

TURKISH HISTORY EDUCATION JOURNAL (TUHED)
EDITORIAL BOARD – PAST TERM (2020–2024)
SUMMARY OF POLICY DECISIONS

Document Date: October 10, 2025

Purpose of the Document: This document summarizes the key policy decisions adopted by the *Turkish History Education Journal (TUHED)* Editorial Board over the past five years to enhance the journal's publication standards, ethical principles, and international visibility. These decisions reflect the journal's commitment to the principles of academic quality, transparency, and accountability, and are shared publicly as an indicator of that commitment.

Article 1: Requirement of Ethics Committee Approval

- **Decision Date:** February 25, 2020 (in accordance with the ULAKBİM directive)
 - **Effective Date:** Beginning with the 2020 publication period
 - **Decision Details:**

In compliance with the academic publishing criteria determined by TR Dizin, the Editorial Board has made it mandatory to obtain *Ethics Committee Approval* for all studies involving human participants (e.g., surveys, interviews, observations, experiments, etc.). Within this framework:

 1. Ethics Committee Approval must be obtained, and the approval document (including the institution, date, and decision number) must be uploaded to the system along with the manuscript submission.
 2. The approval information must be explicitly stated in the *Method* section of the article, as well as on the first and last pages.
 3. For studies that do not require ethics approval (e.g., literature reviews, archival research, analyses), this must be clearly declared in the *Method* section, along with the justification.
 4. Submissions that fail to meet these requirements will not be considered for scientific evaluation.
-

Article 2: Transition to Full-Text English Publication Policy

- **Effective Date:** Starting from the May 2021 issue
 - **Decision Details:**

To expand the journal's international readership and increase its global citation potential, the publication language policy has been updated accordingly:

 1. For all *Research–Review* and *Publication Critique* articles submitted in Turkish and accepted for publication after the peer-review process, authors are required to provide a full-text English translation for publication.
 2. Submissions made in English will continue to be processed entirely in English throughout the editorial and peer-review stages.
-

Article 3: Implementation of the “Early View” System

- **Effective Date:** January 2025
 - **Decision Details:**

Recognizing the importance of rapid dissemination of scientific knowledge, the Editorial Board has decided to modernize the journal’s publication workflow. Accordingly:

 1. Articles that have completed the peer-review and editorial processes and have been accepted for publication will be made available online as “*Early View*” articles prior to the release of the scheduled issue.
 2. Each early view article will be assigned a *DOI (Digital Object Identifier)* and preliminary page numbers consistent with international publishing standards to ensure full-text accessibility and citability.
-

Article 4: Update of Citation and Referencing Style to APA 7

- **Effective Date:** Starting from the May 2024 issue
 - **Decision Details:**

To ensure full compliance with international standards in academic writing and enhance textual consistency, the journal’s citation and referencing format has been revised:

 1. Beginning with the May 2024 issue, all publications are required to follow the *APA (American Psychological Association) 7th Edition* referencing and citation guidelines.
 2. All authors must prepare their submissions in accordance with the updated TUHED article template and *Author Guidelines*.
-

Article 5: Policy on Similarity Reports for Articles Derived from Theses

- **Effective Date:** Starting from the November 2024 issue
- **Rationale:**

The Editorial Board encourages the publication of high-quality academic articles derived from graduate theses, recognizing their valuable contribution to the accumulation of scholarly knowledge. However, it has been frequently observed that such articles exhibit high similarity rates (often exceeding 20%) with their original theses when analyzed through similarity detection software (e.g., *iThenticate*, *Turnitin*). Although this does not constitute plagiarism or an ethical violation, such cases often lead to manuscripts being unfairly rejected or authors being asked to make unnecessary revisions that are technically difficult to implement. To uphold academic integrity and ensure a fair evaluation process, the Editorial Board has adopted a revised procedure for handling similarity reports of thesis-derived manuscripts.
- **Decision:**
 1. If the author declares that the submitted manuscript is derived from a graduate thesis (including full thesis citation details: author, title, university, institute, year, and access number/link), the following special procedure will be applied in similarity assessment.

2. If the initial similarity report shows that the primary source of similarity is the author's own thesis, the editorial office will use the "exclude sources" feature of the similarity software to remove the thesis from the comparison database and generate a new report.
 3. The final decision regarding the manuscript's similarity rate will be based on this second (revised) report.
 4. The exclusion of the thesis does not mean that other sources will be disregarded; the total similarity rate after excluding the thesis must still remain below the journal's threshold of 20%.
 5. To ensure transparency, this new policy will be publicly announced under the "*Ethical Principles and Publication Policy*" section of the journal's website.
-

Article 6:

Effective Date: For issues published after May 2025

Agenda Item: Determining the scope of transparency policy in the article acceptance/rejection process and the information to be made publicly available.

Justification (Explanation):

At the Editorial Board meeting, in line with the journal's principles of transparency and accountability, the procedure for publicly disclosing acceptance and rejection decisions was discussed. The practice of some academic journals, which include the titles of accepted or rejected articles in their editorial board minutes, was examined.

Following deliberations, a consensus was reached that publicly announcing article titles and author names could be potentially embarrassing, demeaning, and a violation of academic confidentiality, particularly for authors of rejected submissions. It was emphasized that the core mission of our journal is to provide a constructive and supportive academic platform, and such a practice would conflict with this mission.

Accordingly, it was decided to pursue a balanced approach that ensures transparency while safeguarding author rights and academic ethics.

Resolution:

1. To ensure respect for author privacy and academic ethical principles, the titles, author names, or any information that may reveal the identity of authors of accepted or rejected manuscripts shall **not be published** in the publicly available editorial board minutes or on the journal's website.
2. In accordance with the journal's editorial policy, the final acceptance or rejection decision for all manuscripts that have completed the peer review process shall continue to be made **exclusively by the Editorial Board**.
3. To uphold transparency and accountability, future editorial board minutes shall include **only statistical data** regarding the number of manuscripts accepted, rejected, or requested for revision during the relevant evaluation period, **without disclosing individual manuscript details**.

This policy was **adopted unanimously** by the Editorial Board.

The above policy decisions represent part of the TUHED Editorial Board's vision to strengthen the journal's academic reputation, reliability, and effectiveness both nationally and internationally.

Respectfully,

On behalf of the TUHED Editorial Board,

Prof. Dr. Ahmet ŞİMŞEK

Editor-in-Chief