

## Authorship: Author order guest and ghost-authorship,

It is vital that contribution to academic work should be adequately credited, as authorship and position in the author sequence may inform decisions on grant proposals and applications for academic positions. The link (<http://www.apa.org/research/responsible/publication/>) provides numerous references on how to determine authorship. Below some general guidelines (partly copied from Fine & Kurdek, 1993):

1. Discuss contributions and authorship order early in the process to avoid misunderstandings and conflicts later in the process. Previous agreements may be changed for a variety of reasons (e.g., illness, required new knowledge/expertise), but try to make all expectations explicit early in the process.
2. A very helpful starting point in the discussion about authorship can be found in the following Kosslyn scheme, the pdf is also attached at the end of this document: [https://kosslynlab.fas.harvard.edu/files/kosslynlab/files/authorship\\_criteria\\_nov02.pdf](https://kosslynlab.fas.harvard.edu/files/kosslynlab/files/authorship_criteria_nov02.pdf). We suggest that the individual with the highest number of points first chooses his/her position in the author list, then the individual with second highest number of points etc.
3. In this Kosslyn scheme, a contributor must earn a minimum number of points to earn authorship. This precludes some forms of authorship:
  - Guest authorship (being an author without contributing to the paper). It is unacceptable to exert pressure to become an author on a paper. This might be especially likely in an hierarchical situation (where supervisors or heads of departments might assume co-authorship on all papers from their lab/group). Please contact the [confidential advisor for scientific integrity](#) if this applies to your situation.
  - Financial remuneration is not a resource that can serve as a substitute for authorship credit.
  - A tit-for-tat argument ("gift authorship" e.g., I will put you on my paper, if you put me on yours) is unethical.
4. Note that an overview of contributions is also required for some journals and for all dissertations within psychology.
5. When a ghost writer is used (i.e., a professional writer, whose contribution will be excluded in the final publication; <https://www.enago.com/academy/authorship-in-research/>), this should be acknowledged in the author note or a footnote.
6. If the author team cannot agree about authorship order we recommend, as do Goodyear et al. (1992), the establishment of an ad hoc third party arbitration process. You can also refer to point 12 of the Code of Responsible Scientific Behavior about confidential advisors.

### References

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