

Conflict of Interest Disclosure Rules

for Jury Members

Conflicts

Direct Financial Interest: Jury members should not have a direct financial interest in the research or project being nominated, including but not limited to, ownership of shares, paid consultancy, or direct funding of the project.

Institutional Affiliation: Jury members who are currently employed by the same institution as the nominee or have been so in the past three years are considered to have a conflict of interest.

Advisor-Advisee Relationships: Any Jury member who has served as an academic advisor, mentor, or committee member for the nominee's academic evaluations (such as thesis or dissertation committees) within the past five years is considered to have a conflict of interest.

Competing Interests: If a Jury member's own research or project is in direct competition with the nominee's work, this should be disclosed as a conflict of interest.

Disclosures & Potential Conflicts

Collaboration: Jury members should disclose any research collaborations with the nominee within the past five years, including co-authored papers, joint research grants, or other shared professional endeavors.

Personal Relationships: Jury members should declare conflicts related to close personal relationships with the nominee, such as friendships, familial ties, or other forms of close personal relationships that could be reasonably seen to influence their decision-making.

External Funding: Jury members should disclose if they are involved in evaluating or administering external funding that directly supports the nominated work, or if they serve in a decision-making role in an organization that funds the nominee's work.

Reviewing or Editing Role: If a Jury member has acted as a reviewer or editor for the publication of the nominated research within the last two years, this should be disclosed.

Public Statements: If a Jury member has publicly endorsed the nominated work or nominee, or has made public criticisms that might suggest a bias, they should disclose this information.

Reporting and Management

Disclosure Requirement: All Jury members will complete the GIAGR Individual Disclosure Statement template on an annual basis. All Jury members are required to disclose any potential conflicts of interest with the nominees prior to the commencement of the evaluation process.

Recusal: A Jury member with a declared conflict of interest will be recused from discussions and voting on the respective nomination. Any Jury member may recuse themselves at any time.

Review by Jury: At the time the award selection process begins, the Jury will review all disclosed potential conflicts of interest and determine any necessary course of action related to the submitted applications, which may include recusal from certain aspects of the evaluation process or from the process entirely (see Steps for Managing Disclosed Potential Conflicts).

Transparency: A summary of conflict of interest disclosures and the actions taken will be documented as part of the evaluation process record. All Individual Disclosure Statements for Jury members will be posted conspicuously on the GIAGR website.

By adhering to these rules, the German Innovation Award on Gambling Research aims to maintain a high standard of ethical conduct, ensuring that its recognitions are bestowed based solely on merit.

Steps for Managing Disclosed Potential Conflicts

1. **Initial Disclosure:** At the onset of the evaluation process, each Jury member should submit a disclosure statement outlining any potential conflicts of interest.
2. **Initial Jury Assessment:** During a preliminary meeting, Jury members collectively assess any disclosed potential conflicts. The Jury members may request that the member with a potential conflict not be present during this discussion.
3. **Jury's Preliminary Decision:** After discussion, the Jury can either make an immediate decision on whether the member should recuse themselves or decide to defer the matter to an external Ethics Reviewer for a more nuanced evaluation.
 - **Immediate Decision:** If the Jury deems that no conflict exists or that the conflict is not significant enough to warrant recusal, the process ends here.
 - **Defer to Ethics Reviewer:** If the Jury finds the situation ambiguous or complex enough to warrant external evaluation, the matter will be deferred to an Ethics Reviewer experienced in academic conflicts of interest (e.g. institutional review board experience).
4. **Ethics Review:** The Ethics Reviewer examines the disclosed conflicts in question on a case-by-case basis. The assessment should consider factors like the nature and degree of the relationship between the Jury member and nominee, potential influence on the awarding process, and public perception. The reviewer will send its recommendations back to the Jury. The reviewer might recommend for the Jury member to recuse themselves, or find that no conflict significant enough to affect the awarding process exists.
5. **Final Jury Decision:** The Jury reconvenes, without the member in question, to discuss the reviewer's recommendation. A unanimous vote will decide whether or not the Jury member should recuse themselves from the decision-making process. Any dissention among the Jury will result in the Jury member being recused.
6. **Notification and Action:** The Jury member is then informed of the final decision. If recusal is necessary, the member will abstain from all discussions and decisions pertaining to the process or nomination in question.
7. **Documentation:** All steps taken, discussions held, and decisions made must be well-documented. This documentation should be stored securely but be readily accessible to those authorized to review such matters.

Individual Disclosure Statement for [Jury Member's Name]

Professional Background

1. **Current Position:** Brief description of current academic or professional role, including institution, department, and areas of expertise.
2. **Education:** Highest degree(s) attained, fields of study, and educational institutions.
3. **Research Interests:** Summary of key research areas and interests.

Affiliations and Memberships

1. **Academic Affiliations:** List of universities, research institutions, or academic organizations with which the juror is currently or has recently been affiliated.
2. **Professional Memberships:** Membership in academic societies, editorial boards, or professional organizations.
3. **Advisory Roles:** Roles in governmental, non-profit, or industry advisory boards, committees, or organizations related to the field of the award.

Financial Interests

1. **Research Funding:** General information about current or recent research funding sources (past three years), without compromising confidentiality agreements.
2. **Consulting:** General information about current or recent consulting work (past three years), without compromising confidentiality agreements.
3. **Shareholding or Investments:** Shareholding or investments in companies or entities directly related to the field of the award, if applicable.

Statement of Neutrality

A brief statement affirming the juror's commitment to unbiased, ethical evaluation of nominees and abstention from discussions and votes where a conflict of interest exists. [e.g., 'As a member of the Jury for the German Innovation Award on Gambling Research, hereby affirm my commitment to exercise fairness, impartiality, and ethical conduct throughout the nomination, evaluation, and awarding process.']

Munich, 2024/02/23