

Code of Ethics for Researchers

Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS

The following materials were used in the development of the Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS (ICL):

- *Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences; 16. 12. 2014*
- *Research Ethics Framework, resolution of the Government of the Czech Republic No. 1005, dated 17 August 2005;*
- *European Charter for Researchers, 2005/251/EC, Official Journal of the European Union, 22 March 2005;*
- *The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity, 2017 revised edition.*
- *Code of Ethics of the Institute of Philosophy of the CAS. 2021*
- *Code of Ethics of the Czech Oral History Association, 2019*

Education, culture and scientifically based knowledge are among the fundamental pillars of contemporary society. Trust in science is based on trust in the honesty of researchers when acquiring new knowledge. Science must remain credible, so it is essential that researchers follow basic moral principles in their work, especially honesty and integrity. The Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Institute of Czech Literature of the CAS is summarized in points I.–V. framework principles of good behaviour in science and thus supports the consolidation of desirable moral standards in academic research – with special regard to the specifics of the humanities, especially literary sciences. The ICL fully accepts the principles established by the Code of Ethics for Researchers of the Czech Academy of Sciences, which are specified in the present document in the conditions of the scientific fields in which the workplace operates. ICL employees are obliged to follow them in their activities.



I.

General principles

A researcher:

1. abides by deep-seated human moral principles and by principles spelled out in this Code;
2. will not allow a conflict of interest to arise as a result of his/her position (and related activities at the Institute) and his/her private activities;
3. will conduct his/her research with full professional and personal commitment. The total of his/her contractual workload should not exceed his/her normal workload more than 1.5 times;
4. requires that his/her colleagues conduct themselves in a way that is conducive to these principles;
5. does not defend, conceal, or justify conduct that contravenes the principles set forth in this Code, not even on the basis of necessary obedience and loyalty; will report potential misconduct in research-related work to the relevant authorities, or initiate a review by the ICL Ethics Committee;
6. considers scholarly/scientific pursuits and research as an integral part of culture and source of innovation, defending them and their social relevance against being questioned;
7. stands resolutely against the non-ethical and inappropriate use of scholarly/scientific knowledge;
8. expands and intensifies his/her scholarly/scientific knowledge and strives to improve personal professional competency;
9. maintains a critical attitude toward his/her own scholarly/scientific findings and results, as well as those of colleagues, and is open to discussion and factual arguments;
10. defends the freedom of scholarly/scientific thought, expression, exchanges of opinion, and information;
11. rejects the use of unscientific and discriminatory approaches in all scholarly pursuits;
12. observes the principles of impartiality and independence from ideological and political pressures, and from the interests of pressure groups;
13. recognizes and intentionally disseminates the principles of reliable, trustworthy scholarly/scientific practice and rejects all dishonesty and infringement of the principles specified in this Code

II.

Principles of Research Work

A researcher:

1. seeks to expand the frontiers of scholarly/scientific knowledge and makes every effort to ensure that his/her practically usable research results serve to benefit society;

2. carries out research in such a way that society, the environment, and cultural values are not threatened;
3. observes principles of scholarly/scientific work (Art. 1) when obtaining, selecting, and assessing data, and at the same time takes into account the specificity of his/her discipline;
4. accounts for the precision and objectivity of his/her research and recognizes the limits of research methods used;
5. will consult with the ICL Ethics Committee on any ethical issues that arise while carrying out a research project; the Committee will issue an opinion when such an opinion is justified;
6. is responsible for the completeness and verifiability of the results published on a certain problem and for their unbiased interpretation;
7. will take care, in the case of research involving human subjects (in the humanities and social sciences, this primarily concerns questionnaires, interviews, observations aiming at a specific group of people), not to harm them, especially with regard to protecting their rights and privacy; research subjects will participate on a voluntary basis, with their express, free, and informed consent, wherever applicable, to any research that includes them, and reserving the right to withdraw at any time, or to inform themselves on research results;
8. preserves primary data and documentation of all significant published results, following their publication, for the customary period in the respective discipline, unless other obligations or rules preclude this;
9. holds him/herself accountable for the purposeful, efficient, and economical use of research funds and does not duplicate research previously carried out elsewhere if it is not needed for the verification, supplementation, or comparison of the results obtained;

III.

Principles for Publicizing Scholarly/Scientific Findings and Results

A researcher:

1. can be listed as the author or co-author of a scholarly/scientific paper if contributing in any substantial way to its origin, e.g. to the design of the studies and experiments and their realisation, to analysing, interpreting, working out or modelling the data or drawing up the article, on the condition co-authorship is agreed to;
2. acknowledges, in a published scholarly work, the contributions of predecessors and colleagues to the question studied and on which the work closely follows; when citing findings and results obtained by other authors, a clear reference is made to the respective sources; cites also important works which are contrary to his/her own results and conclusions;
3. will publish errata or take other appropriate steps if he/she later finds any substantial error in his/her published data;
5. avoids partitioning results and findings with the intention of publishing them in multiple journals and thereby increasing the number of his/her published scholarly works;

in the event that a paper is based in whole or in part on previously published works, he or she will state this fact in an editorial note or other marginalia within the publishing journal;

6. does not publish in an ethically questionable way and does not take advantage of ethically dubious publishing platforms;
7. does not renounce ethical responsibility for published information and research results;
8. publishes with the aim of conveying research results and knowledge to the professional public, not only for the purpose of demonstrating works as scholarly/scientific outputs.

IV.

Principles Regulating Relations with Students and Co-workers

A researcher:

1. admits students and research co-workers after objectively evaluating their intellectual, ethical and personal characteristics;
2. pays heed to correctness and openness in mutual communication when leading a research team, and avoids an unjustified autocratic style of leadership, or any behaviour that conveys a bullying or despotic attitude;
3. assesses students and colleagues according to the results achieved and treats them equitably, not requiring from them work which is his/her own responsibility, or that is disproportionate to a student's abilities and potential;
4. conveys knowledge, skills, and principles of good conduct in scholarly work, both in verbal communication and by personal example, to his/her students and colleagues;
5. is devoted to teaching his/her students and guides them to develop their independent, critical thinking and a responsible approach to work, and respects their right to freely express their opinions about research;
6. supports the enhancement of the qualifications of students and subordinate researchers and their scholarly/scientific and publication activities and international contacts and lists them among the authors of a manuscript if they have made a creative and substantial contribution to it;
7. addresses potential scholarly misconduct on the part of his/her colleagues.

V.

Principles for the Assessment, Evaluation, Opponent and Expert Activities

A researcher:

1. is fully aware of his/her obligations to the research community and, as far as possible, participates in the preparation of expert opinions, reviews, and evaluations

2. performs alone assessment or other evaluation work assigned;
3. protects intellectual property rights of the authors of evaluated manuscripts, designs of projects, and communications, being careful only to work out an expert review and not use the data contained in evaluated materials for personal advantage or provide them to a third party;
4. does not intentionally prolong the assessment of an evaluated work so as to achieve personal advantage or for the benefit of a third party;
5. refuses to prepare an expert opinion, the conclusions of which could be influenced by his/her personal interest, or reveals this fact in advance; avoids any other potential conflicts of interest;
6. prepares expert opinions responsibly and only from his/her specialty area, resisting any potential external pressures which could influence this opinion;
7. observes objective criteria in evaluation and opposition proceedings, adheres to the contracting authority's rules, and requires the same adherence from the other participants of the proceedings.

VI.

Method of Resolving Cases of the Violations of the Fundamentals of Proper Conduct in Scholarly Research

The following are considered to be conduct incompatible with the fundamentals of ethical conduct in science: fraud, forgery, plagiarism, falsification, misrepresentation, deliberate deception and theft, namely in any phase of the process of scholarly research work from the plan to the publication of the results.

Possible violations of the fundamentals of proper conduct in scholarly research shall be resolved:

1. directly at the level of the organisational structure of the ICL always one level higher than that in which the dispute has arisen; through the ICL ombudsman and Ethics Commission, which may choose to establish a specialised body;
2. by the Commission for Ethics of Scientific Work of the Czech Academy of Sciences, if the resolution is beyond the competence of the ICL or if parties to the dispute are not satisfied with the conclusions reached at the workplace;
3. in cooperation with all parties involved, the highest possible protection of privacy is observed. A report on the resolution of the dispute must be circulated to all participants and must include measures leading to rectifying the problem if the violation of the ethics of scholarly/scientific conduct was involved. In justifiable cases, the provision of Article 65 of the Statutes of the CAS, or the respective regulation of the labour code may be employed.
4. all ICL authorities involved in resolving violations of ethical principles during the investigation shall protect the rights of the persons who reported the misconduct, and ensure that their professional future is not jeopardized;
5. appropriate steps shall be taken to clear the name of researchers who have been found innocent of all alleged wrongdoing.