

## Guiding Principles of Research Integrity and Conflicts of Interest

The Swiss Finance Institute (SFI) is a private foundation created in 2006 by Switzerland's banking and finance community in cooperation with leading Swiss universities. It supports and advances research, doctoral training, and executive education in banking and finance. The Institute is supported by the Swiss banks, the Swiss Stock Exchange, Swiss universities, and the Swiss Federal Government. Any person engaged in research for SFI is expected to follow the highest professional and academic standards.

In pursuance of such high standards it is expected that researchers shall:

- take steps to acquaint themselves with all available guidance as to 'best practice' regarding principles of research integrity and conflicts of interest relevant to any part of their work;
- remain honest, reliable, objective, impartial, and independent in their research;
- document their findings and results openly and accessibly;
- practice strict honesty with regard to their own contributions to their work, remain fair in providing references, and give adequate credit to the contributions of others;
- understand their responsibility for future generations of scientists and act accordingly;
- take steps to ensure a working environment that promotes professional integrity;
- avoid conflicts of interest and, if a conflict cannot be prevented, communicate all relevant information to those concerned.

As part of its mission, SFI encourages researcher interactions with practitioners and policymakers as these can be beneficial to the research process and are part of the obligations of researchers for society. In this context, SFI believes that it is generally best for the credibility and impact of scientific work that authors and researchers disclose the sources of support for their research as well as any related material and personal relationships of themselves or their immediate family that could be considered a conflict of interest.

Thus, it is expected from authors and researchers that, in every report, research paper, and publication, they:

- state the sources of financial support for the particular research it describes; if none, that fact should be stated;
- disclose each interested party from whom they have received significant financial support, summing to at least CHF 10'000 in the past three years, in the form of consultant fees, retainers, grants, and the like. This also includes in-kind support, such as providing access to data. If the support in question comes with a non-disclosure obligation, that fact should be stated, along with as much information as the obligation permits. An "interested" party is any individual, group, or organization that has a financial, ideological, or political stake related to the article. If there are no such sources of funds, that fact should be stated;
- each author should disclose any paid or unpaid positions as officer, director, or board member of relevant non-profit organizations or profit-making entities. A

“relevant” organization or entity is one whose policy positions, goals, or financial interests relate to the article;

- all the disclosures required above apply to any close relative or partner of any author;
- each author must disclose if another party had the right to review the paper prior to its circulation.

Each person engaged in research for SFI shall avoid the occurrence of all forms of scientific misconduct. Most notably scientific misconduct includes, but is not limited to, deliberate or grossly negligent:

- fabrication of research results and the misrepresentation of such results as actual findings;
- falsification of data by way of manipulating, modifying or omitting actual results;
- breaches of intellectual property rights of others;
- wrongful appropriation or imitation of the work of others or one’s own or utilization of any such work through false claims of authorship or without giving adequate credit (plagiarism);
- publication, utilization or misrepresentation of the work of subordinates as one’s own work;
- failure to provide fair and transparent peer-review to third parties.

Researchers are expected to respect and uphold any special standards and requirements of scientific performance and ethical practices imposed by law, contract, professional bodies or SFI in relation to particular categories of research or individual projects.

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