

AI Policy for Stimson Publications – December 2025

Overview

Artificial intelligence (AI) is a powerful tool, but it should not replicate or replace human experience, original thought, and personal perspective. What’s more, AI usage is an energy- and resource-intensive process, with significant impacts on the environment. Given these considerations, authors are encouraged to be thoughtful and judicious in determining the net benefit of AI application and usage in their publications.

As a research organization committed to the development of innovative solutions, AI presents significant opportunities. But as an organization that looks beyond homogeneous thinking, the Stimson Center will always prioritize original ideas, critical thinking, and the human creative experience above all else.

The policy outlined below presents our guidelines for responsible AI usage in Stimson publications –

AI Usage in Stimson Publications: Guidelines

AI is a tool, not an author: AI is a tool that can be used to support our work and maximize our impact, but its outputs must always be validated and reviewed by the publication author or authors. Publication author(s) remain responsible and accountable for the accuracy, originality, and integrity of their work, regardless of the use of AI applications.

Plan deliberate usage: Before pen touches paper, map your planned usage of AI tools - see chart below for examples. For external (non-Stimson) authors, please share your planned application of AI tools with your Stimson point of contact for note in Stimson’s pipeline submission.

Transparency and disclosure: Upon submission of a piece for Stimson publication, authors must disclose to reviewers and editors how generative AI tools were used in the development of a piece (internal disclosure), and the human review it has undergone to ensure accuracy. For externally facing research products, an external disclosure is required for the publication of any AI- generated images or video. External disclosure (in the acknowledgements, methodology, or other appropriate section) may be requested for substantial use of AI in a research publication. Any published texts for which an AI tool’s output is included verbatim at length must include citations of AI usage in line with Stimson’s research integrity and plagiarism policies.

For planning purposes, some examples of AI usage for internal disclosure upon submission are listed in the table below. These examples are intended to be illustrative, not exhaustive:

Phase	AI usage
Brainstorming	Topic exploration, idea generation, horizon scanning, research design
Document review	Literature review, evidence extraction, article summarization, synthesis

Data collection/analysis	Data extraction, dataset cleaning, simulation/modeling, statistical assistance
Writing	Drafting text, citation support, figures and visualizations
Integrity checks	Plagiarism detection, AI-use transparency tools, data integrity validation
Editing	Editing draft for coherence/cogency
Translation	Translation of sources, translation of drafts for non-native English speakers

Compliance with existing policy: The use of AI in Stimson publications must comply with any existing policies and guidelines in place, including Stimson’s policies on research integrity, plagiarism, and research review and approval.

Proprietary and sensitive information in LLMs: Individuals should not submit personal, proprietary, or sensitive data into large language models (LLMs) without first confirming that inputs will be appropriately protected and data privacy will not be compromised.

Verification and source integrity: Large language models remain imperfect tools - accuracy should not be assumed, and author verification is essential. Authors must ensure references are real, accurate, and correctly cited; “hallucinated” or altered citations are grounds for rejection. The Stimson Center may use screening tools, stylistic review, citation checks, and editorial judgment to evaluate undisclosed AI use (recognizing detectors are probabilistic). If concerns arise around the originality and integrity of a piece, Stimson may request drafts, notes, or other original documentation from author(s).

As with any publication, Stimson will assess a piece across three parameters:

1. *Argument integrity:* Is the author presenting an original and compelling argument, backed and cited by trusted sources?
2. *Author authenticity:* Does the proposed piece reflect the author’s authentic voice and individual expert perspectives
3. *Source integrity:* Is the piece well-cited, with author’s data accounted for through authoritative, accurate sources?

Stimson retains final approval for publication of all pieces: Undisclosed and deceptive use of AI undermines trust and threatens the reputational integrity of scholars and host institutions, alike. Stimson reserves the right to reject any pieces that we believe contain unacknowledged or undisclosed use of AI tools. Please disclose any and all AI usage for proper attribution and acknowledgement. In addition, Stimson will employ a ‘two strikes’ with any author – repeated concerns around undisclosed AI usage will result in the loss of eligibility to contribute as a Stimson author.

This policy is a living document to support research integrity in the application of quickly evolving AI technologies. The Stimson Center will review and update this policy at least annually to track best practices across leading journals and universities.