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 We normally do not publish review papers, although we might make rare exceptions for rigorous and critical reviews on topical issues.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

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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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All necessary files have been uploaded:

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- A competing interests statement is provided, even if the authors have no competing interests to declare
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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.

A direct link to the online submission, [click here](#)

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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.](#)

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There are no strict requirements on reference formatting at submission. References can be in any style or format as long as the style is consistent. Where applicable, author(s) name(s), journal title/book title, chapter title/article title, year of publication, volume number/book chapter and the pagination must be present. Use of DOI is highly encouraged. The reference style used by the journal will be applied to the accepted article by Elsevier at the proof stage. Note that missing data will be highlighted at proof stage for the author to correct.

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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.

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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.

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This journal operates a double 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.](#)

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Introduction

State the objectives of the work and provide an adequate background, avoiding a detailed literature survey or a summary of the results.

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Theory/calculation

A Theory section should extend, not repeat, the background to the article already dealt with in the Introduction and lay the foundation for further work. In contrast, a Calculation section represents a practical development from a theoretical basis.

Results

Results should be clear and concise.

Discussion

This should explore the significance of the results of the work, not repeat them. A combined Results and Discussion section is often appropriate. Avoid extensive citations and discussion of published literature.

Conclusions

The main conclusions of the study may be presented in a short Conclusions section, which may stand alone or form a subsection of a Discussion or Results and Discussion section.

Appendices

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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- **Title.** Concise and informative. Titles are often used in information-retrieval systems. Avoid abbreviations and formulae where possible.
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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.

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

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