

Panel (17) meeting 19.11.2025

Place: Teams

Present: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen (chair), Päivi Armila, Vladimir Gel'man, J. Tuomas Harviainen, Ville Kellokumpu, Tuija Koivunen, Christian Kroll, Krista Lagus, Mervi Luonila, Inari Sakki, Anu Sivunen, Dominic Stead, Riikka Turtiainen, Turo Uskali, Veli-Matti Karhulahti

Absent: Reetta Muhonen

Secretariat: Leena Wahlfors and Anna-Kaarina Linna

1. Opening

The Chair opened the meeting at 9.01

2. Announcements

There were no announcements.

3. Announcement of engagements

Panelists must always disclose any potential conflicts of interest, especially when the panel is discussing a publication channel with which the panelist has had – or continues to have – close ties in the form of publication, editorial work, financial interest, or other influence. These ties include, at a minimum, the panelist having, within the last five years:

- published in the channel in question more than once,
- served as an editor or member of the editorial board of the channel,
- owned shares in the publishing company or a comparable organization, or
- held another position that could cause financial or interest conflicts.

Disclosure does not automatically prevent participation in decision-making, but the panel must take the ties into account in the evaluation process. ([Handbook 2025 - 2028.](#))

Please find the list at the end of the document (Appendix 1).

It was noted that it is logical that panelists publish in the same channels that they also evaluate, and that it is not a problem as such. The purpose of the statement is to increase transparency. The secretariat will propose the Steering group (the meeting of 27.11.2025) the wording to be changed as following: “The Panelist must report the panel if the channel has exceptional significance for the panelist’s publication activity”.

4. The Development of JUFO Classification

The development of the Publication Forum classification is part of the Forum's long-term operational and development plan. As part of this work, the Publication Forum Steering Group decided at its meeting on 8 September 2025 that:

A. Structure of the Classification

- In the Publication Forum (JUFO) classification, the designation “*Level 0*” will be discontinued. Instead, the category “*other identified publication channels*” will be used for scholarly publication channels that are not classified at Levels 1, 2, or 3, and that are not designated as professional or popular publication channels.
- From the beginning of 2026, evaluation panels will no longer assign publication channels to Level 3. Information on Level 3 will be removed from the JUFO portal at the beginning of 2027, when the updated classification is published.

Implementation:

- Update the website and the Panel Member's Handbook by the end of 2025.
- Apply the necessary changes to the panel-specific Excel templates used in the evaluation update at the beginning of 2026.
- Apply the necessary changes to the publication channel database and JUFO portal by the end of 2026.

B. Classification Criteria

Changes to level 1 criteria:

- Criterion 2 (Transparency):
Current wording: “The publication channel's website provides a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. (A book publisher may meet Level 1 criteria even if the editorial board and peer review process are not described on the website.)” -> Revised wording: “The publication channel's website provides a transparent description of the editorial board and the peer review process. This applies also to book publishers.”
- Criterion 7 (Relevance) will be divided into two separate criteria:
 - 7. Relevance: The publication channel is central from the perspective of its discipline's international or Finnish research community.
 - 8. Thoroughness: The primary objective of the publication channel is to promote and ensure scholarly quality, and its editorial and peer review practices are careful and reliable. A [checklist](#) of practices identified as problematic may be used as a support tool in the assessment.

Changes to Level 2 criteria:

- A new (fourth) criterion will be added: The publication channel enables immediate open access (either via the service itself or through self-archiving).

- From the specific criteria for Finnish- and Swedish-language publication channels, the criterion “Research questions are strongly contextualised within Finnish society or Finnish- and Swedish-language culture” will be removed.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

C. Quotas and Calculation of Publication Volume

Quotas for publication series and book publishers will no longer take Level 3 into account. Consequently:

- The combined publication volume of series classified at Level 2 may amount to no more than 25% of the total publication volume of all series within the panel (Levels 1–2 combined).
- The list of book publishers is shared across all panels. Selections for Level 2 are made jointly by the panel chairs. Approximately 100 publishers across all fields may be classified at Level 2. Quotas are thus determined by the number of publishers, not by their publication output.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

D. Aspects to be Considered in Evaluation

In the Panel Member’s Handbook, Chapter 3.6 *Aspects to be considered in evaluation* will be updated as follows when there are equally influential and respected publication channels in the same field under consideration for level 2:

3.6.6 Publication channels of scholarly societies (formerly “Closed society publication channels”):

- The title will be changed to “*Publication channels of scholarly societies*”.
- If there are equally influential and respected publication channels under consideration for Level 2, preference will be given to those published by scholarly societies. Publication channels that require society membership in order to publish (closed society journals) cannot be accepted at Level 2.

Implementation: Update the website and the Panel Member’s Handbook by the end of 2025.

Discussion:

The secretariat explained the ground for the Change of level 0: The new designation is considered to be more neutral way to communicate in different contexts about identified publication channels that have not been approved to level 1. Level 0 channels are generally associated with the perception that they are of poor quality in one way or another, or have characteristics of

predatory journals. In fact, the Level 0 is very heterogeneous. It includes channels that are properly peer-reviewed but local, new, or located at the interface between scientific and general audience publishing. Originally, JUFO classification did not have level 0 but this name was introduced by the Ministry in the Universities Act in 2014.

It was noted that there has long been a debate for and against maintaining level 3. The following reasons were given by the Steering Group for abandoning the Level 3 and merging it with the Level 2:

- Originally, JUFO classification had only levels 1 and 2. Level 3 was introduced in 2011 because level quotas were based on number journal titles, wherefore in some fields it was felt that level 2 was too broad and further differentiation was needed in form of level 3. Since 2014, level quotas have been calculated based on publication volume, which made levels 2 and 3 more exclusive and difficult to balance with journal quality and size across various subfields. This means that in many panels level 3 involves unhappy compromises.
- From the perspective of panelists and stakeholders, the distinction between levels 2 and 3 is the least important and credible according to surveys of panelists and stakeholders.
- Level 3 treats main field more unequally than combined level 2 and 3.
- Level 3 plays an important role when JUFO classification is misused for assessing individuals, which is not appropriate. In that sense it has been well-founded to reduce the hierarchy of the structure to reduce anxiety related to producing level 3 publications.
- Abandoning level 3 will reduce the work of the panels in the four-yearly update assessment, so more effort can be put on assessment on levels 1 and 2.

It was also mentioned that the removal of level 3 will not effect the current universities' funding model for 2025-2028. Funding for the year 2028 will be calculated in June 2027 based on the combined results of the previous three publication years (2024–2026).

It was clarified that in the new level 2, panels may not include so many series that their combined number of publications (publication volume) would exceed 25 % of the total (number) volume of publications of all level 1 and 2 series in the panel's list. This level quota restriction ensures that level 2 represents only the top of the field, and that not too large a share of publications can be placed on level 2 compared to other panels.

The panel held discussion on changes to the level 1 and level 2 criteria. Particular attention was paid to the new (fourth) criterion in level 2: “The publication channel allows immediate open access.” It was noted that for example the Nature Review has six months embargo, and accordingly does not allow immediate openness.

The Secretariat noted that during the autumn panel meetings, there has been an extensive discussion on the interpretation and implications of this criterion. It has been discussed, for example, whether the openness policy supports an open publishing business model in which high APC fees are a condition for openness. The openness criterion has also been criticized for ignoring high-quality domestic and international publishers who have not switched to open publishing but continue to publish printed material. The panels have expressed concern that openness may take precedence over scientific excellence as a criterion.

The criterion of openness will be brought to the Steering Group of 27.11.2025.

5. Preparation for the Spring 2026 evaluation round

In the Spring evaluation round, the panels can classify leading publication channels in different fields into level 2. This level is reassessed every four years.

The scientific community is invited to submit proposals for classification to support the evaluation work of the panels. Members of the scientific community can influence the evaluation of publication channels by submitting proposals for changes to the current levels of publication channels by the end of February via the JUFO portal.

The JUFO panelists evaluate the channels within their area of expertise and submit their key proposals for changes (downgrades and upgrades) to level 2 in the JUFO portal by the end of February.

In May 6, 2026 the panels will prepare a new preliminary level classification proposal, which will be finalized during the fall.

The required data materials for the panels are produced before the panel evaluations, including panel-specific Excel sheets that contain the channels to be evaluated, publication volume data, and statistics by scientific discipline classification.

More information after Panel Chair Meeting of 27.11.2025

The matter was recorded for information.

6. Evaluation of grey area publication channels in the Publication Forum

Within the Publication Forum, there has long been discussion about so-called grey zone journals, which are not outright predatory journals, but which seek to maximise publication output with the least possible investment in editorial work and quality assurance. This business model is designed to maximise financial returns from article processing charges (APCs).

The Secretariat has continued work on clarifying assessment of grey zone channels by developing the [Checklist](#) to support the documentation and coherent consideration of problematic practices.

In line with a decision of the Steering Group, **panels are asked to give their views on whether there is a need to establish an Ethics Expert Group of the Publication Forum to promote coherent identification and treatment of grey zone and predatory journals across panels.** The group would be composed primarily of panel members, but external domestic and international experts could also be invited if needed.

The task of the Expert Group, in collaboration with the JUFO Secretariat and the panels, would be to:

- Develop the checklist of problematic publishing practices and the documentation of such practices,
- Clarify how problematic practices should be considered in the assessment of channels and in the justifications for decisions, and
- Compile and provide information on problematic practices in publication channels for the panels, the Steering Group, and the research community.

The Expert Group would not evaluate individual publication channels assigned to the panels, but the panels could, if necessary, consult the group on individual cases. The responsibility for classification decisions would remain with the panels.

The JUFO Secretariat would coordinate and facilitate the group's work by providing background information and by relaying observations and experiences received from the research community, for example through the address saalistajat@julkaisufoorumi.fi.

The panel saw that there is no need to establish an ethical expert group. It was noted that the Check list needs improvements, especially chapters 1, 5, and 7, and the secretariat is happy to receive any comments or proposals to the list.

7. The use of AI in scientific publishing

In its meeting on May 5, 2025, the Publication Forum Steering Group decided that the secretariat will prepare a study on the use of artificial intelligence (AI) in the scientific publication process. Based on this decision, a [survey](#) has been sent to

panelists to assess the utilization of AI in scientific publishing, including related practices, experiences, and perspectives.

The study, which will be based on survey responses, panel discussions, and a literature review, is scheduled for completion in early 2026. All data used in the study will be anonymized.

Panelists are encouraged to respond to the survey. Warm thanks to those who have already responded.

The matter was recorded for information.

8. Other

The deadline of the final supplementary assessment for 2025 is 20.11.2025, and the panel chair should confirm the evaluations by 30.11.2025.

9. Closing

The Chair closed the meeting at 9.39.

Appendix 1

Panel's MinEdu fields

514 Social sciences

- Sociology
- Demography
- Women's and gender studies
- Youth Research
- Social psychology
- Social policy, social work

518 Media and communications

- Journalism
- Informatics
- Library science
- Media communication
- Speech communication, organizational communication

519 Social and economic geography

- Environmental social science research
- Cultural and economic geography
- Urban studies
- Transport planning and social aspects of transport

520 Other social sciences

- Interdisciplinary social sciences
- Development research
- Russian and Eastern European studies

List of panel members' expertise

Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen: Sociology, social policy; SOCIAL ISSUES; SOCIOLOGY; POLITICAL SCIENCE; population ageing, social policy, social change, work and retirement, research methods, futures research, digitalization

Päivi Armila: Sociology; SOCIOLOGY; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; CULTURAL STUDIES; Youth research, rural research, migration research, social science research in physical education

Vladimir Gel'man: Political science; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; AREA STUDIES; POLITICAL SCIENCE; Russian and Eurasian studies, comparative social research

J. Tuomas Harviainen: Information Research and Interactive Media; INFORMATION SCIENCE & LIBRARY SCIENCE; COMMUNICATION; MANAGEMENT; Information research, game research, management and organization, service design, sexology

Veli-Matti Karhulahti: Media studies; PSYCHOLOGY; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; MULTIDISCIPLINARY SCIENCES; Fields related to media and technology (e.g. games research) and metascience

Ville Kellokumpu: Human geography; GEOGRAPHY; PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT; URBAN STUDIES;

Tuija Koivunen: Gender Studies; SOCIOLOGY; WOMEN'S STUDIES; SOCIAL ISSUES; Work Life Research, Feminist Research, Gender Studies, Qualitative Methods, Feminist Pedagogy and Sustainable Development in Education

Christian Kroll: Social work and social policy; SOCIAL WORK; SOCIAL ISSUES; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; Social work and social policy, comparative welfare state and professional research, attitude research, well-being at work research

Reetta Muhonen: Sociology; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; SOCIOLOGY; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; Higher education research, scientific research, sociology and educational science

Krista Lagus: Information Technology; SOCIAL SCIENCES, MATHEMATICAL METHODS; COMPUTER SCIENCE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; LINGUISTICS; Social Data Science, Language Technology, Computational Data Analysis

Mervi Luonila: Arts management; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; ART; MANAGEMENT; Arts management, events and festivals, networks, cultural policy, arts and culture management and organization

Inari Sakki: Social psychology; PSYCHOLOGY, SOCIAL; COMMUNICATION; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; Nationalism, populism, discourse, visual communication, political rhetoric, social representations, collective memory

Anu Sivunen: Speech communication; COMMUNICATION; MANAGEMENT; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; organizational communication, communication technology, social media, technology-mediated communication, affordances, working life interaction, telework, remote work, workspaces, teams

Dominic Stead: Planning studies; URBAN STUDIES; PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT; TRANSPORTATION; Land use planning, transport planning, mobility, policy-making, urban governance

Riikka Turtiainen: Digital culture; CULTURAL STUDIES; WOMEN'S STUDIES; SPORT SCIENCES; (social) media research, sports culture research

Turo Uskali: Journalism studies; COMMUNICATION; FILM, RADIO, TELEVISION; SOCIAL SCIENCES, INTERDISCIPLINARY; Journalistics, History of Foreign Journalism, Journalism, Media Economy, Media Innovation, Crisis Communication, Communication Society, Social Media

List of engagements

The panel members are asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years.

Panellist	Publication channel
Ville Kellokumpu	Päätoimittaja, Nordia Geographical Publications, 2021-2023 Vieraileva toimittaja, Alue & Ympäristö, 2020 ja 2022
Dominic Stead	Editorial board memberships: European Journal of Transport and Infrastructure Research (2005-present) European Planning Studies (2013-present) Journal of Planning Education and Research (2012-2024present) Journal of Planning Literature (2022-present) Journal of Transport and Sustainability (2025-present) Planning Practice and Research (2009-present) Urban Policy and Research (2017-present)
Tuomas Harviainen	Information Studies (regional editor, 2017-) Seksologinen aikakauskirja (päätoimittaja, 2014-) Simulation & Gaming (editor; 2016-2020) Nordic Journal of Library and Information Studies (toimituskunnan jäsen, 2020-, päätoimittaja 2025, avustava päätoimittaja 2026)
Veli-Matti Karhulahti	Peer Community in Registered Reports (editor, 2022-, board 2026-) Widescreen (editor, 2012-) Rekisteröityjen tutkimusraporttien kansallinen vertaisarviointikeskus (chief editor 2023-RR-keskus) Lifecycle Journal (advisory board 2024-) Games: Research and Practice (editor 2025-)
Mervi Luonila	Member of the Editorial Advisory Board, Arts and the Market (AAM) journal. 10/2022– Member of the Editorial Advisory Board, Event Management, 2023-> Member of the Editorial board, Kulttuuripolitiikan tutkimuksen vuosikirja. 10/2021–
Päivi Armila	Tällä hetkellä toimitan erästä teemanumeroa Nuorisotutkimus-lehdelle. Muista vastaavista tehtävistä on kulunut yli viisi vuotta.
Riikka Turtiainen	Kulttuurintutkimus WiderScreen

Anu Sivunen	Management Communication Quarterly (2023-present) Journal of Communication (2019-2022) Frontiers of Communication (2022)
Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen	Work, Employment, and Society Longitudinal and life-course studies Journal of Aging and social change
Reetta Muhonen	Tiedepolitiikka, Editor in Chief 2023-2026
Turo Uskali	Tampere University Press
Vladimir Gel'man	Associate editor of Russian Politics journal Board member of Demokratizatsiya journal
Inari Sakki	AE in Journal of Social and Political Psychology
Tuija Koivunen	Nordic Journal of Working Life Studies, editor Työelämän tutkimus, former chief editor

Panel meeting 18.3.2025

Place: House of Science and Letters, room 207

Present: Kathrin Komp-Leukkunen (chair), Päivi Armila, Vladimir Gel'man, J. Tuomas Harviainen, Ville Kellokumpu, Reetta Muhonen, Krista Lagus, Mervi Luonila, Anu Sivunen, Dominic Stead, Riikka Turtiainen, Turo Uskali, Veli-Matti Karhulahti,

Absent: Tuija Koivunen, Inari Sakki, Christian Kroll

Secretariat: Elina Pylvänäinen and Anna-Kaarina Linna

1. Opening

The panel chair opened the meeting at 13.01.

2. Introductions

3. Panel

a. Panel composition

The fields covered in this panel are listed in appendix 1. The panel went through the list and discussed if there is a need to supplement the panel composition.

At the end of panel term discussion with the previous panel it was discussed that there would be a need to complement the panel

composition with future studies and environmental social sciences experts.

Discussion:

- Both fields that were brought up at the end of panel term discussion are covered.
- There is no need to complement the panel composition at this point

b. Selecting the vice-chair of the panel

A vice-chair was selected for the panel. The vice-chair stands in for the panel chair when they are absent. The vice-chair also has a right to confirm evaluations in the JUFO portal on behalf of the panel chair.

Decision:

- Krista Lagus was selected as a vice-chair of the panel.

4. Orientation to the panel work

The secretariat introduced the Publication Forum, its aims and purpose as well as the evaluation criteria.

5. Level 1 and 0 evaluations in the JUFO portal

The deadline for the first set of level 1 and 0 evaluations is 26.3.2025 for the panel members and the panel chair needs to confirm evaluations at latest on 1.4.2025. More information has been sent by email.

[Kurdish studies](#) published currently by Oxbridge Publishing House has been evaluated in the previous panel as level 1, but it is not clear whether the journal still fulfills level 1 criteria. The entire editorial team resigned in 2023 when they discovered that the new publisher was not following good editorial practice and was publishing non-peer-reviewed articles without any quality control. Further information available at this [statement](#). Since then, the editorial board has established a new journal called [Kurdish Studies Journal](#).

Discussion:

- The journal will be added to the JUFO portal for re-evaluation.

6. Conflicts of interest

The panel members were asked to disclose their engagements with publication channels in which they have been an editor or a member of the editorial board in the past five years.

7. Other

No other business.

8. Closing

The panel chair closed the meeting at 14.59.

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