

Issue Briefings Author Guidelines

Authors that would like to contribute to South China Sea Think Tank *Issue Briefings* should consider how their articles can make a meaningful contribution, however small, to research on the South China Sea. All articles undergo blind peer review before acceptance and publication. Before submitting to research@scstt.org, please take note of these few tips regarding publication in the *Issue Briefings* series.

- **Be concise.** Submissions should generally be from 750–2,000 words.
- **Use clear, unembellished language.** Analyses should be useful for specialist readers and accessible by non-specialists.
- **Familiarize yourself with previously published analyses.** Authors should think about how their contributions could improve upon what the SCSTT has already published.
- **Don't state the obvious.** Most readers have at least a basic understanding of the South China Sea maritime territorial disputes. Avoid repeating that “the SCS is a major source of regional tensions” or “there are seven claimants to islands or sea features in the SCS.” Seriously.
- **Be objective and/or inclusive of multiple viewpoints.** Our readers come from over seventy countries. Overtly biased opinion pieces are unlikely to be sent to peer reviewers.
- **Challenge mainstream narratives.** Analyses that offer alternative perspectives to existing analyses are highly encouraged, but keep in mind the point above.
- **Focus on how, why, and so what.** Analyses that address these questions tend to be more meaningful for our readership than news reports discussing only who, what, where, when, and how many.
- **Contribute original research.** Hundreds of articles about the SCS are published every day. Few of them offer much more than a reminder that the SCS is a big deal.
- **Include a brief abstract/summary.** Submissions should include a 1–2 sentence abstract that conveys the gist of the article and attracts the interest of readers.
- **Include subsection headings.** Subsections improve readability and provide authors a framework for more structured articles.
- **Include citations.** Complete citations should be formatted as footnotes in Chicago/Turabian style with no separate list of references.
- **Include an author bio.** Anywhere from 2–5 sentences is sufficient. Author bios and all other personal details will be removed before the article is sent out for peer review and added again at the time of publication.

Peer Review Process

All articles are subject to blind peer-review prior to acceptance and publication. For articles that satisfy all submission guidelines, SCSTT aims to complete the peer review process within two weeks. Contributors should carefully review all guidelines before submission to make the process as efficient as possible.

Editing

SCSTT reserves the right to revise articles for clarity, grammar, style, and content. Authors whose articles may need extensive revisions are advised to seek professional editing services prior to submission.

Republication

Submissions that have previously been published elsewhere are acceptable, but authors must clearly indicate this with their initial submission and acquire written permission from the publisher when applicable.

Submission

Authors should send articles in an editable format (e.g., Word, Google Docs, .rtf) to **research@scstt.org**. SCSTT will confirm all submissions within one week.

Inquiries

Authors may contact the Editorial Team at **research@scstt.org** with inquiries about suitable topics for publication.

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