

1. Journal Profile

IRL is a biannual, peer reviewed law journal, issued by the College of Law, Qatar University and published by Qatar University Press in three languages; Arabic, English and French. Since its launching in 2012, IRL strives to embrace a contemporary legal discourse that cuts across borders and cultures. The journal welcomes in-depth legal research in the field of national and comparative law in a way that enriches the Qatari legal environment, and increases its international exposure and openness to comparative legal systems. IRL is concerned with publishing comparative studies between Qatari and foreign laws, as well as commentaries on legislation and court rulings. The journal is an open access platform through which researchers and readers can have access to research studies from around the world without getting restricted by borders or geographical barriers.

Print ISSN: 2305-5545

Online ISSN: 2523-1715

Vision

The journal is concerned with publishing in-depth legal research that discusses international subjects and comparative law. The journal particularly revolves around enriching the Qatari legal environment that leads to improving its international coherence and openness to comparative legal systems. Building on this international comparative character, the IRL is a means through which researchers and readers can access research studies from around the world.

The journal is available online for free in electronic form. The print edition is only available upon request and order. Print editions are chargeable and should be requested from the journal's contact details.

2. Focus and Scope

The International Review of Law is a specialized journal in publishing international comparative legal studies with the Qatari law or with other foreign international laws. The journal receives research in the form of:

- Articles and theoretical or empirical research papers,
- commentaries on court rulings or legislations at the national, regional or international level,
- high impact legal book reviews for recently published books in Arabic, English or French.

3. Publication Frequency

The International Review of Law publishes two regular issues in March and September every year, and one Special Issue in December, which contains researches from Qatar University's annual research conference, conducted by the College of Law.

4. Editorial Team

I- Editor-in-Chief

1. Professor Sonia Mallek, Professor of Civil Law, College of Law, Qatar University
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ORCID: 0000-0003-4019-3620



Bio: Dr. Sonia Mallek, Professor of Civil Law, received her PhD in Private Law and Criminology from El-Manar University in Tunis. Dr. Sonia Mallek attended Tunisian universities and was appointed as a visiting professor at the University of Aix-en-Provence in France in 2012. She also held the position of Head of Private Law Department at the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences in Tunis. She participated in many local and international conferences, and joined the College of Law, Qatar University in 2014. She wrote many research papers in Arabic and French and also participated, chaired many committees inside and outside the college. She supervised several masters and doctoral theses and studied several courses related to comparative civil law, combating corruption in the business field, and encouraging investment and professional responsibility. Prof. Sonia headed a Qatar National Research Fund Grant Working Group from 2019 to 2021. She has numerous publications in international journals on various topics in the field of civil responsibility, family law, private life and legislative drafting.

II- Editorial Committee

1. Professor Sami Hamdan al Rawashdeh, College of Law, Qatar University.

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SCOPUS author ID: 0000-0002-20176826



Bio: Dr. Sami al Rawashdeh graduated from Mu'tah University (Jordan) with a First Honors Degree in law in 1996. Having received his LLM degree at the Law School, University of Jordan in February 1999, he worked as a full-time lecturer in Criminal Law and Criminal Procedure for one year. He obtained his PhD in Criminal Law in March 2004 from School of Law/University of Aberdeen in the United Kingdom. In February 2004, he joined the Faculty of Law, University of Jordan. He is a member of the Jordanian Bar Association since 2007. Dr. Sami was appointed as a legal expert in the Center for Legal and Judicial Studies, Ministry of Justice, the State of Qatar for one year in 27/2/2012. In spring 2013, he joined the College of Law, Qatar University as an associate professor of criminal law where he teaches criminal law courses for both graduate and undergraduate students. In April 2018, he was promoted to the rank of professor at the College of Law, Qatar University. His main research area is Criminal Law, Human Rights, International Criminal Law, and Criminal Procedure Law. He has published peer reviewed articles on criminal law and criminal procedure law in both languages: Arabic and English, and a co-

authored two books on the Qatari Penal Code: “Crimes against Persons,” and “Qatari Penal Code: Crimes against Property.”

2. Professor Khaled Saleh Al-Shamari, College of Law, Qatar University.



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ORCID: 0000-0002-6840-9932

Bio: Dr. Khalid Saleh Al-Shammari, Assistant Professor of Criminal Law, earned his bachelor’s degree in Law from Qatar University’s College of Law. He continued his postgraduate studies abroad and obtained a Master’s degree and Doctoral degree in Criminal Law from Indiana University, USA. Dr. Khalid Saleh Al-Shammari is also a licensed attorney in Qatar. He graduated from Qatar Leadership Centre (Rising Leaders) in 2019. Additionally, he has co-authored the book “Explanation of the Penal Code: Private Section. He received two research grants from QNRF. He published several research articles in law in Arabic and English. Dr. Khalid also participated in several international conferences inside and outside Qatar in the field of criminal law. Such as: The 19th World Congress of the International Society of Criminology, and the United Nations Congress on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Japan.

3. Professor Eman Naboush, College of Law, Qatar University.



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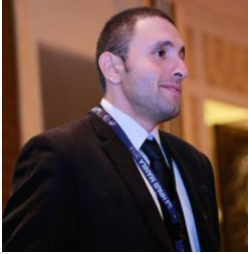
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Research Gate ID <https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Eman-Naboush-2>

Bio: Dr. Eman Naboush is an Assistant Professor of Commercial Law at Qatar University. She has accomplished a PhD degree in Commercial Law/Air Law from Glasgow Caledonian University (UK), an LLM degree in Commercial and Maritime Law from Swansea University (UK), and a bachelor’s degree in law from Damascus University (Syria). She has taught at several universities in UAE, Oman and Syria at both levels undergraduate and postgraduate. She has presented and attended several international conferences and symposiums. She published several articles in international peer-reviewed journals and indexed in SCOPUS.

Her research interests are Transport Law, Consumer Protection Law, International Trade Law, Insurance Law, Business Law, Aviation Law, Maritime Law and Civil Liability. She has contributed to the development of the curricula through participation in several committees at the University of Sharjah (UOS). She contributed to the preparation of the academic accreditation file for the Master Program in Air and Space Law and the academic accreditation file for the bachelor degree at UOS. At Sohar University, she participated in preparing the report of Sohar University to the (OAAA). In addition, she was a member in the committee for the preparation of the strategic plan of the Faculty of Law at UOS.

4. Professor Imad Antoine Ibrahim, College of Law, Qatar University.



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Bio: Dr. Imad Antoine Ibrahim is an Assistant Research Professor and Research Projects Manager at the Center for Law and Development (CLD), College of Law, Qatar University, Doha, Qatar. He is also a Research Associate at gLAWcal – Global Law Initiative for Sustainable Development, Essex, United Kingdom and a Non-Resident Research Fellow at the Center for Innovation in Gas Research and Utilization (CIGRU) & Institute of Water Security and Science (IWSS), West Virginia University, United States. He has been working on global issues from a legal perspective and their interplay with other fields such as emerging technologies for the last decade. He is currently involved in several projects from a legal perspective and their interconnection with emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence and Big Data in places such as South Africa, MENA region, Central Asia, and China. He holds a PhD in Law from the Institute of Law, Politics and Development (DIRPOLIS), Sant’Anna School of Advanced Studies, Pisa, Italy, a master in European Interdisciplinary Studies, from the College of Europe, Bruges, Belgium, and a Bachelor in Law from the Lebanese University “Filiere Francophone de Droit”, Beirut, Lebanon.

5. Professor Hamad Alhababi, College of Law, Qatar University.



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Bio: Dr. Hamad Alhababi, Assistant Professor of Public Law, College of Law, Qatar University. Alhababi graduated from Qatar University with a Bachelor's degree in 2015, then joined Qatar University, and in particular, the scholarship program in 2016 to obtain a master's degree in the American law program in 2018 from Boston University in the state of Massachusetts, USA. Alhababi then enrolled in the J.S.D program to specialize in constitutional law, obtaining his degree from Washington University in St. Louis in the State of Missouri in 2020. Dr. Alhababi joined the academic staff in 2020 to teach several courses, including Constitutional Law, Administrative Law, Public Service, and Administrative Contracts at Qatar University and as a visiting professor at Ahmed bin Mohammed Military College. Alhababi has recent publications, and he has a paper under review in a Scopus-indexed journal. Moreover, Alhababi has two ongoing projects, the first related to data protection special research, and the second is an internal research grant related to a reference book. He also peer reviewed many research papers and reference books on various legal topics within the framework of common law.

6. Mohamed Kamel Charfeddine, Prof. of Private Law, College of Law, El-Manar University, Tunisia.



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Bio: Dr. Charfeddine holds a bachelors degree from the Faculty of Law of Southern Paris, a masters degree in civil and commercial law from the Sorbonne College in France, and a state doctorate from the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Tunisia. He is also the representative of Tunisia in the Unidroit organization and a member of the international association Henri Capitant in Paris. He is the founder of the Tunisian Association of Private Law and a former member of the Center for Reconciliation and Arbitration in Tunisia. He was the founder of the Civil Law Laboratory at the Faculty of Law in Tunis, and has many publications in Arabic and French. He has also participated in many international conferences.

7. Professor Mustapha Mekki, Prof. of Private Law, University of Paris-13, co-director of IRDA, visiting university professor, France



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Bio: Dr Mekki is a Law Professor at the University of Paris-13 since 2007. He has been

Professor at the University of Clermont Ferrand between 2005 and 2007 and a lecturer at Panthéon-Assas University (Paris 2) in 2004. He received a PhD in Law from Panthéon-Sorbonne University (Paris 1) in 2004, and a masters degree in Private Law from the University Panthéon-Sorbonne (Paris 1).

At University of Paris-13, he held the following positions:

- Vice-Dean in charge of international relations (Asia, Africa, Latin America).
- Director of the Research Institute for Attractive Law since 2011 (Co-director since 2018).
- Director of the federative structure “The commons” since 2014.
- Co-founder and co-director of the Master 2 in digital activities, with A. Cammilleri (2019).
- Member of the equivalence committee (2008-2016).
- Vice-Dean in charge of international relations (2009-2012, Dean R. Etien) Clermont-Ferrand University.
- Member of the Board of Directors (2005-2007).
- Member of the Scientific Council (2005-2007).
- Director of the Master of Business Law (2005-2007).

He is also co-director of the Law and Liberties Laboratory at the University of East Paris-Cretel IRDA and he is a visiting professor at several universities.

He runs a blog at: <https://mustaphamekki.openum.ca/>

8. Professor Abbas Poorhashemi, President of the Canadian Institute For International Law Expertise (CIFILE), Canada.



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Bio: Dr. Poorhashemi is currently the President of the Canadian Institute of International Law Expertise (CIFILE) (<https://cifile.org/>) and Editor-in-Chief of the CIFILE Journal of International Law (CJIL). Dr. Poorhashemi has a PhD in International Law from the University of Robert Schuman (Strasbourg, France) and a Post Doctorate fellowship from the University of Quebec in Montreal (UQAM), Canada. He has a large number of publications in international law. Over the past ten years of his career as an Assistant Professor at the University of IAU and Research Associate at the Center for the Study of International Law and Globalization (CEDIM) at the University of Quebec in Montreal, he has gained extensive experience in the following fields:

- Research fields: International law, international environmental law, international arbitration, human rights, case law, environmental criminal law, international responsibility (in English, French and Persian).
- Courses taught: International law, international environmental law, international arbitration, human rights, jurisprudence, environmental criminal law, international responsibility, international environmental treaties.

Google Scholar: <https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=4zvnmqEAAAQJ&hl=en>

Linkedin: https://www.linkedin.com/in/abbas-poorhashemi/?locale=en_US

9. Professor Peter Malanczuk, member of the International Commercial Expert Committee of the Supreme People's Court of China, former dean and chair professor, Faculty of Law, the University of Hong Kong (HKU).



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Bio: Prof. Peter is Adjunct Professor of the Faculty of Law of the University of Hong Kong (HKU) and a member of the Academic Advisory Council of the University of Heidelberg. He also serves as a member of the International Expert Committee of the Supreme People's Court of China. He is a member of the Governing Council of the Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA), China, and Chairman of the SCIA Strategic Development and Rules Amendment Committee. He serves as a member of the Advisory Committee of the Shenzhen Municipal People's Government on the Internationalization of Shenzhen. He is a founder and advisor of the Bali International Arbitration and Mediation Centre (BIAMC) in Indonesia.

Malanczuk also serves as an arbitrator in international commercial and investment disputes and is a member of a number of panels of arbitral institutions (Hong Kong International Arbitration Centre (HKIAC), International Chamber of Commerce (Hong Kong) (ICC-HK) Arbitration Committee, China International Economic and Trade Arbitration Commission (CIETAC), Beijing Arbitration Commission (BAC), Guangzhou Arbitration Commission (GZAC), Shenzhen Court of International Arbitration (SCIA), Chinese Arbitration Association (CAA Taipei), Kuala Lumpur Regional Centre for Arbitration (KLRCA—arbitrator and adjudicator panels), and Korean Commercial Arbitration Board (KCAB)). He is a member of the International Law Association (ILA).

Dr. Peter has been awarded honorary professorships from Nankai University (1997), China University of Politics and Law (1998), Peking University (1999), Shenzhen University (2003), Nanjing University (2005), and People's (Renmin) University of China (2007). He has been a visiting professor at many other universities and institutions in Europe, North America, Africa and Asia, including Michigan Law School, Boalt Hall Law School (University of California at Berkeley), Moscow State (Lomonosow) University, Addis Abba University, Ethiopia, and The Hebrew University Jerusalem. Prof. Malanczuk was an External Scientific Fellow of the Max Planck Institute Luxembourg for International, European and Regulatory Procedural Law (2013-14).

He runs a blog at: <http://www.malanczuk.com/>

III. Advisory Board

1. Dr. Abdellah al- Mislmani, Lawyer at the Court of Cassation (Qatar) and International Law Adviser



Bio: Dr. Abdullah Al-Maslamani obtained a masters degree in International Law from the UK in 1984. He received a PhD in International Law from the University of London in 1989 and worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the State of Qatar in the diplomatic corps since 1976 where he held the General Secretary position until 1989. He was appointed Director of the Technical Department at the General Secretariat of the Council of Ministers in 1989.

He served as the Secretary-General of the Council of Ministers since 1995. He has been appointed as the Chairman of the Standing Committee for Legislative Affairs since 2001. He taught at Qatar University as a visiting professor and was also a member of the Qatar University Council for a period of three years starting from 1995. He was an agent of the State of Qatar before the International Court of Justice between 1997 and 2001. He attended the two sessions of the United Nations General Assembly in 1978 and 1979.

He is also a member of the International Jurists Association and the author of several legal books in different fields, such as the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf Law and International Law.

2. Dr. Sheikh Thani Bin Ali Al Thani, lawyer at the Court of Cassation (Qatar) and a representative of the State of Qatar in the Arbitration Court of the International Chamber of Commerce.



Bio: Dr. Sheikh Thani bin Ali Al Thani is a lawyer who has attained an excellent and distinguished position in the field of law and arbitration. He holds a PhD in commercial law from Cairo University. He is a member of the Conciliation and Arbitration Committee of the Qatar Chamber, and an active member of the Lawyers Association in the State of Qatar.

He received a masters degree from the Arab Academy and a doctorate degree from Cairo University. He also holds an international arbitrator certificate from the Qatar Chamber of Arbitration where he built a distinguished experience. He took many legal courses specializing in civil and criminal law. He also participated in many specialized legal seminars and meetings, and has distinguished experience in many legal fields. Dr. Sheikh is also a legal advisor and agent for many Arab and foreign embassies in the State of Qatar, and for many leading local and international companies.

Link to Profile: <https://althanilawfirm.com/about-us/>

3. Professor Dominique d'Ambra, University Professor of CE Universities and President of the Center for Fundamental Private Law, Strasbourg France



Bio: Dr Dominique d'Ambra is a University Professor and President of the Center for Fundamental Private Law and Director at Strasbourg Faculty of Law, France. She is also the Director of the Special Statute Center (EA 1351) since January 1, 2018 and served as the Head of the Private Law Department of the Faculty of Law and Political Science in Strasbourg. From May 2014 to September 2018, she was assigned the task of Director of the Asia Project, Under-Secretary of the Presidency for International Relations, University of Strasbourg from 1 September 2010 to 31 December 2012.

She was the first vice president of the Robert University Board of Directors Schumann, from September 2003 to December 2008. She also assumed the position of Chairperson of the Finance and Works Committee from 2003 to 2008, as well as the task of the Vice President of the Disciplinary Department of the University Board of Directors.

Link to
CV: http://cdpf.unistra.fr/fileadmin/upload/CDPF/CV_des_enseignants/Fiche_Dominique_d_Ambra.pdf

4. Professor Muhammad Al-Fiali, Professor of Constitutional and Public Law, College of Law, Kuwait University, Kuwait



Bio: Professor Al-Fiali is an international expert and has published many research papers and literature in constitutional law.

Link to profile: <http://alfililaw.com/index.php/9-uncategorised>

5. Professor Douglas W. Arner Professor in Law, Hong Kong University, Hong Kong



Bio: Douglas W. Arner is the Kerry Holdings Professor of Law, an RGC Senior Fellow, and Associate Dean (Taught Postgraduate) of the Faculty of Law at the University of Hong Kong. At Hong Kong University, he co-founded and is the Director of the LLM Compliance and Regulation, LLM Corporate and Financial Law. Prof. Douglas has been a visiting professor or fellow at Duke University, Harvard University, The Hong Kong Institute for Monetary Research, IDC Herzliya, McGill University, Melbourne University, National University of Singapore, Queen Mary University of London, University of New South Wales, Shanghai University of Finance and Economics, and Zurich University, among others. He has lectured, co-organized conferences and seminars and been involved with financial sector reform projects around the world.

Link to profile:

<https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=-nCnn2IAAAAJ&hl=en>

IV. Indexing and Ranking

The International Review of Law is currently indexed and registered in the: Directory of Open Access Journals (DOAJ), Arab Citation & Impact Factor (ARCIF), Dar Al-Mandumah, I4OC, Google Scholar, EBSCO Discovery Service, Arab World Research Source, Crossref, Westlaw Gulf, HeinOnline and ROAD.

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Through QU Press, IRL is a member of the Association of Learned and Professional Society Publishers (UK) and the Association of University Presses (USA).



Contact

No changes on the current info

Part B: First Side Banner

I. Make a Submission – Side Banner

1. **Author Checklist: Already available – as is**
2. **Author guidelines**

Preamble

The Style Manual is meant to help authors, peer reviewers, editors, and members of the International Review of Law in following standard guidelines and style for all published articles, to facilitate and accelerate the review and publishing process. We kindly ask you to follow these guidelines:

1. Author Definition

An author should meet the following three conditions:

- He/she must have contributed to the conception and design of the study or to the acquisition, analysis and interpretation of data.
- Drafted the manuscript or critically revised it.
- Gave final approval to the manuscript version submitted for publication.
- Research papers submitted by two or more researchers to the journal must obtain the consent of all participating authors in the research.

2. Acknowledgments

Publication literature requires that researcher expresses their gratitude to the publisher, and to everyone who contributed in a valuable way to the research, and it can be mentioned in the footnote.

3. Funding Sources

All sources of financial support for the research should be listed under this heading. Grant funding agency abbreviations should be spelled in full.

3. Writing guidelines

Objective editorial guidelines:

- The research must be original and not published previously, in part or in full, and should not be submitted for publication elsewhere.
- The research must be original and offer a valid scientific contribution in its respective field.
- The researcher shall comply with the intellectual property, integrity, scientific honesty, principles and ethics of scientific research.
- The journal accepts research papers in Arabic, English and French. Each issue of the journal states the following disclaimer: “The contents and opinions appearing in the article herein are the sole responsibility of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of QU Press.”
- The research must adhere to the linguistic guidelines of the specialization, and in terms of clarity of writing, language and expression, as well as value, novelty and diversity of scientific references.
- Legal research methods must be followed.
- Sources and references written in Arabic must also be mentioned in the bibliography, Romanized, included in the list of foreign references and arranged alphabetically. The Arabic reference data used in Romanization must be arranged in the same order as the source information.
- The word count should range between 6000-15000 words at the maximum, including footnotes, references and appendices (if any).
- The journal may accept an article that is extracted from a masters or doctoral thesis based on a strict selection criteria that includes the research quality and scientific contribution. This matter should be disclosed upon submission and in the “Author Declaration” form which requires that a reference to the student’s name, supervisor, program and university should be acknowledged in the first footnote of the article.

Manuscript Layout

General Style

Language: The IRL accepts articles in Arabic, English or French. English or American spellings are acceptable, but must be used consistently.

One of the following style guides should be used:

Bluebook: <https://www.legalbluebook.com> or

OSCOLA: <https://www.law.ox.ac.uk/research-subject-groups/publications/oscola>.

For Articles in French, the Turabian Style derived from the Chicago Style, should be followed:

Turabian 7 guide:

<https://library.stitch.edu/getmedia/3cb84140-2b6b-4afe-b926-809a72d43ce8/Turabian7Guide>

English Typography:

Fonts: The body of articles may use any classic sans-serif font such as Times New Roman, Century Schoolbook, or Didot.

Italics: Italics should be used instead of underlining where called for.

Size: Font sizes should be between 12 and 14 points, depending on the specific font.

Line spacing: Submitted articles should be single spaced.

Justification: Left-aligned; no hyphenation at line breaks.

Page Numbers: All pages, in footer, at right.

1- Title Page:

Required in English and Arabic

This page should have the following information in both English and Arabic:

- Full title of manuscripts
- For each author:
 - Name
 - Title/Position
 - Affiliation
 - Email
 - Keywords for article

2- Abstract:

Required

A statement around 250 words summarizing the article and conclusions. No citations.

Received: ../../..

Reviewed: ../../..

Accepted: ../../..

Article title..... (Bold font size 14)

Full name of the first author (bold 12 point)

Title....., Affiliation/University....., Country.....

Email.....

Full name of co-author

Title....., Affiliation/University....., Country.....

Email.....

Abstract

Identical translation of Arabic abstract in about 200 words includes below points:

Research purpose: Research objectives shall include answers to why you chose to write this research paper. What topic did you discuss? If your research is based on previous studies, what prompted you to do this research? (Explain briefly, “purpose of the research”) This is an opportunity to explain to the reader why you chose the topic and its importance, and inform them of the topic and discussion around which the research revolves, and the focus of your findings.

Study Design/methodology/approach: Describe what you have done. Explain to the reader here exactly what you did to reach the findings you mentioned. What approach did you use in your research? (Some of the approaches followed in Islamic studies are: the inductive, analytical, deductive, historical, descriptive, and case study approach).

What tools, methods, or statistics did you use and based your study upon? For example, did you make an interview form and then benefit from its outcomes? Have you done scientific tests? Did you read the above and base your search results on the same?

Findings: Explain accurately what the study found, and how the study answered the questions you raised, or did the study endorse the idea or theory on which your study was based? (You should specify exactly what your study found, without generalization, exaggeration).

Research originality/value: Here you explain to the reader your research’s scientific value with the new information and results it found. You can also talk about the extent to which your research contributes to future studies, and mention some recommendations.

3- Keywords:

Required

Key words:;;;; (5 to 8 key words – note: separator is semicolon and no full stop at the end)

No less than five words should be selected depending on the topic (separated with a semicolon). Keywords allow researchers to search for the article.

4- Tables:

Tables should be numbered in sequence and contain a short title.

Smaller tables, which will fit into the manuscript in portrait format, may be included in the main manuscript text. Larger tables, or those which are in

landscape mode, should be submitted as supplementary files that are named and numbered identically to the in-text content.

Please use table layout options in your word processing program to display tables. Using tabs to separate columns should be avoided. Please also avoid using color and shading.

Tabular data may be uploaded as a supplementary file in either xls, xlsx or csv formats.

5- Other Illustrations:

Each illustration should be provided as a separate file.

Preferred format for illustrations is pdf or png. Other formats can be used, but images may not translate fully.

Please provide, for each figure, the figure number, short title.

Note: The author must obtain permission from the copyright holder to reproduce figures in the journal published elsewhere. Failure to provide this permission can result in images not being included.

6- References:

- For papers written in English, the author should set a bibliography of sources and references at the end of the manuscript, in the same style of citing footnotes, but arranged in alphabetical order by the author's family name.
- For papers written in Arabic, the author should set a bibliography of sources and references at the end of the manuscript, in the same style of citing footnotes, but arranged in alphabetical order by the author's family name, in the same style of citing footnotes, then s/he can translate (Romanize) them into English alphabetically.

Part B: Second Side Banner

I. POLICIES

II. Malpractice and Ethics Statement

The Position of IRL on Publishing Ethics

IRL is committed to maintaining the highest ethical standards for all parties involved in the process of publishing in a peer reviewed journal, namely: the author, the editor of the journal, the peer reviewer and the publisher.

The publishing ethics of IRL, both internal and external, are based on and adhere to the below mentioned codes and guidelines of the Committee on Publication Ethics (**COPE**):

- *Code of Conduct and Best Practice Guidelines for Journal Editors* (March 2011) (hyperlink: https://publicationethics.org/files/Code_of_conduct_for_journal_editors_Mar11.pdf).
- *Ethical guidelines for peer reviewers* (September 2017). (Hyperlink: https://publicationethics.org/files/cope-ethical-guidelines-peer-reviewers-v2_0.pdf)
- *A Short Guide to Ethical Editing for New Editors* (January 2016). (Hyperlink: https://publicationethics.org/files/A_Short_Guide_to_Ethical_Editing.pdf)
- Other COPE *guidelines*:
Principles of Transparency and Best Practice in Scholarly Publishing (hyperlink: <https://publicationethics.org/resources/guidelines-new/principles-transparency-and-best-practice-scholarly-publishing> (2019)
- and *Core Practices* (Hyperlink: <https://publicationethics.org/core-practices>)

By submitting an article to IRL, author(s) are aware of and agree to comply with the above-mentioned Publication Ethics stated by (**COPE**).



Editor Responsibilities

Accountability: The editors of IRL are accountable and responsible for deciding which of the articles submitted to the journal should be published. The editor shall be guided by the journal's editorial board policies and constrained by such legal requirements and shall then take appropriate action regarding libel, copyright infringement and plagiarism. The editor may confer with other editors or reviewers in making this decision.

Impartiality: The reviewing process and publication decision will be taken without regard to race, gender, religious beliefs, ethnic origin, citizenship, or political philosophy of the authors.

Confidentiality: The editor(s) and any editorial staff will not disclose any information about a submitted manuscript to anyone other than the corresponding author, reviewers, potential reviewers, other editorial advisers, and the publisher, as appropriate.

Fair play: Editors should ensure the integrity of the publication review process. As such, editors should not reveal either the identity of authors of manuscripts to the reviewers, or the identity of reviewers to authors.

Disclosure and conflicts of interest: Unpublished materials disclosed in a submitted manuscript will not be used in an editor's own research without the express written consent of the author. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review will be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Editors make fair and unbiased decisions, independent of commercial considerations, and ensure a fair and appropriate peer review process. Editors shall recuse themselves (i.e. should ask a co-editor, associate editor or other member of the editorial board instead to review and consider) from considering manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or (possibly) institutions connected to the papers. Editors will require all contributors to disclose relevant competing interests and publish corrections if competing interests are revealed after publication. If needed, other appropriate action will be taken, such as the publication of a retraction or expression of concern.

Involvement and cooperation in investigations: Editors of IRL will guard the integrity of the published record by issuing corrections and retractions when needed and pursuing suspected or alleged research and publication misconduct. Editors should pursue reviewer and editorial misconduct. An editor should take reasonably responsive measures when ethical complaints have been presented concerning a submitted manuscript or published paper, in conjunction with the publisher. Such measures will generally include contacting the author of the manuscript or paper and giving due consideration to the respective complaint or claims made, but may also include further communications to the relevant institutions and research bodies, and if the complaint is upheld, the publication of a correction, retraction, expression of concern, or other note, as may be relevant. Every reported act of unethical publishing behavior must be looked into, even if it is discovered years after publication.

Plagiarism Detection



Prevention of plagiarism is essential as it provides scientific and academic integrity. Hence, IRL uses the iThenticate Plagiarism Detection Software for checking plagiarism.

In case of plagiarism, misuse of published articles, and/or illegal distribution of research papers is proven, the journal immediately takes the necessary actions as to control and prevent any unethical action.

Reviewers Responsibilities

Contribution of Editorial Decisions: The peer review process assists the editor in making editorial decisions; it may also assist the author in improving the paper through the editorial communications and feedback given to the author.

Promptness: Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should notify the editor and excuse himself from the review process.

Confidentiality: Any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to, or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor.

Standards of Objectivity: Reviews should be conducted objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

Acknowledgement of Sources: Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that an observation, derivation, or argument had been previously reported should be accompanied by the relevant citation. A reviewer should also call to the editor's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

Disclosure and Conflict of Interest: Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer-review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage. Reviewers should not consider manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.

Editorial Board's Responsibilities

IRL's Editorial Board members oversee the peer-review process for the journal, including evaluating submissions, selecting reviewers and assessing their comments, and making editorial decisions. Together with Advisory Editorial Board Members, they are involved in the development of journal policies and ethics standards and work to promote the IRL mission to provide resources, support and advice for early stage researchers in their journey from writing to publishing their scientific papers while at the same time making free public access to scientific research.

Author Responsibilities

Reporting standards: Authors should present their results clearly, honestly, and without fabrication, and inappropriate data manipulation. Authors should describe their methods clearly and unambiguously so that others can confirm their findings.

Originality and plagiarism: Authors should sign an “*Author Declaration Form*” and adhere to publication requirements that the submitted work is original, is not plagiarized, and has not been published elsewhere. Fraudulent or knowingly inaccurate statements constitute unethical behavior and are unacceptable. If the authors have used the work and/or words of others, that this has been appropriately cited or quoted and accurately reflects individuals’ contributions to the work and its reporting. IRL reserves the right to reject papers the editors believe have been plagiarized from other sources, including the author’s own previous publications. In case of plagiarism, misuse of published articles, and/or illegal distribution of research papers, IRL is very proactive in the legal actions it takes so as to prevent such unethical action.

Data Access and Retention: Authors may be asked to provide the raw data in connection with a paper for editorial review, and should in any event be prepared to retain such data for a reasonable time after publication.

Ethics: Authors should only submit papers of work that has been conducted in an ethical and responsible manner and that complies with all relevant legislation. Authors should get necessary ethical approvals from involved institutions and individuals in the research.

Disclosure and Conflicts of Interest: All authors should disclose in their manuscript any financial or other substantive conflict of interest that might be construed to influence the results or interpretation of their manuscript. All sources of financial support for the project should be disclosed.

Authorship of the Paper: Authorship should be limited to those who have made a significant contribution to the conception, design, execution, or interpretation of the reported study. All those who have made significant contributions should be listed as co-authors. Where there are others who have participated in certain substantive aspects of the research project, they should be acknowledged or listed as contributors. The corresponding author should ensure that all appropriate co-authors and no disqualifying co-authors are included on the paper, and that all co-authors have seen and approved the final version of the paper and have agreed to its submission for publication.

Multiple, Redundant or Concurrent Publications: An author should not generally publish manuscripts describing essentially the same research in more than one journal or primary publication. Submitting the same manuscript to more than one journal concurrently constitutes unethical publishing behavior and is unacceptable.

Fundamental errors in Published works: When an author discovers a significant error or inaccuracy in his/her own published work, it is the author’s obligation to promptly notify the

journal editor or publisher and cooperate with the editor to retract or correct the paper. If the editor or the publisher learns from a third party that a published work contains a significant error, it is the obligation of the author to promptly retract or correct the paper or provide evidence to the editor of the correctness of the original paper.

Publisher's Responsibilities

The College of Law, Qatar University, as the managing entity of IRL and Qatar University Press (QU Press) as the Publisher, require the editors to follow the COPE Code of Conduct for the Editors. QU Press provides reasonable practical support to editors so that they can follow the COPE Code of Conduct for Journals. QU Press defines the relationship between the publisher, editor and other parties in a contract, respects privacy (for example, for research participants, for authors, for peer-reviewers), protects intellectual property and copyright, and fosters editorial independence.

The publisher works with journal editors to set journal policies appropriately and aims to meet such objectives, particularly with respect to:

- * Editorial independence.
- * Research ethics, including confidentiality, consent, and the special requirements for human and animal research.
- * Authorship.
- * Transparency and integrity (for example, conflicts of interest, research funding, reporting standards).
- * Peer-review and the role of editorial team beyond that of the journal editor.
- * Appeals and complaints.

Publisher works with journal editors to:

- * Communicate journal policies (for example, to authors, readers, peer reviewers).
- * Review journal policies periodically, particularly with respect to new recommendations from the *COPE Code of Conduct for Editors* and the *COPE Best Practice Guidelines*.
- * Maintain the integrity of the academic record.
- * Assist the parties (for example, institutions, grant funders, governing bodies) responsible for the investigation of suspected research and publication misconduct and, where possible, facilitate in the resolution of these cases.
- * Publish corrections, clarifications, and retractions.
- * Publish content on a timely basis.

III. Peer Review Process



The peer review of articles is a cornerstone of the publication process, which improves the publishing quality of our journals. Peer review is designed to select valid research of significant impact.

As a double-blind peer reviewed journal, we rely on expert comments of reviewers to ensure the quality of the papers we publish. Feedback from reviewers is conveyed to authors which frequently results in manuscripts being revised by the author and refined in order to reach the highest publishing quality.

Initial evaluation stage

All new submissions are screened for compliance with checklist requirements and adherence to the Authors Guide. The ones that pass are then evaluated by the Editor-in-Chief and Editorial Committee for consideration to assignment for peer review. Authors of rejected articles at initial evaluation stage will normally be informed within one month of receipt.

Peer review stage

Referring to our policy, each article is evaluated by two independent reviewers. Referees can either accept the article without any modification, with minor modifications, with substantial amendments, or reject the article.

Whilst the reviewers are selected by the editorial committee, the authors' names are not revealed in any way to the reviewers. The blinding of reviews is intended to favor a scholarly evaluation while fostering critical and honest reviews. Reviewers are asked to provide anonymous comments to the author and also given the option of providing confidential comments to the editor. Should the reviewers' reports contradict one another or a report is unduly delayed, a further expert opinion will be sought. Depending on the availability of reviewers, the peer review typically takes around two months.

Review decisions require authors to work on a revised version of their article based on the review comments and feedback. Authors would be given a timeframe of around a week or two, depending on the changes required. In case the required amendments are substantial, the author is granted a longer period, which may stretch up to a month and a half.

The Editor-in-Chief and the journal's Editorial Committee issue the final recommendations regarding the acceptance or rejection of a specific paper, in light of the peer reviewers' recommendations and opinions. The author is notified about the final decision within a period ranging between two months to a maximum of six months from the submission date.

Reviewer's role

Reviewing an article written by a fellow researcher is a time-consuming responsibility. Hence, IRL's Editorial Board, authors, and audiences appreciate your willingness to accept this responsibility and your dedication. IRL adheres to a double-blind peer review process that is rapid

and fair, and ensures a high quality of articles published. In so doing, IRL needs reviewers who can provide insightful and helpful comments on submitted articles with a turnaround time of about two weeks. Maintaining IRL as a scientific journal of high quality depends on reviewers' ability to be objective and fair in their evaluation of articles.

How the reviewers are selected

Selection of reviewers is critical to the publication process, and we base our choice on many criteria, including expertise, reputation, specific recommendations and our own previous experience of a reviewer. The reviewer is required to judge the quality of the research, analyze and assess the validity of its assumptions and assess the significance of the work to the field.

Using the online review system

The peer review and editorial processes are facilitated through Open Journal Systems (OJS), an online editorial system. The system sends the reviewer an email notification with a review request, initiated by the Editor-in-Chief. The online system will also notify about delays in the reviewing and confirm a successful review submission. The email notifications contain stepwise instructions about the actions needed at each stage along with the link to the respective manuscript (accessible only after login).

The Public Knowledge Project provides a free online course on [how to become a Reviewer](#) including guidance on the use of the OJS system. If you have additional questions or concerns, please contact the editorial team.

Accepted articles go through copyediting and typesetting prior to publication.

Writing the review report

The primary purpose of reviewing is to provide us the information needed to reach a decision. The review should also instruct the authors on how they can strengthen their paper to the point where it may be acceptable.

A negative review should explain to the authors the weaknesses of their manuscript, so that rejected authors can understand the basis for the decision and see in broad terms what needs to be done to improve the manuscript for publication.

Review reports are required to provide in-depth feedback on the following four points:

- 1- Scholarly quality: quality and depth of research; originality of the contribution including presence of new and creative thought; and validity and reliability of the argument.
- 2- Literary quality: writing style and structure, including paragraphing, language, syntax, and flow.
- 3- Use of resources: including over/under-referencing, sources quality, relationship of sources to the text.
- 4- Benefit to the readers and the advancement of the field.

Review Recommendation

Reviewers shall provide one of the following recommendations to the editor:

1- Accept submission:

The study and conclusions are sound and the manuscript is written clearly enough that it may be accepted without modifications.

2- Accept with minor revision:

The study requires some minor modifications or re-writing which could be addressed by the authors in a short timeframe to be acceptable for publication.

3- Substantial Revision:

The study needs significant re-writing, further research and improvement in order to be considered for publication. The review highlights gaps or the need for reorganization of the manuscript. The reviewer feels that the recommended modifications require another round of reviews.

4- Decline:

The study does not provide and reliable or valid information is of limited interest to the field or requires extensive additional research or thorough re-writing before being suitable for publication.

Promptness:

Any selected referee who feels unqualified to review the research reported in a manuscript or knows that its prompt review will be impossible should notify the editor and excuse himself from the review process.

Confidentiality:

Any manuscripts received for review must be treated as confidential documents. They must not be shown to, or discussed with others except as authorized by the editor. Privileged information or ideas obtained through peer review must be kept confidential and not used for personal advantage.

Standards of Objectivity:

Reviews should be conducted objectively. Personal criticism of the author is inappropriate. Referees should express their views clearly with supporting arguments.

Acknowledgement of Sources:

Reviewers should identify relevant published work that has not been cited by the authors. Any statement that an observation, derivation, or argument had been previously reported should be accompanied by the relevant citation. A reviewer should also call to the editor's attention any substantial similarity or overlap between the manuscript under consideration and any other published paper of which they have personal knowledge.

Conflict of interest and right of refusal:

Reviewers should refuse to review manuscripts in which they have conflicts of interest resulting from competitive, collaborative, or other relationships or connections with any of the authors, companies, or institutions connected to the papers.

Reviewers who feel not able to provide an objective judgement on the research reported in a manuscript should refuse to review the manuscript.

Handling ethical concerns

Sometimes as a reviewer, you may discover more serious ethical breaches. You may recognize much or all of the paper, because it has been published previously by the same authors. Alternatively, you may find text or ideas, which have been copied without permission or appropriate attribution from the works of others.

In the case of suspected duplicative publication or plagiarism, you should obtain and carefully examine copies of the original documents to confirm your initial impression. You should then contact us in confidence to discuss the problem.

QU Press follows the Code of Conduct of the Committee on Publication Ethics (COPE) and the COPE Flowcharts for Resolving Cases of Suspected Misconduct.



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