Call for Papers: Special Issue on Autocensura in Knowledge Production

Short Description: This special issue examines *autocensura*—self-censorship within academic research—and its influence on knowledge production. Contributions should explore *autocensura* as a socio-cultural phenomenon, analyzing its effects on research methods, paradigms, and theoretical frameworks. We invite scholars to critically engage with debates on academic freedom, political contexts, and university governance.

Long Abstract: Although censorship is often associated with authoritarian regimes, similar dynamics occur within democratic research communities, where political pressures, policy demands, and shifting geopolitical landscapes influence academic work. Researchers may deliberately withhold or temper high-quality findings, a practice known as *autocensura* (AC). Occurring between data analysis and publication, AC spans disciplines and political contexts, challenging traditional notions of knowledge production, professional commitment, and career progression (Wagner 2020; 2022, Pettersson 2016).

This special issue invites contributions that dissect the practices, negotiations, and transformations inherent in—and arising from—*autocensura*. We are particularly interested in how this phenomenon reshapes methodologies, paradigms, and theoretical challenges in science and scholarship. Following QSR's approach, we are welcoming the use of an interpretive frame to understand human actions, social processes, meanings and definitions. Topics of interest include, but are not limited to:

Empirical Analyses of Autocensura: Case studies and comparative research across the social sciences, natural sciences, and humanities.

Invisible Spaces of Silence: Investigations into the unspoken areas and topics sidelined by self-censorship.

Researcher Status and Autocensura: Studies exploring the links between precarious employment, career stage, and the likelihood of self-censorship.

Political Context and Practice: Analyses of how political climates and policy shifts drive the dynamics of autocensura.

Historical Perspectives: Evaluations of autocensura in past eras, using collective or individual case studies to illuminate long-standing challenges.

Symbolic Violence: Examinations of the broader social and cultural impact of self-censorship as a form of symbolic violence.

Intersectional Approaches: Research addressing how gender, ethnicity, age, family dynamics, migration, and class factors influence autocensura practices.

Mentorship and Peer Dynamics: Insights into how academic communities—drawing on frameworks such as Fleck's community of thought—mediate the practice of self-censorship.

Sociology of knowledge: Discussions on autocensura as an integral aspect of the knowledge construction process.

Revisiting Academic Freedom: Critical reflections linking autocensura to contemporary geo-political dynamics, and debates on research politics and academic freedom, as well as the dynamics between the public and the private.

Through this special issue, we aim to illuminate the intricate processes and interactions that underpin self-censorship in academia. We welcome innovative and interdisciplinary contributions that reveal both the constraints and the transformative potentials of knowledge production in today's complex socio-political landscape. Due to the character of the topic in this special issue, we consider the possibility of publication under pseudonyms, according to the QSR's recent rules.

Submit your abstract of 500 words to Izabela Wagner and Helena Pettersson on July 31st at the latest, see information below. If you have any questions, please contact the special issue co-editors.

Yours sincerely, the co-editors

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