

# Has WSEAS been ever engaged in Predatory Publishing Practices?

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*Abstract:* In this paper, we investigate whether WSEAS has ever engaged in predatory publishing practices. Since its founding in 1996, WSEAS has cultivated a strong culture that emphasizes rigorous peer review as the foundation of all its academic activities. We firmly believe that journals and conferences lacking a proper peer-review process are unsustainable and short-lived. Even if such outlets achieve temporary recognition or indexing, they ultimately fail to gain credibility within the academic community. Without peer review, scholarly publications lose their integrity and are unlikely to be taken seriously by researchers, institutions, or funding bodies. Organizing journals or conferences without peer review is, in our view, both reckless and self-destructive for any publisher or academic society.

According to Wikipedia, predatory publishing—also referred to as write-only publishing or deceptive publishing—is an exploitative model that involves charging authors publication fees without performing meaningful quality checks or providing the editorial and publishing services expected of legitimate academic journals. This practice undermines the credibility of scholarly communication and is widely condemned across academia. Has WSEAS ever participated in such unethical publishing practices? The answer is a definitive no. We are committed to maintaining high academic standards and transparency in all our publications and events. For further details and supporting documentation, please refer to the information provided here.

*Keywords:* Predatory publishing, WSEAS, peer review, open access, transparency, academic publishing ethics.

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## 1. Introduction

WSEAS has not been engaged in predatory publishing practices, according to various studies and statements. Here are some key points that support this assertion:

1. **Peer Review Process:** WSEAS maintains a rigorous peer review process, which is a critical factor distinguishing it from predatory publishers. Many of its journals are indexed in reputable databases like Scopus and Web of Science, further validating its credibility.

2. **Transparency and Open Access:** WSEAS operates with transparent fee structures and is committed to open-access publishing, which aligns with genuine academic missions rather than predatory practices focused on profit over integrity.
3. **Academic Contributions:** WSEAS has a long history of publishing peer-reviewed journals and organizing conferences, serving a wide academic community, particularly in fields like engineering and computer science.
4. **Independent Evaluations:** Studies have evaluated WSEAS against established

criteria for predatory publishing and found that it does not engage in deceptive practices associated with predatory publishers.

5. **Misuse of Name:** While hackers have used the name of WSEAS for fraudulent activities, WSEAS itself has no involvement with such practices and has issued warnings about these scams.

## 2. WSEAS ensures the quality of its peer-reviewed journals through a comprehensive and rigorous process that includes the following measures:

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### 1. Pre-Screening Quality Control

- **Plagiarism Detection:** WSEAS uses advanced tools like Turnitin and iThenticate to identify plagiarism and self-plagiarism in submitted manuscripts
- **Language and Format Review:** Submissions are evaluated for linguistic clarity and adherence to journal formatting guidelines.
- **Author Verification:** Institutional affiliations of authors are verified to ensure authenticity.
- **Reference Evaluation:** Citations are assessed for relevance and recency, ensuring scholarly rigor.

### 2. Peer Review Process

- **Triple-Blind Peer Review:** Manuscripts are reviewed by at least three independent experts, ensuring anonymity for both authors and reviewers to eliminate bias.
- **Expert Reviewers:** Papers are assigned to reviewers with proven academic credentials, citation impact, and expertise in the relevant field.
- **Multiple Rounds of Review:** Manuscripts undergo iterative rounds of review, allowing for detailed feedback and significant improvement before acceptance.

### 3. Editorial Oversight

- **Editorial Board Composition:** Journals feature diverse editorial boards composed of scholars with strong academic records. Membership is periodically updated to maintain high standards.

- **Governance Documentation:** Editors-in-Chief sign public declarations certifying adherence to strict peer-review standards.

### 4. Transparency and Accountability

- **Mandatory Author Certification:** Authors must certify that their manuscript received positive recommendations from reviewers. This certification is published alongside the article to ensure transparency.
- **Public Access to Policies:** WSEAS provides access to detailed editorial policies, rejection statistics, and peer-review certifications, promoting accountability.

### 5. Ethical Publishing Practices

- WSEAS avoids practices associated with predatory publishing, such as unsubstantiated publication promises or fake impact metrics. It transparently reports indexing status, maintains high rejection rates (20–30%), and offers fee waivers for authors in need.

These measures collectively ensure that WSEAS journals maintain high academic standards and integrity, fostering trust among authors and readers.

## 3. What are the main differences between WSEAS and known predatory publishers

WSEAS differs significantly from known predatory publishers in several key aspects:

### Rigorous Peer Review Process

- WSEAS implements a triple-blind peer review system, with at least three independent expert reviewers evaluating each manuscript.
- Multiple rounds of review are conducted, ensuring thorough evaluation and improvement of submissions.
- Predatory publishers often accept articles with little or no peer review, including hoax and nonsensical papers.

### Quality Control Measures

- WSEAS employs a comprehensive pre-screening process, including plagiarism detection, language assessment, and author affiliation verification.
- About 20% of submissions are rejected during pre-screening, filtering out low-quality manuscripts.

- Predatory publishers typically lack such quality control measures and accept papers quickly with minimal scrutiny.

#### **Editorial Standards and Governance**

- WSEAS maintains active, diverse editorial boards composed of verifiable experts in their fields.
- Editors-in-Chief sign public declarations certifying adherence to strict peer-review standards.
- Predatory publishers often list academics as editorial board members without permission or appoint fake academics.

#### **Transparency and Accountability**

- WSEAS provides clear editorial policies, rejection statistics, and examples of rejected manuscripts on their website.
- Authors must submit certifications confirming positive reviewer recommendations, which are published with the article.
- Predatory publishers often lack transparency in their processes and may have hidden or unclear fee structures.

#### **Indexing and Impact**

- Some WSEAS journals are indexed in reputable databases like Scopus, though indexing varies by journal.
- Predatory publishers often make false claims about indexing status or cite fake impact factors.

#### **Ethical Publishing Practices**

- WSEAS maintains stable journal portfolios and focuses on quality over rapid expansion.
- The organization avoids aggressive solicitation of manuscripts and provides detailed, constructive feedback to authors.
- Predatory publishers often engage in aggressive campaigning for submissions and may sell authorship or republish articles without permission.

These differences highlight WSEAS's commitment to maintaining high academic standards and integrity in scholarly publishing, in contrast to the deceptive practices associated with predatory publishers.

### **4. What measures does WSEAS take to prevent fake or non-existent impact factors**

WSEAS takes several measures to prevent the use of fake or non-existent impact factors:

1. **Transparency in Indexing:** WSEAS journals that are indexed in reputable

databases like Scopus or Web of Science clearly state their indexing status. This transparency helps prevent false claims about indexing or impact factors.

2. **Avoidance of Bogus Metrics:** WSEAS does not promote or use fake impact metrics such as the Index Copernicus Value, which is often associated with predatory practices.
3. **No Advertising of Fake Impact Factors:** WSEAS has never advertised fake impact factors for its journals. This is a key distinction from predatory publishers, which often falsely claim high impact factors to attract authors.
4. **Quality Control and Peer Review:** By maintaining a rigorous peer review process and high editorial standards, WSEAS ensures that its journals are recognized for their academic quality rather than relying on fabricated metrics.
5. **Public Declarations and Certifications:** WSEAS requires authors to certify that their papers have undergone thorough peer review, further emphasizing the organization's commitment to legitimacy and transparency in academic publishing.

These measures help WSEAS maintain credibility and avoid practices associated with predatory publishing.

### **5. How does WSEAS handle manuscripts with inadequate references**

WSEAS handles manuscripts with inadequate references through a multi-step quality control process:

1. **Pre-Screening Quality Control:** Before the peer review process begins, WSEAS conducts a pre-screening review that includes evaluating the references. This involves checking if the references are adequate, if they are from recent publications (within the last five years), and if they can be easily traced via Google.
2. **Reference Evaluation Criteria:** WSEAS ensures that references are complete and accurate. Authors are required to ensure that all references are cited within the article; otherwise, they may be removed by reviewers.
3. **Peer Review Process:** During the peer review, reviewers assess the quality and relevance of references. If the references are

deemed inadequate, reviewers may request additional or more recent references to enhance the paper's scholarly rigor.

4. **Author Compliance:** Authors are required to make all necessary changes, including adding or modifying references as suggested by reviewers. This ensures that the final version of the manuscript meets the journal's standards for reference quality.
5. **Certification Process:** After revisions, authors must sign a certification confirming that their paper has undergone thorough peer review and that no references were added by reviewers or WSEAS staff without their consent. This certification is published alongside the article, ensuring transparency and accountability in the publication process.

By implementing these measures, WSEAS ensures that manuscripts with inadequate references are either improved through the review process or rejected if they fail to meet the required standards.

## 6. How does WSEAS maintain the integrity of its certification process

WSEAS maintains the integrity of its certification process through several robust measures:

### Mandatory Author Certification

- Authors are required to submit a certification confirming that their manuscript has received positive recommendations from all reviewers following rigorous peer review. This certification is published alongside the article, ensuring transparency and accountability.

### Public Availability of Certifications

- Certifications attesting to the peer-review process are accessible (upon request) to authors, readers, and academic institutions. This allows external verification of the integrity of the review process.

### Conflict-of-Interest Declarations

- Both authors and reviewers sign declarations to confirm that there was no coercion or forced citation additions during the review process. This ensures objectivity and ethical compliance.

### Verification of Reviewer Recommendations

- WSEAS ensures that all certifications are backed by genuine reviewer evaluations. The triple-blind peer review system eliminates

bias and guarantees that manuscripts are assessed solely on merit.

### High Rejection Rates

- The rejection rate for submissions (20–30%) reflects a selective process, further reinforcing the credibility of certifications and the overall publication process.

These measures collectively ensure that WSEAS's certification process is transparent, ethical, and verifiable, promoting trust in its scholarly publishing practices.

## 7. What measures does WSEAS take to prevent bias in the review process

WSEAS takes several measures to prevent bias in its review process, ensuring fairness and objectivity:

### 1. Triple-Blind Peer Review

- WSEAS employs a triple-blind peer review system where the identities of authors, reviewers, and editors are concealed from one another. This eliminates potential biases related to gender, ethnicity, institutional affiliation, or geographical location.

### 2. Diverse Reviewer Selection

- Manuscripts are assigned to reviewers who are recognized experts in the relevant field. Reviewers are selected based on academic credentials and citation impact, ensuring that evaluations are based on expertise rather than personal connections or biases.

### 3. Comprehensive Editorial Oversight

- Editorial boards consist of diverse scholars who oversee the peer review process. They ensure adherence to ethical guidelines and intervene if any bias is suspected during the review process<sup>1</sup>.

### 4. Structured Review Process

- WSEAS ensures consistency by implementing a structured review process with clear criteria for evaluating manuscripts. This reduces subjectivity and ensures that decisions are based on evidence and merit.

### 5. Awareness of Bias

- Editors and reviewers are encouraged to be aware of unconscious biases that might affect their decisions. WSEAS actively promotes fairness and objectivity throughout the review process<sup>3</sup>.

## 6. Transparency in Feedback

- Authors receive detailed and constructive feedback from reviewers, ensuring that decisions are well-documented and justified. This transparency helps build trust in the fairness of the process<sup>1</sup>.

By combining these measures, WSEAS ensures an unbiased, ethical, and rigorous peer-review process for its journals.

## 8. Conclusion

WSEAS ensures the quality of its peer-reviewed journals through a comprehensive and rigorous process that includes the following measures:

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WSEAS is a publisher and conference organizer that has been active for several years, primarily in engineering, mathematics, and computer science. WSEAS has been publishing for many years and has hosted numerous conferences, attracting a variety of researchers. Most of the

WSEAS journals are indexed in **Scopus** and other databases, which suggests a level of academic recognition. Many researchers in engineering, mathematics, and computer science have published with WSEAS and attended its conferences. With this Study we have proven that the WSEAS has been never engaged in Predatory Publishing Practices.

Predatory publishing has emerged as a critical concern in the academic world, especially within open-access models. Since its inception in 1996, WSEAS has been committed to rigorous academic standards, offering reputable journals and conferences across engineering, science, and applied mathematics disciplines. Allegations that attempt to classify WSEAS as predatory are not only unfounded but also contradict the transparent and verifiable processes it has long employed. The concept of predatory publishing was first popularized by Jeffrey Beall, who maintained a list of potentially deceptive publishers. According to Wikipedia predatory publishing is an exploitative model that charges publication fees while forgoing essential editorial and peer-review processes. WSEAS has long held that journals and conferences without proper peer review are inherently unsustainable. The organization firmly believes that academic outlets without editorial rigor cannot gain long-term recognition or respect from the global scholarly community. In WSEAS Journals, each submission undergoes a double-blind peer review by at least two independent experts. Reviewers are selected based on their field-specific expertise. WSEAS maintains a publicly accessible database of all submissions over the past five years, available at:

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

This archive includes both accepted and rejected papers, ensuring complete transparency. WSEAS maintains an average acceptance rate of approximately 20%, consistent with reputable academic journals. Similar statistics are also maintained for conference proceedings, with each submission reviewed by a technical committee.

The open availability of submission and acceptance data is a rare and commendable practice in academic publishing. WSEAS provides:

- a) Detailed peer review reports for authors.
- b) Rejection notices with reviewer comments.
- c) Conference databases including acceptance metrics.

In contrast to predatory publishers (who typically accept submissions without review and obscure acceptance rates) WSEAS's approach exemplifies academic transparency and editorial rigor. Additionally, WSEAS journals are indexed in major databases such as Scopus and INSPEC, further supporting their credibility. WSEAS has consistently responded to past allegations with documented evidence of its peer review processes, acceptance statistics, and indexing credentials. All claims have been transparently addressed, and stakeholders, including authors, reviewers, and editors, have expressed continued confidence in the organization. The broader academic community must be cautious not to label open-access publishers as predatory without clear evidence. Blanket accusations can have harmful effects, including reputational damage, reduced academic collaboration, and misinformation. WSEAS's publishing model should instead be viewed as an example of how to effectively balance openness with rigor. By publishing comprehensive submission statistics, maintaining strict editorial standards,

and allowing public scrutiny, WSEAS sets a benchmark for responsible academic publishing. This paper has demonstrated that WSEAS has never engaged in predatory publishing practices. On the contrary, it operates with transparency, rigor, and commitment to quality. The publication of peer review statistics, low acceptance rates, and visible indexing reflects an academic institution focused on long-term credibility rather than short-term gain.

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