

EDITORIAL

Rationales for the AUC Geographica publishing model

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AUC Geographica (formerly *Acta Universitatis Carolinae, Geographica*) is a journal with a long tradition published by Charles University (issued continuously since 1966). See also the Editorial for the 50-years anniversary (Vilímek 2015). It is an open access journal applying no publication fees, or no hidden charges such as page charges or submission fees charged prior to peer review. The journal is financially supported by Charles University and is committed to operate on a non-commercial basis. Although this means certain constraints, it applies a publishing model that deliberately opposes growth- and profit-oriented journals and publishers that tap public funds through subscription fees, open access publication fees, or both (using the largely uncompensated work of reviewers and editors). We believe that the current hegemony of growth- and profit-oriented academic journals and publishers is not only associated with a reckless waste of public resources, but it also amplifies already substantial inequalities in global academia and lowers the average quality standards of academic output. These three trends are unfortunate and destructive. Therefore, both institutional and personal commitment to alternative publishing models in academia is the need of the hour. We believe that the support of traditional university-based journals such as AUC Geographica represents an alternative that is worth following and supporting. The basic concept behind this effort is to be scientifically strict yet fair and supportive, challenging authors with ideas and questions, with the sole aim of assisting them in improving their research output.

Thematic focus and type of papers

Submissions focusing on academically and practically relevant topics in the fields of physical geography, geo-ecology, human geography, regional as well as international development, demography, cartography, and geoinformatics are welcome. AUC Geographica mostly publishes original research articles, but also invites authors to submit review papers. We are

also able to organize monothematic (or half-monothematic) issues.

Commitment to equality

AUC Geographica is committed to inclusion and equality. It applies no restrictions with respect to the thematic focus of submitted works in the field of geography and related disciplines. In addition, it applies no restrictions to the geographic origin of authors or location of their institutions or other aspects of the authors' background.

Quality standards

AUC Geographica strives to publish papers that meet the rigorous standards of academic work. AUC Geographica is indexed in several databases such as Scopus (since 1975) and has been selected for coverage in Clarivate Analytics products and services as well. The character of the editorial board became international in 2007; nevertheless, this is a continuous process that also reflects the progress in our geographical disciplines.

The journal has recently extended and internationalized its editorial board. It now consists of experienced experts from different areas of geography, who guarantee the quality of published works. After initial submission, each article is screened by one or multiple editors. Papers that do not meet the basic standards are rejected directly. All other submissions are sent for peer review by at least two independent experts identified by the journal editors. The journal editors supervise the quality of peer-reviews and communicate the results and requirements to the authors.

References

Vilímek, V. (2015): Editorial. The 50th anniversary of AUC Geographica. *AUC Geographica* 50(1), 5.

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