Ethical responsibilities of authors
The Springer Proceedings in Business and Economics (SPBE) series is committed to upholding the integrity of the scientific record. The COPE guidelines on how to deal with potential acts of misconduct will be followed.

Authors should refrain from misrepresenting research results which could damage the trust in the series and ultimately the entire scientific endeavor. Maintaining integrity of the research and its presentation can be achieved by following the rules of good scientific practice, which includes:

- The manuscript has not been submitted to other edited book projects or journals for simultaneous consideration.
- The manuscript has not been published previously (partly or in full), unless the new work concerns an expansion of previous work (please provide transparency on the re-use of material to avoid the hint of text-recycling (“self-plagiarism”)).
- A single study is not split up into several parts to increase the quantity of submissions and submitted to various edited book projects or journals or to one journal over time (e.g. “salami-publishing”).
- No data have been fabricated or manipulated (including images) to support the manuscript’s conclusions.
- No data, text, or theories by others are presented as if they were the authors own (“plagiarism”). Proper acknowledgements to other works must be given (this includes material that is closely copied (near verbatim), summarized and/or paraphrased), quotation marks are used for verbatim copying of material, and permissions are secured for material that is copyrighted.
- Important note: software to screen for plagiarism may be used.
- Consent to submit has been received from all co-authors and responsible authorities at the institute/organization where the work has been carried out before the work is submitted.
- Authors whose names appear on the submission have contributed sufficiently to the scientific work and therefore share collective responsibility and accountability for the results.

In addition:
- Changes of authorship or in the order of authors are not accepted after acceptance of a contribution to the proceedings.
- Requests to add or delete authors at revision stage or after publication is a serious matter, and may be considered only after receipt of written approval from all authors and detailed explanation about the role/deletion of the new/deleted author. The decision on accepting the change rests with the volume editor(s) of the proceedings.
- Upon request authors should be prepared to send relevant documentation or data in order to verify the validity of the results. This could be in the form of raw data, samples, records, etc.

If there is a suspicion of misconduct, the volume editor(s) of the proceedings will be informed and involved and an investigation following the COPE guidelines will be carried out. If, after investigation, the allegation seems to raise valid concerns, the accused author will be contacted and given an opportunity to address the issue. If misconduct has been proven, this may result in the implementation of the following measures, including, but not limited to:

- If the contribution is still under consideration, it may be rejected and returned to the author.
- If the contribution has already been published online, depending on the nature and severity of the infraction, either an erratum will be placed with the contribution or in severe cases complete retraction of the contribution will occur. The reason must be given in the published erratum or retraction note.
- The author’s institution may be informed.