# ***Argument and Critique***

# **Criteria for Review of Manuscripts**

Title of manuscript:

Name(s) of author(s):

Date manuscript sent:

Required completion date of review:

Name of proposed reviewer:

**Title Page** **Y/N: Delete which does not apply**

1. The title page should include an abstract of 150 to 200 words. **Y N**
2. Does the title page include at least 5 key words? **Y N**
3. Does the manuscript title page include a biographical note of 25-50 words? **Y N**
4. Does the title page include a statement about acknowledgements? **Y N**
5. Does it include a statement about any possible conflicts of interest? **Y N**
6. Does it include a stipulation that the manuscript has not been published elsewhere, that our publishing it would not breach copyright and that the author(s) will allow us to publish the manuscript, should we wish to do so. N.B. Please inform the Managing Editor immediately if the answer to this is ‘No’. **Y N**

**Choice of Topic**

* Does the manuscript contribute to the Libertarian agenda? **Y N**
* How much initiative was shown e.g. is it an old chestnut, or a topic showing some originality? **Y N**
* Does the rationale accurately justify the research question in terms of the findings of, and gaps in, existing research? **Y N**
1. Has the context of the study been made clear? **Y N**

# **Research Design**

1. Is there a clear statement of the research question or the problem which is to be analysed? **Y N**
2. If there are aims and objectives, are they clear and consistent? **Y N**
3. Are the caveats on the research clearly expressed at the outset? **Y N**
4. Are the inclusion criteria acceptable and clearly stated? **Y N**
5. Were potentially confounding variables competently handled? **Y N**
6. Are the epistemology, perspectives, theories, models, concepts, methodology and methods consistent with one another and with the research question or aims and objectives? **Y N**
7. Were the chosen methods adequate to capture sufficient material to answer the research question or problem, e.g. where appropriate, did the author(s) seek to interview the relevant people? **Y N**
8. Were legitimating measures sufficient and consistent with the research methodology, e.g. consensual research design, field diaries, daily logs, peer debriefing, participant validation, transparency, video/ audio/ photographic record, signed records, validated typology, statistical tests, electronic provenance, disclosed interview schedule, control group, double blinding, validity, reliability, representativeness? **Y N**
9. Are the methods documented adequately and the design features summarized? **Y N**

# Does the research cover the full range of the area it claims to cover? **Y N**

# Does the research answer the question it aims to answer? **Y N**

# Are the research findings useful in a broader range of settings? **Y N**

# **Search and Review of the Literature**

* Has the author used adequate search strategies, including comprehensive scan of journals, use of databases, etc? **Y N**
1. Were the search strategies documented sufficiently? **Y N**
2. Has the relevant literature been explored adequately and appraised critically? **Y N**
3. Are all references in the text of the manuscript, relevant, complete, correctly cited and included in the reference list at the end of the manuscript? **Y N**
4. Are all references at the end of the manuscript, relevant, complete, correctly formatted and included in the text of the manuscript? **Y N**
5. Are all citable ideas in the manuscript, correctly sourced? **Y N**
6. Are all claims adequately referenced? **Y N**

# **Ethics**

# Was there a deployment of recognised ethical principles? **Y N**

# Were ethical dilemmas competently handled? **Y N**

# Was there an awareness and appropriate furtherance of the rights of research subjects and other stakeholders? **Y N**

# Was there transparency for the research participants? **Y N**

# Is there transparency for the readers of the manuscript? **Y N**

# Were the requirements of relevant codes of practice and legislation addressed e.g. the Data Protection Act and Freedom of Imformation? **Y N**

# Were ethical obligations arising from the theoretical and/or methodological approach consistently applied?

# Have the appropriate permissions/approvals been documented? **Y N**

# Is there an awareness of the place of the research in a social context? **Y N**

# **Structure**

# Was the manuscript well-organised in a clear format, taking the reader through a developing argument?

**Y N**

# Was there an introduction outlining the argument and a summary or conclusion establishing that the argument was soundly based? **Y N**

# **Analysis**

* Has the data been appropriately handled, e.g. have methodological problems such as population attrition and detection bias been competently handled? **Y N**
* Has sufficient relevant literature been critically appraised? **Y N**
* Has the evidence from the literature search and from the primary research been logically applied to the argument? Have fallacies of composition been avoided? **Y N**
* Are the strengths/limitations of the methods considered in the analysis? **Y N**
* Have alternative interpretations been adequately explored and addressed? **Y N**
* Have appropriate caveats been placed on the results and conclusions? **Y N**
* Do the conclusions reasonably follow from the argument? **Y N**
* Are the wider implications of the findings discussed adequately? **Y N**
* Are the conclusions and ‘lessons learned’ clear and relevant? **Y N**
* Are implications for reform of policy and practice logically drawn and well supported by evidence and argument? **Y N**
* Are the recommendations for further research clear and relevant? **Y N**

# **Presentation of Manuscript**

1. Is the word count within the allowed limit of 8000 words, excluding: abstract, references, appendices, figures and tables? **Y N**
2. Does the manuscript conform to appropriate standards of syntax, grammar and typographical accuracy
3. Is the material clearly presented? **Y N**
4. Is referencing consistent and accurate within the Harvard system? **Y N**
5. Is the manuscript single line spaced? **Y N**
6. Does it use font, Times New Roman, size 12? **Y N**

**Any other comments**

**Recommendation**

The manuscript should be published in this journal. **Y N**

The manuscript should not be published in this journal. **Y N**

The manuscript should be published in this journal, with the following amendments (please list): **Y N**

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