

Abstract & Keyword Guidelines

How to write so that researchers can find — and cite — your article

The researchers most likely to cite your article may not be Confucian scholars. They may be a sociologist searching "meritocracy East Asia," a political theorist searching "Confucian democracy," or an AI ethicist searching "virtue ethics technology." **Your abstract and keywords are the only tools that determine whether they find you.**

Part 1 — Abstract

Length	200–300 words
Format	One paragraph, no subheadings, English only

Write in four steps

1	Background	What gap or debate does your article address? (1–2 sentences)
2	Argument	What does this article argue? Use: argues / demonstrates / reveals / contends (1–2 sentences)
3	Method	Which texts, thinkers, or method? Name them explicitly. (2 sentences)
4	Contribution	"This article contributes to [field/debate]..." — name the field explicitly. (1–2 sentences)

Verb choice matters

✓ Use these — clear and searchable <i>argues · demonstrates · reveals shows · contends · challenges establishes · proposes</i>	⚠ Avoid these — too vague <i>examines · explores · looks at considers · investigates attempts to · seeks to</i>
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Before & After

✗ This paper **explores** the concept of humility in Confucian thought and **examines** how it might be relevant to modern contexts.

✓ This article **argues** that Confucian humility is best understood not as self-deprecation but as an other-oriented cognitive disposition that enhances moral agency. Drawing on the Analects and recent cross-cultural psychology, it **proposes** a framework that integrates classical sources with empirical findings. This article **contributes to** debates in comparative virtue ethics and Confucian moral psychology.

Part 2 — Keywords

Number	5–8 keywords or short phrases
Format	Separated by semicolons. Include English translation for CJK terms: e.g., benevolence (ren 仁)
Key rule	Do NOT repeat words already in your title. Keywords expand — they do not duplicate.

Keywords are not an afterthought. They are the primary tool that determines whether your article is discovered and cited. Spend as much time choosing your keywords as you do writing your title.

Ask yourself: if a researcher who has never heard of this journal searches for your topic on Google Scholar, what exact words would they type? Those are your keywords.

Think in four layers

Choose at least one keyword from each of the four categories below. A strong keyword set covers all four.

	Category	What it covers	Example
A	Core concept	The central idea your article addresses	<i>Confucian humility; moral self-cultivation</i>
B	Field / tradition	The broader discipline — helps adjacent scholars find you	<i>virtue ethics; East Asian philosophy; comparative philosophy</i>
C	Context	Period, region, or contemporary setting	<i>contemporary Korea; Song dynasty; Joseon philosophy</i>
D	Trending term	A current debate your article connects with — this brings in readers from outside Confucian studies	<i>meritocracy; AI ethics; climate justice; democratic theory</i>

Why Category D matters: The researchers most likely to cite a JCPC article may not search Confucianism. A sociologist might search meritocracy East Asia. An AI researcher might search virtue ethics technology. Category D keywords are how they find you.

Before & After — Three quick examples

Article type	✗ Before	✓ After
Classical text analysis	<i>Confucianism; Wang Yangming; philosophy; ethics; knowledge; action</i>	<i>Wang Yangming; unity of knowledge and action (zhixing heyi 知行合一); Neo-Confucian epistemology; practical reason; Kant; comparative philosophy</i>
Contemporary application	<i>Korea; meritocracy; society; Confucianism; education</i>	<i>meritocracy critique; Confucian political philosophy; neoliberalism; educational inequality; contemporary Korean society; social justice</i>
Interdisciplinary	<i>AI; Confucius; technology; ethics; robots</i>	<i>AI ethics; Confucian virtue ethics; moral agency; digital Confucianism; human-robot relations; technology and society</i>

Part 3 — Quick Checklist

Check all boxes before submitting. Items marked * are required — submissions not meeting these will be returned for revision.

Abstract	Keywords
* 200–300 words * Single paragraph, no subheadings * Clear argument stated with assertive verb * Contribution to a named field in final sentence ○ Background/gap identified in first 2 sentences ○ Primary texts or thinkers named explicitly ○ Key terms appear naturally in the text ○ Proofread by native English speaker (recommended)	* 5–8 keywords provided * Separated by semicolons * No single generic words (Ethics, Korea, Philosophy alone) * No exact repetition of title words ○ Covers core concept (Category A) ○ Covers broader field (Category B) ○ Covers context/period (Category C) ○ Includes at least one trending term (Category D) ○ CJK terms include English translation

Questions? Contact the Managing Editor at jcp@skku.edu before submission. We are happy to review your abstract and keywords at any stage.