Bylaws of
Collective Intelligence Perspectives

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Issued by the Society for Managerial and Social Cybernetics (GWS e.V.)

§1 Purpose and Governance Framework

(1) The journal Collective Intelligence Perspectives (CIP) is a scholarly publication governed by the Society for Managerial and Social Cybernetics (GWS e.V.).

(2) The journal operates in alignment with the aims of GWS, promoting transdisciplinary systems thinking, cybernetics, and collective intelligence.

(3) These bylaws regulate the editorial governance, appointment processes, and decision-making rules within CIP.

§2 Governing Bodies

(1) The **Board of Directors of GWS (GWS Board)** acts as the legal and strategic authority of the journal. It:

   a. Confirms the appointment of the Editor-in-Chief (EiC)

   b. Approves changes to the journal's governance structure or policy

   c. Oversees alignment with the society's mission, legal obligations, and statutes

   d. Holds final authority in legal, statutory, financial, and organizational disputes, subject to the independent responsibilities of the Editorial Ethics and Integrity Board under §6.

(2) The **Senior Editorial Board (SEB)** is responsible for the journal's strategic and thematic direction. It:

   a. Consists of at least three members

   b. Includes as founding members the current Board of Directors of GWS e.V.

   c. Elects the Editor-in-Chief (EiC) by simple majority of its present members

   d. Elects new SEB members from the Editorial Board by a two-thirds majority of its present members

   e. Proposes changes to editorial policy, structure, or rules (subject to GWS Board approval)

   f. Decides on the journal's publication model, including publication frequency, editorial cycles (volumes), and issue structuring

(3) The **Editorial Board** supports the SEB in scholarly, peer review, and outreach activities. Membership is proposed by the SEB and confirmed by a simple majority vote of the SEB.

(4) The **Editorial Ethics and Integrity Board (EEIB)** is an independent body responsible for safeguarding fairness, integrity, and due process in the journal's editorial activities. It:

   a. Consists of three members of GWS e.V. appointed by the Board of Directors of GWS

   b. Is institutionally independent of the journal's operational and editorial management

   c. Is composed of members who do not simultaneously hold an operational editorial role within the journal

   d. Reviews matters referred to it in accordance with §6

   e. May provide guidance on questions of editorial ethics, integrity, fairness, confidentiality, diversity, and conflicts of interest

   f. May seek independent external, professional, or legal advice where appropriate

Members shall be selected on the basis of their independence, integrity, sound judgement, and ability to consider different perspectives.

§3 Decision-Making Procedures

(1) Meetings of the Senior Editorial Board (SEB) must be announced at least one week in advance. The announcement should include the agenda and, where reasonably possible, all documents required for informed decision-making.

(2) The SEB has a quorum when at least half of its current members, but no fewer than three members, participate in the meeting or decision-making process. Participation may take place in person, virtually, or through an asynchronous voting procedure.

(3) Voting thresholds are defined as follows:

   a. A simple majority refers to more than 50% of the votes cast by participating members.

   b. A two-thirds majority refers to at least two-thirds of the votes cast by participating members.

   c. Abstentions are not counted as votes cast but are recorded in the minutes or voting record.

(4) Voting may be conducted in person, virtually, or asynchronously, provided that all SEB members receive the relevant information and have an equal opportunity to participate.

(5) In asynchronous voting procedures, members shall normally be given at least seven calendar days to cast their vote. A shorter period may be applied in urgent cases, provided that the urgency is stated and all members are given a reasonable opportunity to respond. Failure to respond shall not be counted as either approval or rejection.

(6) Decisions may only be taken if the quorum requirement set out in paragraph (2) is met. If a meeting does not reach a quorum, discussion may take place, but no binding decision may be adopted.

§4 Roles and Elections

(1) The **Editor-in-Chief (EiC)**:

a. Leads the operational and editorial workflow of the journal

b. Serves as the primary point of contact for authors, reviewers, and editorial staff

c. Is elected by the SEB (simple majority) and confirmed by the GWS Board

d. May be re-elected or replaced at the discretion of the SEB, subject to confirmation by the GWS Board

(2) **Senior Editors**:

a. Are members of the SEB

b. May hold specific portfolio responsibilities (e.g., peer review policy, special issues)

c. Are elected by the SEB from the Editorial Board

(3) The **Managing Editor**:

a. Is a standing role within the editorial structure

b. Coordinates day-to-day editorial operations and communication among authors, reviewers, and editors

c. Oversees the submission process and editorial workflow, i.e., coordination, communication, scheduling, and publication processes, and ensures compliance with journal policies

d. Is appointed by the SEB and operates under the supervision of the Editor-in-Chief

(4) The **Executive Editor**:

a. Is a standing role within the editorial structure

b. Supports journal-wide and issue-level editorial quality assurance, including critical review, editorial coherence, and the further development of editorial standards

c. Supports the Editor-in-Chief in journal development, outreach, and cross-cutting strategic and operational initiatives

d. Works alongside the Managing Editor but is not primarily responsible for the coordination of the day-to-day submission and publication workflow

e. Is appointed and may be replaced by the SEB and operates under the supervision of the Editor-in-Chief

§5 Terms, Reappointment, and Removal

(1) Re-election of the Editor-in-Chief (EiC)

a. The term of the Editor-in-Chief is 3 years and is renewable. Reappointment is subject to a vote of the SEB by simple majority and confirmation by the Board of Directors of GWS.

b. An interim review of the EiC's performance may be requested by at least one-third of the SEB members. If justified, the SEB may initiate a re-election process at any time, with a majority vote and GWS Board confirmation.

(2) Removal or Replacement of SEB Members

a. SEB members are expected to actively participate in meetings and contribute to strategic direction.

b. If an SEB member is absent from three consecutive meetings without valid justification or demonstrates sustained non-participation, the SEB may vote for removal by two-thirds majority of its present members.

c. Removed members may reapply after one year with support from an active Editorial Board member.

(3) Removal or Rotation of Editorial Board Members

a. Editorial Board members serve at the invitation of the SEB. Members who do not contribute to peer review or editorial activity for two consecutive years may be removed by SEB decision (simple majority).

b. Editorial Board appointments may be periodically reviewed by the SEB to ensure alignment with the journal's current priorities and activity levels.

(4) Appointment and Terms of EEIB Members

a. Members of the Editorial Ethics and Integrity Board are appointed by the Board of Directors of GWS for a term of three years. Reappointment is permitted.

b. An EEIB member may resign at any time. The Board of Directors of GWS may remove a member for serious cause, including a substantial breach of confidentiality, an unresolved conflict of interest, or sustained non-participation. The member shall be given an opportunity to comment before a decision is made.

c. Vacancies shall be filled by the Board of Directors of GWS as soon as reasonably practicable.

§6 Editorial Complaints, Conflicts, and Integrity

(1) The Editor-in-Chief holds final decision-making authority within the ordinary peer review and editorial decision-making process. Requests for reconsideration of editorial decisions shall be handled in accordance with the journal's published complaints and appeals policy.

(2) Complaints or disputes concerning editorial conduct, procedural fairness, confidentiality, conflicts of interest, discrimination, integrity, or compliance with

journal policies shall ordinarily be addressed by the Editor-in-Chief and, where appropriate, the Senior Editorial Board.

(3) A matter shall be referred to the Editorial Ethics and Integrity Board if:

   a. The Editor-in-Chief is directly involved in or affected by the matter

   b. A member of the Senior Editorial Board or another person responsible for resolving the matter has a relevant conflict of interest

   c. The matter cannot be resolved appropriately within the ordinary editorial structure

   d. The complaint concerns a serious alleged breach of editorial ethics or integrity

   e. The Board of Directors of GWS refers the matter to the EEIB

(4) The EEIB assesses whether editorial processes and conduct complied with the journal's policies and with principles of fairness, integrity, independence, and due process. It does not ordinarily reassess the scholarly merit of a submission or substitute its judgement for that of reviewers or editors unless the scholarly assessment was materially affected by a procedural or ethical breach.

(5) EEIB members shall disclose any actual, potential, or perceived conflict of interest relating to a matter under consideration. A member with a relevant conflict of interest shall not participate in the proceedings or decision. Where necessary, the Board of Directors of GWS shall appoint an independent temporary replacement for the case concerned.

(6) The EEIB shall handle matters confidentially. All persons materially affected by a complaint shall be informed of the relevant concerns and given a reasonable opportunity to respond.

(7) The EEIB may request relevant information from the journal's governing bodies, editors, reviewers, authors, or other parties. It may seek independent academic, professional, institutional, or legal advice where specialist expertise is required.

(8) Decisions of the EEIB shall be taken by simple majority and documented in writing, including a brief statement of the reasons for the decision. Its decisions are final in matters of editorial ethics, integrity, and procedural fairness.

(9) The Board of Directors of GWS retains final authority in legal, statutory, financial, and organizational matters. It shall not overturn an EEIB decision concerning editorial ethics or procedural fairness except where action is required to comply with applicable law or the statutes of GWS e.V.

(10) The journal shall maintain appropriate confidential records of complaints, proceedings, and decisions. An anonymized summary of significant cases may be included in the journal's annual report where this can be done without identifying the parties involved.

§7 Amendments to Bylaws

(1) Amendments to these bylaws require:

   a. A two-thirds vote of the SEB members present

b. Formal approval by the Board of Directors of GWS

(2) Once approved, a revised version of the bylaws document will be issued, replacing any prior version. The updated version must be dated and published on the journal website.

§8 Validity

These bylaws enter into force upon approval by the Board of Directors of GWS and remain valid until amended or revoked.

§9 Transparency and Reporting

The SEB provides an annual report to the Board of Directors of GWS, summarizing editorial activities, publication statistics, peer review practices, and strategic developments.

§10 Archiving and Continuity

The journal shall maintain secure digital archiving practices and participate, where feasible, in established preservation services or networks, such as the PKP Preservation Network, LOCKSS, CLOCKSS, or comparable services, to ensure the long-term accessibility and continuity of published content.

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