

On Apr 6, 2020, at 9:52 AM, Sherestha Saini <Sherestha.Saini@springernature.com> wrote:

Hello,

I am the publishing editor of the Springer journal Water, Air and Soil Pollution. Unfortunately, we will not be able to make any changes to the authorship at this stage. During submission, the instructions for authors clearly stated the following:

Changes in authorship, order of the authors, or designated corresponding author will not be permitted after an article has been submitted. Therefore authors should ensure that the author list is correct at submission.

We can either proceed with the original list of authors, or you can withdraw your paper. Please let us know ASAP. Thank you.

Best,

Sher

Sherestha Saini, Ph.D.

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From: Ruth D Yanai <rdyanai@syrr.edu>

Sent: Tuesday, April 7, 2020 1:11 PM

To: Sherestha Saini <Sherestha.Saini@springernature.com>

Subject: Re: WATE-D-19-01997R1

Sherstha,

I'm sorry I haven't caught on to this change in policy. In my long career, I have infrequently needed to add or remove authors after the submission of papers, usually due to changes in the scope or content of the paper in the revision process. It's new to be told that this is not possible. Is it related to an increase in abuse? I'm just curious (I teach a course for graduate students preparing manuscripts for publication and this is a relevant topic).

Why is there an author change form, which we went through the trouble of getting all the authors to sign and return, if no changes are allowed?

Could we withdraw the paper and resubmit it and retain the reviews and response to reviews? Then you could say that you didn't break the rule for us.

I'm sorry to make extra work for you. I promise to educate a new generation of students about these rules.

x Ruth

Ruth Yanai
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On Apr 8, 2020, at 1:23 PM, Sherestha Saini <Sherestha.Saini@springernature.com> wrote:

Dear Ruth,

In general, we only allow changes if there are errors in names of the authors or if there is a legal name change. We've had this new policy for some time now since author misconduct is on the rise and we've observed cases of gift authorship where authors decide to add on authors after submission of the paper. Some also add authors who have performed language edits. This is not sufficient to be considered as a co-author. In this case, it might be better to acknowledge their contribution in the acknowledgements section.

The rationale also is that all authors who have made a meaningful contribution to the work should be included during submission.

In this case, we will make an exception and accept the change in authorship.

Best wishes,
Sher

From: Ruth D Yanai <rdyanai@syr.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, April 8, 2020 1:41 PM
To: Sherestha Saini <Sherestha.Saini@springernature.com>
Subject: Re: WATE-D-19-01997R1

Thanks so much. This will come up every year when we discuss authorship. And I'll warn them that they have to get it right the first time!

I apologize, again, for the extra trouble I caused you.

On Apr 8, 2020, at 2:56 PM, Sherestha Saini <Sherestha.Saini@springernature.com> wrote:

Hi Ruth,

Thanks so much. It really depends on the journal and the students should read the instructions. In some cases it's possible that authorship changes might be allowed with approval from the editor in chief but in almost all cases once an article is accepted, no changes are allowed.

If I can help in any other way, please let me know.

Best,
Sher

On Apr 8, 2020, at 3:31 PM, Ruth D Yanai <rdyanai@syr.edu> wrote:

It's a cultural shift. Charley wrote back to me, when I shared your decision, "It is definitely a thing. I have been involved in three papers that needed authorship changes for various legitimate reasons this year. All were challenging because of pushback from the journal."

The abuse of authorship is not prevented by prohibiting changes. A decade ago, I had a student who told me he had to include his advisor from Korea on all the papers he wrote with me. Then, big surprise, he couldn't get a job at that university (the best in Korea) which I thought was because everyone hated his advisor, or at least felt bullied and resentful. I felt bullied and resentful; maybe I was just projecting.

You could help by accepting our paper! Just kidding. I hope the AE is very impressed by our thorough documentation of responses to the very helpful reviews. We'll sit tight.

Thanks for working during these difficult times. I feel so grateful that my work can continue.

x Ruth