



Co-authorship Guideline, Faculty of Law UG

Introduction

In the world of academia, it is becoming increasingly common for researchers to collaborate on projects with several other people and to publish the resulting paper or article together.

The nature of academic research at our Faculty in particular, and at all Faculties of Law in the Netherlands in general, has changed radically in recent decades. Among other things, more empirical and more interdisciplinary research is being carried out and, as a result, more and more publications are being published that have been written by several authors.

This can lead to questions and ambiguities and sometimes to problematic cooperation and conflicts. Such situations may involve improper behaviour or naivety. The risk is greatest if the collaboration concerns a dependency relationship, e.g. in the case of PhD students.

The Faculty believes it is important that its employees are aware of the dilemmas and pitfalls involved with joint publications and encourages them to think about the best practices in this area. This Guideline comprises six rules which, as far as possible, are consistent with the rules and best practices that have been drawn up by other Faculties and journal editors who have a lot of experience with joint publications.

Guidelines

1. Agreements about co-authorship

Come to prior agreements about who will be the co-author and the order in which names will be listed on the paper. Make sure these agreements are put down in writing.

2. Monitoring agreements

Throughout the course of the research project and during the writing process regularly discuss whether agreements made prior to commencing work need to be adjusted. Make sure these agreements are put down in writing.

3. Supervisor and PhD student

If a supervisor meets the requirements for co-authorship (see guideline 5), that does not automatically mean he is the co-author of an article written by his PhD student. Before PhD students start writing an article, they should explicitly discuss this issue with their supervisor (see guideline 1).

4. Order of authors

The options are: alphabetically or based on their contribution. Faculties of Law do not yet have any concrete agreements in place in this regard. Here, too, agreements should be made regarding the order of authors and adjusted if necessary (see guidelines 1 and 2).

5. Who is eligible to be a co-author?

Two guidelines can be used as a starting point for answering this question: ALLEA and ICMJE.

The European Code of Conduct for Research Integrity: guidelines for good practice (ALLEA 2017) stipulates the following requirements:

An author has contributed to

- Design OR
- Data collection OR
- Data analysis OR



- Reporting

I.e. *more than supervision* or head of research group

And all authors are fully responsible unless otherwise specified.

The *International Committee of Medical Journal Editors* (ICMJE) has more stringent criteria and requires:

- *Substantial contributions* to the conception or design of the work, or the acquisition, analysis, or interpretation of data for the work; AND
- *Drafting the work or revising* it critically for important intellectual content; AND
- *Final approval* of the version to be published; AND
- Agreement to be *accountable for all aspects* of the work in ensuring that questions related to the accuracy or integrity of any part of the work are appropriately investigated and resolved.

6. Other products of research cooperation

Guidelines 1-5 apply not only to publications, but also to other products of research cooperation, such as presentations. Here, too, agreements must be made, and if necessary adjusted, about who is to be listed as an author and in what order.

Appendix to the guideline

The [appendix to this Guideline](#) provides more detailed information regarding each of the points mentioned above as well as a number of examples.

Information about the application of this guideline can be obtained from the Chair of the Scientific Research and Ethics Committee, prof. mr. dr. A.R. Mackor.

UG, Faculty of Law, June 2018