



Peer-Review Statements

Moebs Sabine^{1,*} Mathews Ivy Rose², Treydte Anna Christina³

¹Baden-Wuerttemberg Cooperative State University Heidenheim, Heidenheim, Germany

²Botho University, Gaborone, Botswana

³Stockholm University, Stockholm, Sweden

*Editor-in-Chief of the FIREtalk conference – Research on Fire!

Email: sabine.moebs@dhbw.de

All of the articles in this proceedings volume have been presented at the *FIREtalk conference – Research on Fire!* during 26-28 August 2025 at DHBW Mannheim, Coblitzer Allee, Mannheim, Germany. These articles have been peer reviewed by the members of the FIRE researchers' scientific committee and approved by the Editor-in-Chief, who affirms that this document is a truthful description of the conference's review process.

1. REVIEW PROCEDURE

The reviews were double-blind. Each submission was examined by two reviewers independently.

The conference submission management system was Meteor SpringerNature.

The submissions were first screened for generic quality and suitability. After the initial screening, they were sent for peer review by matching each paper's topic with the reviewers' expertise, taking into account any competing interests. Reviewers were selected based on their knowledge and care was taken that no close relationship between authors and reviewers existed to guarantee a non-biased process. All papers were checked for plagiarism. A paper could only be considered for acceptance if it had received favourable recommendations from the two reviewers.

Authors of papers for which reviewers recommended revision were notified and given the opportunity to revise and resubmit after addressing the reviewers' comments. The acceptance or rejection of a revised manuscript was final.

2. QUALITY CRITERIA

Reviewers were instructed to assess the quality of submissions solely based on the academic merit of their content along the following dimensions

1. Demonstrating the added value to the advancement of knowledge in the field as well as originality, novelty, and timeliness of the research
2. Offering a theoretical analysis of prior results, highlighting the novelty of the research
3. Carefully evaluating the strengths and limitations of its contributions
4. Offering a new form of evidence in support of or against a well-known issue/technique
5. Pertinence of the article's content to the scope and themes of the conference
6. Soundness of the methods, analyses, and results
7. Adherence to the ethical standards and codes of conduct relevant to the research field
8. Clarity, cohesion, and accuracy in language and other modes of expression, including figures and tables

In addition, all of the articles have been checked for textual overlap to detect possible signs of plagiarism by the publisher.

3. KEY METRICS

<i>Total submissions</i>	53
<i>Number of articles sent for peer review</i>	47
<i>Number of accepted articles</i>	29
<i>Acceptance rate</i>	54.7%
<i>Number of reviewers</i>	39

4. COMPETING INTERESTS

Neither the Editor-in-Chief nor any member of the Scientific Committee declares any competing interest. Some of the authors were supervised by the Editor-in-Chief (Möbs / Shidende, Sammadile, Meela, Otukile) or another member of the editorial committee (Mathew / Moloji, Samson-Zulu) and /Treydte / Mmbaga), who have recused themselves from handling their submissions and have delegated them to colleagues with no personal interests in them.

Open Access This chapter is licensed under the terms of the Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial 4.0 International License (<http://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc/4.0/>), which permits any noncommercial use, sharing, adaptation, distribution and reproduction in any medium or format, as long as you give appropriate credit to the original author(s) and the source, provide a link to the Creative Commons license and indicate if changes were made.

The images or other third party material in this chapter are included in the chapter's Creative Commons license, unless indicated otherwise in a credit line to the material. If material is not included in the chapter's Creative Commons license and your intended use is not permitted by statutory regulation or exceeds the permitted use, you will need to obtain permission directly from the copyright holder.

