Jahrbuch für Christliche Sozialwissenschaften

Aims and Scope of the JCSW

The Jahrbuch für Christliche Sozialwissenschaften, JCSW (Annals of Christian Social Ethics) is the leading journal in (Catholic) Christian social ethics in the German-speaking world. Regarding its topics and its authors, the JCSW has a scope that is ecumenical, interdisciplinary and international. The JCSW is published annually; articles are published in German and in English.

The aim of the JCSW is to analyse and discuss the challenges of contemporary social life at the highest scientific level. JCSW papers place emphasis on highlighting underlying societal mechanisms and their normative implications for society. These papers aim at understanding the social, political, cultural and economic contexts for ethical questions.

The JCSW was founded in 1960. Since 2010, the JCSW has been edited by Marianne Heimbach-Steins, director of the Institut für Christliche Sozialwissenschaften (Institute for Christian Social Sciences) at the Catholic Theology Department of the Westfälische Wilhelms-Universität Münster.

As contributors to a scholarly platform, we also see our responsibility in providing access to high quality, independent, open access, peer-reviewed research for the broadest possible community. Starting with volume 61, the JCSW therefore follows the principle of open access. All funding is via donations, which comes from the members of the “Verein der Freunde des Instituts für Christliche Sozialwissenschaften e. V.”. The JCSW also aspires to provide an excellent publication opportunity for young and upcoming scholars and researchers in Christian social ethics.

The outline of the JCSW

The JCSW adheres to the following structure:

I Thematic section (editorially structured annual themes)
   a) Overture (essays, editorial review)
   b) Contributions (articles, peer review)

II Open section
   (articles, peer review)

III Thinking and Doing Christian Social Ethics in Europe
   (essays, editorial review)
IV Bulletin
(announcements and conferences, editorial review)

Submission and Publication
The Jahrbuch für Christliche Sozialwissenschaften welcomes up-to-date, in-depth and socially relevant research from the field of Christian social ethics and related disciplines. JCSW papers analyse and/or address societal challenges, inspire critical discussions and illuminate possible avenues for further research.

The JCSW is characterised by personal and trusting communication as well as individual and appreciative assistance between editorial staff and authors. In order to be able to deal with the characteristics of each unique publication process from the first submission through to the published article, we do not use automated journal management in our work. Instead, we prefer to be in personal contact with our authors, reviewers, typesetters or proof-readers.

Therefore, please submit your article via email (jcsw@uni-muenster.de). Contributions may be received in all common file formats (e.g., MS-word, OpenOffice-Writer). The editorial staff will confirm receipt of the manuscript in a timely manner.

Scientific Quality Assurance
The standards of scientific quality assurance are of utmost importance for the JCSW. In this way, the JCSW seeks to further a heightened profile of the discipline of Christian social ethics within the context of academic theology and beyond. We strive to do justice to our responsibility as one of the leading journals in the field with respect to the scientific community.

Therefore, all submissions are subject to an open-ended review process. Research articles go through a double-blind peer-review process. Qualified reviewers assess the submitted manuscripts based on four criteria: (i) relevance in the field of Christian social ethics, (ii) originality, (iii) methodological appropriateness and logical coherence, (iv) clarity and conciseness of presentation. Reviewers’ comments are usually made available to authors in anonymous form in order to facilitate further improvement of the paper. Manuscripts that are inappropriate or insufficiently developed may be returned to the author(s) without formal review. All other submissions (e.g., overtures, essays, reports) go through an editorial review process. The editorial team reviews the submitted manuscripts primarily on their thematic relevance and logical adequacy, but structure, writing and presentation style are also considered.

Contact and Information
For further information on the journal, the subscription options and the published volumes of the JCSW, please visit www.jcsw.de. If you have any questions about the JCSW, please contact the editorial team.