FOOD POLICY

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 We normally do not publish review papers, although we might make rare exceptions for rigorous and critical reviews on topical issues.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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GUIDE FOR AUTHORS

Your Paper Your Way

We now differentiate between the requirements for new and revised submissions. You may choose to submit your manuscript as a single Word or PDF file to be used in the refereeing process. Only when your paper is at the revision stage, will you be requested to put your paper in to a "correct format" for acceptance and provide the items required for the publication of your article.

To find out more, please visit the Preparation section below.

INTRODUCTION

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. Authors who submit to Food Policy implicitly agree to the conditions laid out in this Guide for Authors. Lack of compliance with these conditions will result in the Editors rejecting an article for publication, or in rescinding their decision to accept a manuscript.

Our 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, food science) 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. Articles that are primarily of a technical nature, and wherein the food policy content is merely incidental, will be desk rejected. We do not publish book reviews.

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 innovations affecting food systems and access; food systems and environmental sustainability; food systems and climate change; empirical evidence on the impact of policies affecting the food sector.

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. Unsolicited review articles are likely to get desk rejected.

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 policy, 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 both the introduction and the paper should have 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 or only one country whose contribution to the application is negligible) 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.

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: Review and Viewpoint articles are published by invitation only. Unsolicited reviews and viewpoints will be desk rejected.

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, please see here.

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

Experimental, simulation and theoretical studies:

A large proportion of submissions we receive is based on experimental data (e.g. choice experiments), on simulations (e.g., CGE models), or are purely theoretical. In order not to get desk rejected, papers that fall in these categories must be highly innovative in the questions they tackle. 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. Papers that rely on computable general equilibrium models will typically only be considered for publication in exceptional cases.

Quantitative/modelling papers:

We privilege empirical (quantitative) contributions, which should be based on good quality measurements and representative data (free from obvious 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. We do not publish systems dynamics articles.

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.

Ensure that the following items are present:

One author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:

• E-mail address
• Full postal address

All necessary files have been uploaded:

Manuscript:

• Include keywords
• All figures (include relevant captions)
• All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
• Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided
• Indicate clearly if color should be used for any figures in print

Graphical Abstracts / Highlights files (where applicable)
Supplemental files (where applicable)

Further considerations
• Food Policy publishes manuscript in English only. Manuscripts where the English leaves some to be desired will not be sent out for review. We ask authors to spell-check their manuscripts before they submit, and we ask authors to have their manuscripts proofread and copy-edited before they submit.
• All references mentioned in the Reference List are cited in the text, and vice versa
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• A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
• Journal policies detailed in this guide have been reviewed
• Referee suggestions and contact details provided, based on journal requirements

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BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Ethics in publishing
Please see our information pages on Ethics in publishing and Ethical guidelines for journal publication.

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Submission declaration and verification
Submission of an article implies that the work described has not been published previously (except in the form of an abstract, a published lecture or academic thesis, see 'multiple, redundant or concurrent publication' for more information), that it is not under consideration for publication elsewhere, that its publication is approved by all authors and tacitly or explicitly by the responsible authorities where the work was carried out, and that, if accepted, it will not be published elsewhere in the same form, in English or in any other language, including electronically without the written consent of the copyright-holder. To verify originality, your article may be checked by the originality detection service Crossref Similarity Check.

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Inclusive language acknowledges diversity, conveys respect to all people, is sensitive to differences, and promotes equal opportunities. Content should make no assumptions about the beliefs or commitments of any reader; contain nothing which might imply that one individual is superior to another on the grounds of age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition; and use inclusive language throughout. Authors should ensure that writing is free from bias, stereotypes, slang, reference to dominant culture and/or cultural assumptions. We advise to seek gender neutrality by using plural nouns ("clinicians, patients/clients") as default/wherever possible to avoid using "he, she," or "he/she." We recommend avoiding the use of descriptors that refer to personal attributes such as age, gender, race, ethnicity, culture, sexual orientation, disability or health condition unless they are relevant and valid. These guidelines are meant as a point of reference to help identify appropriate language but are by no means exhaustive or definitive.
Author contributions
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Upon acceptance of an article, this journal encourages and enables authors to share data that supports their research publication where appropriate, and enables them to interlink the data with their published articles. Research data refers to the results of observations or experimentation that validate research findings. To facilitate reproducibility and data reuse, this journal also encourages you to share your software, code, models, algorithms, protocols, methods and other useful materials related to the project.
Below are a number of ways in which authors can associate data with their article or make a statement about the availability of their data when submitting a manuscript. If authors are sharing data in one of these ways, they are encouraged to cite the data in your manuscript and reference list. Please refer to the "References" section for more information about data citation. For more information on depositing, sharing and using research data and other relevant research materials, visit the research data page.

**Data provided as supplementary material**

Authors may upload small data-sets as supplementary files accompanying the manuscript. (see the Supplementary Material paragraph below). Data should be provided in a format which makes reusability easy (e.g. spreadsheets, ASCII data, Stata or SPSS files, etc.).

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**Keywords**

Immediately after the abstract, provide a maximum of 6 keywords, using either British or American spelling, but be consistent, and avoiding general and plural terms and multiple concepts (avoid, for example, "and", "of"). Be sparing with abbreviations: only abbreviations firmly established in the field may be eligible. These keywords will be used for indexing purposes.

**Submission**

Our online submission system guides you stepwise through the process of entering your article details and uploading your files. The system converts your article files to a single PDF file used in the peer-review process. Editable files (e.g., Word, LaTeX) are required to typeset your article for final publication. All correspondence, including notification of the Editor's decision and requests for revision, is sent by e-mail.

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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**Special Issues**

The editors of Food Policy welcome proposals for special issues on topics that fall within the scope of the journal. Prospective Guest editors should refer to the journal special issue guidelines here before sending a proposal to foodpolicy@unibo.it

**PREPARATION**

**NEW SUBMISSIONS**

Submission to this journal proceeds entirely online and you will be guided stepwise through the creation and uploading of your files. The system automatically converts your files to a single PDF file, which is used in the peer-review process.

As part of the Your Paper Your Way service, you may choose to submit your manuscript as a single file to be used in the refereeing process. This can be a PDF file or a Word document, in any format or layout that can be used by referees to evaluate your manuscript. It should contain high enough quality figures for refereeing. If you prefer to do so, you may still provide all or some of the source files at the initial submission. Please note that individual figure files larger than 10 MB must be uploaded separately.
References
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Formatting requirements
Please use double line spacing for all text, in order to facilitate the reviewing and editorial works. There are no other strict formatting requirements but all manuscripts must contain the essential elements needed to convey your manuscript, for example Abstract, Keywords, Introduction, Materials and Methods, Results, Conclusions, Artwork and Tables with Captions.
If your article includes any Videos and/or other Supplementary material, this should be included in your initial submission for peer review purposes.
Divide the article into clearly defined sections.

Policy implications
Food Policy requires new submissions to have an explicit section named Policy Implications, or - as an alternative - a Discussion section with a Policy Implications sub-section. Here authors should discuss the policy implications of the empirical results of the study; this should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. If the same policy issues have been covered in previous research published in Food Policy, the discussion should explicitly refer to these studies and highlight consistencies and conflicts.

Figures and tables embedded in text
Please ensure the figures and the tables included in the single file are placed next to the relevant text in the manuscript, rather than at the bottom or the top of the file. The corresponding caption should be placed directly below the figure or table.

Peer review
This journal operates a single blind review process. All contributions will be initially assessed by the editor for suitability for the journal. Papers deemed suitable are then typically sent to a minimum of two independent expert reviewers to assess the scientific quality of the paper. The Editor is responsible for the final decision regarding acceptance or rejection of articles. The Editor's decision is final. More information on types of peer review.

REVISED SUBMISSIONS
Use of word processing software
Regardless of the file format of the original submission, at revision you must provide us with an editable file of the entire article. Keep the layout of the text as simple as possible. Most formatting codes will be removed and replaced on processing the article. The electronic text should be prepared in a way very similar to that of conventional manuscripts (see also the Guide to Publishing with Elsevier). See also the section on Electronic artwork.
To avoid unnecessary errors you are strongly advised to use the 'spell-check' and 'grammar-check' functions of your word processor.

Article structure
Subdivision - numbered sections
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.

Introduction
State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results. This section should explicitly refer to the policy relevance of the paper, and describe the state-of-the-art evidence basis.

Theory
A Theory section, if relevant to the paper, should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. This section covers the theoretical background, the assumption and the definitions behind the empirical strategy.

Methodology
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**Empirical application**
This section describes in full details the empirical application. It should be consistent with the theoretical specification and estimation methodology and provide sufficient details on the empirical setting of the study, and on the data. More specifically, all papers should include a detailed description of the data sources and allow a thorough assessment of the quality of the data. This implies discussing measurement issues, validation of measurement instruments (e.g. questionnaire items) if data are collected ad hoc for the study, and an in-depth discussion of sampling and non-sampling measurement errors. Essential descriptive statistics on the data should be provided in this section. Authors may consider the opportunity of having sub-sections (e.g. Data, Sampling strategy, Questionnaire, etc.).

**Results**
Results should be clear and concise. Tables and Graphs should be self-explanatory, with appropriate (concise) titles, and all the necessary/detailed information as notes below the table/graph. The size and number of tables should ensure readability and authors should make an effort to separate essential information from additional estimation outputs. The latter can be included as on-line Supplementary Material as pdf or Excel files.

**Policy Implications**
The discussion of the results does not necessarily require a separate Discussion section, and could be combined within the Results section. However, Food Policy requires an explicit section named Policy Implications, or - as an alternative - a Discussion section with a Policy Implications sub-section. Here authors should discuss the policy implications of the empirical results as they logically follow from the elements of policy relevance covered in the introduction. This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. If the same policy issues have been covered in previous research published in Food Policy, the discussion should explicitly refer to these studies and highlight consistencies and conflicts.

**Conclusions**
The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section.

**Appendices**
Appendices should include relevant additional results or cover theoretical or methodological issues that were not included in the main text to improve the readability of the paper. Additional/relevant output which is not central to the objectives of the study should be rather provided as on-line Supplementary Material (see the specific paragraph below). 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.

**Essential title page information**
- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible. In general, the country or geographical scope of the study should not be the main element of the title, as the target of *Food Policy* is to present empirical evidence that informs the international food policy debate.
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Highlights are mandatory for this journal as they help increase the discoverability of your article via search engines. They consist of a short collection of bullet points that capture the novel results of your research as well as new methods that were used during the study (if any). Please have a look at the examples here: example Highlights.

Highlights should be submitted in a separate editable file in the online submission system. Please use 'Highlights' in the file name and include 3 to 5 bullet points (maximum 85 characters, including spaces, per bullet point).

**Abstract**

A concise and factual abstract of 100-250 words is required. The abstract should state briefly the purpose of the research, the principal results and major conclusions. An abstract is often presented separately from the article, so it must be able to stand alone. For this reason, references should be avoided, but if essential, then cite just the author(s) and year(s). Also, non-standard or uncommon abbreviations should be avoided, but if essential they must be defined at their first mention in the abstract itself. *Food Policy* does not publish structured abstracts.

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Although a graphical abstract is optional, its use is encouraged as it draws more attention to the online article. The graphical abstract should summarize the contents of the article in a concise, pictorial form designed to capture the attention of a wide readership. Graphical abstracts should be submitted as a separate file in the online submission system. Image size: Please provide an image with a minimum of 531 × 1328 pixels (h × w) or proportionally more. The image should be readable at a size of 5 × 13 cm using a regular screen resolution of 96 dpi. Preferred file types: TIFF, EPS, PDF or MS Office files. You can view Example Graphical Abstracts on our information site. Authors can make use of Elsevier's Illustration Services to ensure the best presentation of their images and in accordance with all technical requirements.

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**Acknowledgements**

Please include acknowledgments on the title page, along with the information on author affiliations, that is not sent to reviewers. List here those individuals who have commented on earlier versions of the paper or provided help during the research (e.g., providing language help, writing assistance or proof reading the article, etc.).

**Formatting of funding sources**

List funding sources in this standard way to facilitate compliance to funder's requirements:

Funding: This work was supported by the National Institutes of Health [grant numbers xxxx, yyyy]; the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation, Seattle, WA [grant number zzzz]; and the United States Institutes of Peace [grant number aaaa].

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If no funding has been provided for the research, please include the following sentence:

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Please submit math equations as editable text and not as images. Present simple formulae in line with normal text where possible and use the solidus (/) instead of a horizontal line for small fractional terms, e.g., X/Y. In principle, variables are to be presented in italics. Powers of e are often more conveniently denoted by exp. Number consecutively any equations that have to be displayed separately from the text (if referred to explicitly in the text).

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General points
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- Number the illustrations according to their sequence in the text.
- Use a logical naming convention for your artwork files.
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described elsewhere in the article. Please avoid using vertical rules and shading in table cells. Tables should be self-explanatory, with an informative, but concise, title. Table notes should provide all elements required to understand the figures in the table.

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Citation in text
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