DESCRIPTION

*Food Policy* is a multidisciplinary journal publishing original research and novel evidence on issues in the formulation, implementation, and evaluation of *policies* for the *food sector* in developing, transition, and advanced economies.

Our main focus is on the economic and social aspect of food policy, and we prioritize empirical studies informing international food policy debates. Provided that articles make a clear and explicit contribution to food policy debates of international interest, we consider papers from any of the social sciences. Papers from other disciplines (e.g., law) will be considered only if they provide a key policy contribution, and are written in a style which is accessible to a social science readership.

Policy issues that are relevant to the journal include:
- Food production, trade, marketing, and consumption
- Nutrition and health aspects of food systems
- Food needs, entitlements, security, and aid
- Food safety and quality assurance
- Technological and institutional innovation affecting food systems and access
- Food systems and environmental sustainability

Conceptual and methodological articles should be written so that they are accessible to the journal's diverse international readership. We normally do not publish review papers, although we might make rare exceptions for rigorous and critical reviews on topical issues.

AUDIENCE

Academics and practitioners involved in work related to food policy, in particular agricultural and development economists, nutritionists, political scientists, sociologists, agricultural and food scientists, and public policy analysts.

IMPACT FACTOR

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INTRODUCTION

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Our main focus is on the economic and social aspect of food policy, and we prioritize empirical studies informing international food policy debates. Provided that articles make a clear and explicit contribution to food policy debates of international interest, we consider papers from any of the social sciences. Papers from other disciplines (e.g., law) will be considered only if they provide a key policy contribution, and are written in a style which is accessible to a social science readership.

Policy issues that are relevant to the journal include: "Food production, trade, marketing, and consumption" Nutrition and health aspects of food systems "Food needs, entitlements, security, and aid" Food safety and quality assurance "Technological and institutional innovation affecting food systems and access" Food systems and environmental sustainability

Conceptual and methodological articles should be written so that they are accessible to the journal's diverse international readership. We normally do not publish review papers, although we might make rare exceptions for rigorous and critical reviews on topical issues.

Requirement
Food Policy receives upward of 800 submissions per year. Therefore, all new submissions will be assessed against the following checklist before being sent out for review:
Originality All papers should be fully original. This means that there should be no overlap in text already published in other outlets, even if from the same authors. In most situations, this also excludes situations where papers have been published on the same topic and data, even if a different subset of information is used in the submission. Given that our aim is to look at the policy implications, the whole set of information relevant to the policy should be considered. Authors should note that we run "similarity" checks for each incoming manuscript, and manuscripts deemed to contain plagiarism will be desk rejected, with the editors of Food Policy reserving the right to notify the supervisors of authors whose work is plagiarized. Contribution to the international food policy debate All submitted papers should have a clear focus on one or more food policies, and provide a relevant contribution to the food policy debate at the international level. The introduction should contain adequate information on the food policy background, and the current knowledge about the policy, and a specific section dealing with the Policy implications of the research findings. Again, exceptions may be made for highly innovative methodological papers, which could guide future policy-relevant applications. Geographical scope Papers with a limited geographical scope (e.g. local, regional) are acceptable if their findings (or methods) are very innovative, if the results are generalizable to other situations, and if they are discussed with a broader perspective than the case study itself. These generalizations should be explicitly discussed in the Policy implications section. Formatting Papers should be double-spaced. Papers that are not double-spaced will be desk rejected.

Types of Contribution
A typical Food Policy article is around 6,000-10,000 words in length, although longer articles may be accepted on an occasional basis if the topic demands this length of treatment. These word lengths are for the complete submission, including abstract, end notes, tables, references and appendices.

Review and Viewpoint articles: We are receiving an unprecedented number of review articles and are tightening up our criteria regarding the review papers we send out for peer review, which represent only about 10% of the review papers we receive.
In order to be considered, review articles are expected to address critically important areas, demonstrate rigour in the search and review process, and add substantial value to the literature. Reviews should lead to clear policy implications which need to be addressed in a specific section of the paper. Review article submissions that are not judged to meet all these criteria are likely to be desk-rejected.

For some example guidance on rigorous reviews, see see here.

Food Policy does occasionally publish conceptual articles, thought-pieces and commentaries by leading researchers under the "Viewpoint" article category. However, these articles are by invitation only.

Experimental, simulation and theoretical studies:

A large proportion of submissions we receive is based experimental data (e.g. choice experiments), on simulation models, or purely theoretical papers, and many are desk rejected. In order to be considered for publication these studies must rely on realistic or tested assumptions, and produce robust, valid and generalizable findings, which are relevant to the food policy debate.

Quantitative/modelling papers:

We privilege empirical (quantitative) contributions, which should be based on good quality measurements and representative data (free from obvious selection biases) and show the validity and robustness of the findings. Econometric methods should be presented in a transparent way, together with a justification of the methodological choice. Empirical analyses should be replicable, and discuss robustness to the model/method assumptions. Papers that rely on computable general equilibrium models will typically only be considered for publication in exceptional cases.

Null results

Papers can be considered even with null results, provided that the study is innovative, the analysis is well-designed, all data collection and modelling steps are taken in a rigorous scientific manner, the results and findings are discussed with a critical perspective in relation to other studies, and the authors have conducted all relevant robustness checks.

Qualitative research

We consider findings based on qualitative research, to the extent that the method allows one to shed original light on policy issues and relevant aspects of the food system, hence providing novel and useful information to the food policy debate. Qualitative research methods should follow rigorous scientific protocols just as much as quantitative papers.

Submission checklist

You can use this list to carry out a final check of your submission before you send it to the journal for review. Please check the relevant section in this Guide for Authors for more details.

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Accordingly, users need to keep their contact coordinates on the registration page up-to-date, using the "UPDATE MY INFORMATION" option.

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The editors of Food Policy welcome proposals for special issues on topics that fall within the scope of the journal. Please click here to see the aims and scope of Food Policy.

Each special issue is the responsibility of guest editor(s). Those wishing to guest edit a special issue should prepare a proposal as outlined below, then send this to foodpolicy@unibo.it.

As Food Policy is only able to publish one to two special issues per year, the editors will seek to identify the proposals of the highest quality for publication by the following competitive process. There are two deadlines each year for submission of special issue proposals: April 15th and October 15th. As soon as possible after each of these dates, the editors of Food Policy will consider all special issue proposals that conform to the journal's guidelines and which have been received in the previous six-month period, up to close of business on the deadline date. All potential guest editors who have submitted proposals will be informed by e-mail of the success or otherwise of their proposal.

For prospective Guest editors please see the guidelines for the process by which the editors will select special issues:

Guidelines for Guest Editors of Food Policy Special Issues.
PREPARATION

NEW SUBMISSIONS
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Divide your article into clearly defined and numbered sections. Subsections should be numbered 1.1 (then 1.1.1, 1.1.2, ...), 1.2, etc. (the abstract is not included in section numbering). Use this numbering also for internal cross-referencing: do not just refer to 'the text'. Any subsection may be given a brief heading. Each heading should appear on its own separate line.

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If there is more than one appendix, they should be identified as A, B, etc. Formulae and equations in appendices should be given separate numbering: Eq. (A.1), Eq. (A.2), etc.; in a subsequent appendix, Eq. (B.1) and so on. Similarly for tables and figures: Table A.1; Fig. A.1, etc.

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