

Panel meeting (22) 1.10.2025

Place: Teams

Present: Sofia Pantouvaki (chair), Pia Fricker, Fernando Nieto Fernández, Jopi Nyman (until 10.01), Max Ryyänen (from 9.16), Antonio Sciacovelli (from 9.14), Pauliina Syrjälä (until 11.15), Jarkko Toikkanen

Absent: Ilona Hongisto, Hanna Johansson, Hanna Korsberg, Tuulikki Laes, Tero Nauha, Riikka Rossi, Jyri Vaahtera

Secretariat: Leena Wahlfors, Anna-Kaarina Linna

1. Opening

The Chair opened the Meeting at 9.06.

The chair reminded the panel that the evaluation run of 2026 will be carried out in 2026, and it will require active participation and a lot of work from all panelists.

2. Announcements

It was noted that Leena Wahlfors is a new member of the Jufo Secretariat.

3. Conflicts of interest

It was noted that the 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.](#))

The matter was recorded for information, and it was noted that the panelists' engagements are to be listed in Appendix 1.

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:

- A. It was noted that the new designation is 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 group is heterogeneous. It includes channels that are properly peer-reviewed but local, new, or located at the interface between professional and popular publishing.

There has been a long debate for and against maintaining level 3.

The following reasons were given for abandoning the Level 3:

- 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 noted 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):

- a. 2026 (Level 3 included according to the 2026 classification)
- b. 2025 (Level 3 included according to the 2025 classification)
- c. 2024 (Level 3 included according to the 2024 classification)

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. Proposals should be submitted 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.

Proposals made by the end of February 2026 will be taken into account in the first phase of the evaluation. In April–May, 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 at latest 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.

Discussion:

The panel welcomed the development of the grey area checklist. The panel partly supported the establishment of an ethics expert group but also discussed whether the new group would bring a lot of extra work to the panelists. The difficulty of identifying grey area publication channels was also highlighted. However, the majority of the panelists supported the idea of establishing the Expert Group.

7. The use of AI in scientific publishing (Note: this item is optional for panelists)

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.

Panel members have the opportunity to pose questions and share comments on the topic. 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, including the content of panel discussions, will be anonymized.

The discussion was held in accordance with Appendix 2. The secretariat thanks the panelists for their valuable observations and will make use of them in preparing the research report on the subject.

8. Other

The final supplementary assessment for 2025 will be carried out in November: For the panel members 1. - 20.11.2025, and the panel chair should confirm the evaluations by 30.11.2025.

9. Closing

The Chair closed the Meeting at 11.14

Appendix 1

Panel's MinEdu fields

612.2 Literature

- General literature studies
- Literary theory
- Finnish and Finno-Ugrian literature
- Classics
- Literature of another languages
- Other literature studies

613 Arts

- Art history
- Arts
- Musicology
- Theatre research
- Dramaturgy
- Studies on film, radio and television
- Aesthetics
- Semiotics
- Artistic design
- Industrial design
- Artistic research

211 Architectural design

List of panel members' expertise

Sofia Pantouvaki: Scenography; THEATER; ART; FILM, RADIO, TELEVISION; Performing arts, Artistic Research, Fashion, Textiles, Scenography, Interior Design, Architecture, Design

Pia Fricker: Architecture; ARCHITECTURE; ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES; COMPUTER SCIENCE, ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE; Immersive Data-Interaction for Climate Action, Critical AI, Computational Design Methodologies, Water Urbanism

Ilona Hongisto: media studies; FILM, RADIO, TELEVISION ART; audiovisual culture, film research, documentary film, moving image, video art

Hanna Johansson: Art history; ART; HISTORY; PHILOSOPHY; Art history, art research, contemporary art research, humanistic environmental research, artistic research

Hanna Korsberg: theatre studies; THEATER; HISTORY; ART; theatre, theatre history, historiography, performance research, cultural history

Tuulikki Laes: Music education; MUSIC; EDUCATION & EDUCATIONAL RESEARCH; Music Education, Special Pedagogy, Ageing, Social Justice

Tero Nauha: dance and theatre; ART; PHILOSOPHY; ECONOMICS; Performance studies, Visual Cultures, Political Economy, Art Theory

Fernando Nieto Fernández: Architectural Design; ARCHITECTURE; CONSTRUCTION & BUILDING TECHNOLOGY; URBAN STUDIES; Architectural design, architectural theory, public building design, housing design, Nordic architecture

Jopi Nyman: English Language and Culture and Sociology; LITERATURE; CULTURAL STUDIES; AREA STUDIES; Literature in English, Cultural Studies, BorderFrontier Studies, Animal Studies, Interdisciplinary Regional Studies

Riikka Rossi: Finnish literature; LITERATURE; LITERATURE, GERMAN, DUTCH, SCANDINAVIAN; LITERATURE, ROMANCE; Domestic literature, historical styles (naturalism, realism, primitivism, decadence, modernism), study of literature and emotions, 19th century, species theory, French and Nordic literature

Max Ryyänen: Aesthetics; ART FILM, RADIO, TELEVISION; URBAN STUDIES; Aesthetics, Visual Culture, Film Theory, Semiotics, Urban Studies

Antonio Sciacovelli: Literary Studies; LITERATURE, ROMANCE; LITERARY THEORY & CRITICISM; HUMANITIES, MULTIDISCIPLINARY; Italian Literature of Middle Age; Contemporary Italian Novel; Hungarian Literature; Italian-Hungarian Cultural Relations; Romance Philology; Translation Studies

Pauliina Syrjälä: folk music; MUSIC; Artistic research, music research, pedagogy, creativity, composing, improvisation

Jarkko Toikkanen: English; LITERATURE; CULTURAL STUDIES; ART; Literature and culture, experience research, media research

Jyri Vaahtera: classical languages; CLASSICS; HISTORY; classical languages, historiography

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, or hold shares in the publisher or its managing company.

Panellist	Publication channel
Max Ryyänen	päätoimittaja: * Popular Inquiry: The Journal of the Aesthetics of Kitsch, Camp and Mass Culture * The Journal of Somaesthetics Toimituskunnan jäsen: * Global Pop Cultures * The Slovakian Journal of Aesthetics (ESPES) * The Journal of Ecohumanism * Research in Art and Education * Nuova antropologia filosofica * Nordic Journal of Aesthetics * Aesthetica Universalis * Terra Aestheticae * RUUKKU
Pia Fricker	Editor of the Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture (DLA), 2023, and 2024, 2025 Editor of Special Issue: "Weaving Hybrid Futures: Sustainability in Higher Education with PBL Through Art, Science, and Robotics" in Journal of Problem Based Learning in Higher Education 2023 Editor of SpringerBriefs in Architectural Design and Technology: ""Patterns of Interaction - Computational Design Across Scales", 2023 Member of the Editorial Board: Journal of Digital Landscape Architecture, since 2016
Tero Nauha	Taideyliopiston julkaisusarja
Fernando Nieto Fernández	Hipotesis (co-editor-in-chief since 2013)
Ilona Hongisto	Necus - European Journal of Media Studies (editorial board member) Baltic Screen Media Review (international editorial board) Journal of Scandinavian Cinema (editorial board member) Eetos Books (advisory board member) Niin&Näin (advisory board membero) Matter: Journal of New Materialist Research (advisory board) Documentary Cultures / Peter Lang (editorial board)

Hanna Johansson	Eetos
Jopi Nyman	* Editorial Board Member: Critical Studies book series, Brill (2023-present). * Advisory Board Member, Jordan Journal of Modern Languages and Literature (2023-present). * Editorial Board Member, Annals of the University of Craiova, Series: Philology-English (2019-present). * Editorial Board Member, Culture in Focus: An International eJournal of Educational, Literary and Cultural Studies (Middle Georgia State University (2017-present). * <i>Journal of Borderlands Studies</i> (articles published [2024 and 2025])) * Routledge (articles published in several collections 2026, 2025 [twice], 20232 and a co-authored monograph in 2024). * Palgrave Macmillan: edited book published in 2021 and articles in several collections 2022, 2021 [twice])
Sofia Pantouvaki	Editor of Studies in Costume and Performance Guest editor for <i>Ruukku</i> (one issue, 2025) Editorial board member for the following journals: Theatre and Performance Design Scene dObra[s] Revista Brasileira de Estudos da Presença
Jarkko Toikkanen	Experience Research Society (conference proceedings 7X Summit)
Pauliina Syrjälä	Editor, Satasarvi - Finnish Journal of Folk Music Research
Jyri Vaahtera	Arctos. Acta Philologica Fennica, Editorial Advisory Board

Meeting minutes 6.2.2025

Place: House of Science and Letters, room 207 and Teams

Present: Sofia Pantouvaki (chair), Pia Fricker, Ilona Hongisto, Hanna Johansson, Hanna Korsberg (until 15.00), Tuulikki Laes (until 14.10), Fernando Nieto Fernández, Max Ryyänen (until 15.32), Pauliina Syrjälä (until 14.02), Jarkko Toikkanen, Jyri Vaahtera (until 14.58)

Absent: Jopi Nyman, Riikka Rossi, Antonio Sciacovelli, Tero Nauha,

Secretariat: Elina Pylvänäinen and Anna-Kaarina Linna

1. Opening

The panel chair opened the meeting at 13.03.

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.

Discussion:

- The panel discussed that MinEdu classification is not comprehensive and does not cover in equal detail all fields represented in the panel. E.g. architecture should also cover construction, urban planning, history and theory, etc. Also the list in design is not comprehensive, it lacks fields such as design research, history or theory. On the contrary, literature is quite well covered with several sub-fields. The panel wishes to forward this message to the Ministry.
- It was also pointed out that level 1 and 0 evaluations do not necessarily require expertise in that specific field.
- No gaps were identified at this point, the panel can be complemented later if needed.

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:

- Jarkko Toikkanen was selected as a vice-chair of the panel. Criteria for this choice: different field than panel chair, different geographical academic base (outside Helsinki area), different gender, and prior experience in the panel.

4. Orientation to the panel work

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

Included in this presentation:

- Timeline of the panel work during next term.
- Background of JUFO.
- Rationale, advantages of JUFO system.
- Statistics in publication channels' evaluation systems (international vs. JUFO), publication types and languages.
- Organization of JUFO (SG, panels & chairs).
- Classification levels in JUFO
- Comparative statistics and metrics

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. The panel chair needs to confirm evaluations at latest on 1.4.2025. More information will be sent by email.

Included in this presentation:

- Introduction to the evaluation levels
- Explanation of Level 1 criteria and additional considerations regarding level 1.
- Explanation of Level 2 criteria, incl. international and national language channels.
- Explanation of Level 3 criteria and considerations regarding levels 2 and 3.
- Introduction of the quota system based on the total annual publication volume (per total number of articles, not per journal numbers).
- Additional considerations: feedback from the research community, indicators useful for the evaluations, ethical aspects.
- Instructions for new panel members: how to sign in, register, evaluation steps.

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 15.39.

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211 Architectural design