allegations in the past, of any predatory practices, and has duly satisfied its stakeholders and maintained their trust and association. Repetition of such claims is false and misleading.

The Major Characteristics of a Predatory Journal and why none of these characteristics appear in any WSEAS Journal

1. The Journal does not reject many papers

Answer:

On the contrary, WSEAS journals reject almost 4 papers for every 5 submitted.

Simply download our data base from here

<http://www.wseas.org/main/journals/JournalsDB.zip>

and see how many papers have been rejected in the last years from WSEAS Journals.

Additionally, we have found many papers rejected in WSEAS Conferences and Journals to have been published with the same title in other publishers included IEEE, Elsevier, Springer, Hindawi, etc...

We do not blame these reputable publishers. Maybe, our reviewers and Editors-in-Chief, sometimes, reject also high quality papers in an attempt to maintain the high quality standard of the journals

Many other papers rejected from WSEAS Journals are now in other reputable journals after modifications in their title and it is difficult to be found by Google.

Download 33 papers rejected from WSEAS, but accepted IEEE, Elsevier, Springer, Hindawi,

<http://wseas.org/multimedia/journals/rejected-from-wseas-published-in-ieee-springer-elsevier-etc.zip>

or

<http://wseas.org/multimedia/journals/rejected-from-wseas-published-in-ieee-springer-elsevier-etc.rar>

2. A predatory journal has no active editorial staff

Answer:

All the WSEAS journals have active Editorial Boards. You can contact by email or phone the Editors-in-Chief. WSEAS renews the Editorial Boards every two years. In case that some Associate Editor does not want to continue or does not wish to help us in the review process we remove him immediately and invite somebody else.

3. A Predatory publisher appears an outlier increase in the number of published papers.

Answer:

The WSEAS Journals have never had outlier increase in the number of published papers

4. A Predatory publisher appears an outlier increase in the number of Journals

Answer:

The WSEAS Journals were 19 in 2006 and we have 19 Journals still now. We did not increase the number of our Journals in the last 15 Years.

5. Lack of scientific judgment

Answer:

A) WSEAS has announced in its site: www.wseas.org the Databases containing all submitted articles to the WSEAS Journals for the past 5 years can be found [HERE](#).

<http://www.wseas.org/main/journals/JournalsDB.zip>

[Acceptance rates, which are aprx 20%, can be found within. Similar statistics are available for the conference databases.](#)

B) What Authors say about publishing in our Journals

<http://wseas.org/main/author-testimonials.html>

C) What the Editors-in-Chief say about our strict review process

Please, click on each link (or copy-paste in your browser window)

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-1.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-2.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-3.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the->

[editor-in-chief-4.pdf](#)

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-5.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-6.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-7.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-8.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-9.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-10.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-11.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-12.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-13.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-14.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-15.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-16.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-17.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-18.pdf>

<http://wseas.org/main/PeerReview/Statement-of-Peer-Review-signed-by-the-editor-in-chief-19.pdf>

Additionally, we have found many papers rejected in WSEAS Conferences and Journals to have been published with the same title in other publishers included IEEE, Elsevier, Springer, Hindawi, etc...

We do not blame these reputable publishers. Maybe, our reviewers and Editors-in-Chief, sometimes, reject also high quality papers in an attempt to maintain the high quality standard of the journals

Many other papers rejected from WSEAS Journals are now in other reputable journals after modifications in their title and it is difficult to be found by Google.

Download 33 papers rejected from WSEAS, but accepted in IEEE, Elsevier, Springer, Hindawi,
<http://wseas.org/multimedia/journals/rejected-from-wseas-published-in-ieee-springer-elsevier-etc.zip>

or

<http://wseas.org/multimedia/journals/rejected-from-wseas-published-in-ieee-springer-elsevier-etc.rar>

6. Two or more journals have the same editorial board

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

7. The lack of geographical diversity among the editorial board

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

8. The papers of the journal are of poor research quality, and may not be academic at all (for instance allowing for obvious pseudo-science); The journal and the publisher are unfamiliar to you and all your colleagues; The papers of the journal are of poor research quality, and may not be academic at all (for instance allowing for obvious pseudo-science); There are fundamental errors in the titles and abstracts, or frequent and repeated typographical or factual errors throughout the published papers; or The journal website is not professional

Answer:

You will not find poorly researched papers on our website, nor do we support pseudo-science in anyway.

9. Lack of valid and academic indexing

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals.

10. The Publisher Policy for Article Processing Charges (Publication Fees) is not clear.

Answer:

The Publisher Policy for Article Processing Charges (Publication Fees) in WSEAS Journals is absolutely clear

<http://www.wseas.org/wseas/cms.action?id=6924>

Note that the WSEAS Journals did not have any APC (Article Processing Charge) from their beginning (2002) until 2015 though they were OA (Open Access) after January 1st of 2007. After 2015, WSEAS imposed some small APCs, but for authors publishing in WSEAS Transactions, WSEAS offered and offers waivers and discounts in cases of quality scientific research or in cases that the authors are not in a position to cover the APCs, because they do not receive financial support from their universities/institutions or they come from developing countries. From 2015 until 2019 more than 70% of the authors in WSEAS transactions published their paper without payment of APCs. WSEAS will never refuse waivers and discounts to the authors that have excellent scientific work to present or to the authors that are not in a position to pay their APCs.

11. The publishing schedule is not clearly stated

Answer: Each subscription journal has a clear schedule of issues stated on the journal home page.

12. The journal mimics another journal title or the website of said journal

Answer: We do not mimic other journal titles or websites.

13. Inconsistency between the name of the journal and its purpose and mission

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

14. Fake Impact Factor Announcement on Journal Site by Valid international index
Answer: WSEAS has never announced any Impact Factor in any WSEAS Journals

15. Fake Impact Factor Announcement on Journal Site by Fake international index
Answer:
WSEAS has never announced any Impact Factor in any WSEAS Journals

16. False claim of being indexed in valid indexing systems

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals.

WSEAS has never claimed indexing in indexes that we do not participate.

WSEAS has never uses fake indexes. Neither fake metrics nor fake impact factors have ever reported in WSEAS web pages, books or journals.

17. Receive authors' dissertation fee for quick publication

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals. We do not publish dissertations.

18. Not strong academic background in our Journals

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

19. Covering a wide range of topics

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

Please, check.

WSEAS has never had journals like: "International Journal of Engineering" or International Journal of Applied Sciences" etc....

20. Publishing a large number of articles in each issue

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

Please, check

21. No existences of postal address and contact number

Answer:

WSEAS Headquarters location is announced in www.wseas.org

<http://wseas.org/cms.action?id=2001>

22. The Web page of the Journal does not have "Publication Ethics And Malpractice Statement"

Answer:

This is not true for WSEAS journals as one can verify here

<http://www.wseas.org/wseas/cms.action?id=5705>

In this web page you can find

Section A: Publication and authorship,

Section B: Authors' responsibilities

Section C: Reviewers' responsibilities

Section D: Editors' responsibilities

Section E: Retraction Policy

23. The journal does not clearly state its business model.

Answer:

This is not true for WSEAS Journals.

WSEAS journals do not have any relation with any commercial company.

WSEAS Journals do not have any commercial supporter and do not have any commercial sponsor.

Especially our Journal: WSEAS Transactions on Biology and Biomedicine is not supported by any pharmaceutical company or commercial company selling biomedical equipment or carrying out biomedical research

24. The Publishing schedule of the Journal is not clear

Answer:

This is not true for WSEAS Journals. WSEAS Journals have had Issues (per month or per 3 months) until 2013. After 2013 we follow continuous flow of Publications as the most modern publishers.

25. The journal claims that is Open Access, but does not provides full text access to all published articles.

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals at all.

26. The Journal does not have a Conflicts of interest Statement

Answer:

This is not true for WSEAS journals as one can verify here
<http://www.wseas.org/wseas/cms.action?id=5705>

27. Use the names of "prestigious" developed countries in the title, like American, British, Swiss ... Journal of

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals.

WSEAS is based in Greece.

WSEAS has never used titles like "American Journal of" or "British Journal of" in any of each journal.

28. No article submission system

Answer:

Of course we have a very robust article submission system

Please, check here <http://wseas.org/cms.action?id=7671>

Authors upload their papers. They select keywords and our System proposes to the Editors-in-Chief possible reviewers. Check here

<http://wseas.org/cms.action?id=7671>

Invited Papers that come to us by email are also promoted to the Editors-in-Chief and Associate Editors.

29. Absence or incompleteness of the authors' guide

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

Please, check.

30. Use of logo and names very similar to reputable publications

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

Please, check.

31. Same editorial board for all Journals

Answer:

We do not have such cases in WSEAS Journals

Please, check.

32. Fast reviewing (Sometimes less than 12 hours) and mention minor issues

Answer:

We have never had such cases in WSEAS Journals.

On the contrary, our authors wait many months.

There are cases that authors withdraw their papers because of our long review process.

Some authors send us complaints of the slow review process.

Check here: <http://wseas.org/main/author-testimonials.html>

Nobody says that we promise "rapid" or "quick" review process.

33. Send Call-For-Papers to irrelevant delegates' email.

Answer:

We send emails only to authors that have published in our conferences and journals in the last years.

34. The journal and the publisher are unfamiliar to the academic community.

Answer:

WSEAS is a well-known international publisher started in 1996.

From 1996 until 2002 we had only conferences and only after 7 years we tried to launch our first Journals. Yes, WSEAS started its first Journals in 2002 after 7 years operation.

35. Having a weak website and very simple article submission format

Answer:

Our Web Site has a professional design and has been designed by INFILI

<https://www.infili.com/>

in collaboration with Netoperis Company

<https://www.netoperis.com/>

Our plan is to improve it further.

We do not have simple article submission format.

36. The journal website posts non-related or non-academic advertisements

Answer:

We do not post advertisements on our websites at all.

37. Emails from the journal editor are written in poor language, include exaggerated flattering (everyone is a leading profile in the field), and make contradictory claims (such as “You have to respond within 48 h” while later on saying “You may submit your manuscript whenever you find convenient”)

Answer:

Does not apply to WSEAS at all.

38. The publisher is not a member of any recognized professional organization committed to best publishing practices

Answer:

We are members of Crossref (Provider of our DOI), Portico, CNKI etc
We have applied to be members of DOAJ, COPE and OASPA in 2020.

39. The Publisher does not have digital preservation

Answer:

We have hired 2 different standalone servers in Germany since 2007 when our Journals became Open Access.

Our Servers are standalone servers in Germany with strong preservation and strong digital back up. One server is for the site of WSEAS and another is for buck-up. We also take daily back-up in our local server in Athens and in Sofia. Not only that but we use as back-up the Portico www.portico.org

40. The journal displays no strategies for how to handle misconduct, conflicts-of-interests, or secure the archiving of articles when no longer in operation

Answer: We have policies for COIs, retractions, and self-archiving stated on each journal page.

41. The Journal does not have a Retraction Policy

Answer:

Our WSEAS Journals have a real retraction policy and we retract an article without the authors' permission.

We retract articles because they are subsequently found to have serious flaws that undermine the reliability of the data or results, or because they involve research misconduct, such as fabrication, falsification, or plagiarism

WSEAS Journals follow this retraction policy:

<https://publicationethics.org/retraction-guidelines>

42. The Journal does not report the Copyright Policy or does not allow the authors to retain the copyright in their articles.

Answer: WSEAS Journals clearly report the Copyright Policy in the page <http://www.wseas.org/wseas/cms.action?id=6924>

WSEAS allows the author to retain the copyright in their articles. Articles are published under a Creative Commons License (usually Attribution-Only, or CC-BY) to allow others to freely access, copy and use research provided the author is correctly attributed. The Published Papers are licensed under the Creative Commons Attribution International License (CC BY 4.0).

<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0/>

In all the published papers, author(s) retain the copyright of their article. The articles are published under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution License 4.0.

43. The Journal has published pseudoscientific articles or even articles from the SCImgen machine.

Answer:

None WSEAS Journal has never accepted and has never published any pseudoscientific articles or even article from the SCImgen machine.

44. The journal website does not contains an archive of its past issues with links to full text articles.

Answer:

Our WSEAS Journals have all the previous volumes on-line after 2007 with all the papers with Open Access.

Before 2007 our journals were not Open Access and were published in hard-copy. We have the contents of the Journals of the period 2002-2007 on the web though.

Best regards

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