

Call for Papers

Jakobsleiter vol. 6

Crossing Boundaries

In Celtic culture, liminal spaces (the shoreline between sea and land, the dawn and dusk between day and night, or the spring and autumn equinox between shortening and lengthening hours of daylight) were revered as meeting points, where one could cross over to another world.

Similarly, when doing academic research, it is often in those in-between spaces where discoveries happen: on the threshold between the known and the unknown, the familiar and the strange, the old and the new. As Arthur C. Clarke once said: "The only way of discovering the limits of the possible is to venture a little way past them into the impossible." One must cross that boundary in order to unlock new knowledge, whether it is by attempting something others have not tried before, or by looking at an issue from a different, new perspective, or by 'thinking outside the box' to solve a problem.

Boundaries may be metaphorical, but they can also be physical, or even artificial – as they are in the case of borders drawn on the map of the world.

In our sixth volume of *Jakobsleiter*, we celebrate the act of crossing boundaries. Whether you are interested in natural sciences or humanities, the world of economics or the arts, politics or psychology, engineering or mathematics, or indeed any other field, we are awaiting your submission.

Jakobsleiter is a Milestone-run peer-reviewed academic journal for high-school students in Hungary and beyond that aims to foster independent inquiry and make cutting-edge student research available to others. This year, we are looking for **original articles that attempt to explore acts of crossing boundaries. We invite articles in any discipline,** including but not limited to:

- Developments in life sciences, from pharmaceutical research to the preservation of endangered species;
- The impact of new technologies on our way of life and our world;
- The movement of populations, voluntary or involuntary, across the globe;
- Predicted effects of climate change on various fields and possible ways to address them;
- Past examples of crossing boundaries, within the field of sciences or in the history of the world;
- Discrimination and inclusion among particular social groups;
- Shifts in the economy and their impact on other areas of life;
- Psychological research into neurodiversity.

Articles that do not fit into the themes outlined above but offer novel approaches to their fields will also be considered for publication.

The final deadline for submissions is **15 March 2027.**

Students who submit their earlier working drafts will receive personalised feedback from members of the Academic Team at Milestone Institute. Please scroll down to learn more!

What does peer review mean?

Jakobsleiter has a two-step selection process:

1) First, Milestone's Editorial Board determines if the article is to be accepted for peer review;
2) If an article is accepted, an anonymised copy is sent out to an **independent expert on the topic**. Usually, these are **university professors abroad or in Hungary**.

The peer reviewer returns the article with their general verdict (whether it is fit to be published or not) and—if deemed fitting—suggestions on how to improve it before publication.

Peer review is double-blind, meaning that the reviewers do not know the name of the author, and the author does not know who reviewed their article. However, some reviewers may decide to share their names as a gesture of goodwill.

Why write an article for *Jakobsleiter*?

- Working on a research article is a great way to **experience authentic scholarship** and **try out what it feels like to be a university student** in your discipline.
- Since you can write on any topic that interests you, it is a great opportunity to **deepen your knowledge on a specific question**.
- It is a unique opportunity to get **personalised feedback** from Milestone's Academic Team as well as from an expert in your field **about the topic that interests you**.
- All three items above apply even if your article is not accepted for the final publication—even if you "fail," you gain a lot.

- Because it is rigorously reviewed, successfully publishing an article in *Jakobsleiter* can become one of the **key elements of your university application profile**.

Requirements

- The final deadline for submissions is **15 March 2027**.
- Articles should be between 4,000 and 5,500 words long, **not counting the bibliography**.
- Articles should either:
    - present the results of **original research analysing primary sources or data collected by the authors themselves** (e.g. interviews with respondents, surveys, archival research);
    - present **a novel reading of one or more publicly available sources** (e.g. books, digital communications, statistical data, films, etc.) done against the backdrop of previous approaches to them and arguing clearly how the proposed approach is novel;
    - offer **a critical review of existing scholarship on a narrow topic** in a way that presents an argument about the field's development, the state of current debates, or the current consensus on a specific issue. This option is especially welcome for papers in the **Natural Sciences and Psychology**, where you may not be able to conduct your own research from start to finish.
    - For examples of successful articles, check out the past volumes of Jakobsleiter!
- We are also accepting **academic book reviews**:
    - A book review should be between 1,000 and 2,000 words long.
    - The book reviewed should be published within the last two years (in 2025 or 2026).
    - The review should give a brief summary of the book's argument, an overview of its contents, and assess its contribution to the field.
    - The author may choose to review and compare two or three books addressing a similar topic as well, which would allow them to draw broader conclusions about the current debates on a topic. In this case, the book review can be up to 2,500 words long.

As you can see above, **writing an original research article requires hard work and considerable time**, which is comparable to taking on one or more additional module(s). This is what makes it such a strong profile element, showing your commitment to your interests.

Submission Timeline

Prospective authors will be offered support from the Academic Team of Milestone Institute: a **workshop** and **individual advising sessions**.

If you are a non-Milestone student and are interested in submitting an article, we strongly encourage you to **email us directly at info@msinst.org** for guidance rather than waiting for one of the intermediary deadlines!

You can join the advising process at any time, but it is best to start as early as possible. **Attending the workshop and all advising sessions is not compulsory for submitting the article by the final deadline.** However, it will be very helpful in clarifying whether a submission to this issue of *Jakobsleiter* is the best way forward for a given project, and in strengthening the article for the editorial review.

15 November 2026: Deadline to submit a **short Interest Form** telling us **what you would like your article to be about and how you have already explored this topic.**

20 November 2026: **Kick-Off Workshop** for *Jakobsleiter* 2027—What makes an article original and how to write one? The workshop will be held **from 17:00 to 18:00**, at Milestone Institute (Wesselényi u. 17) in **Grund** (off the courtyard).

13 December 2026: Submit a min. 2-page **literature review**, including your research question and hypothesis and attend an **advising session** with a member of Milestone's Academic Team.

24 January 2026: Submit the **first draft of your article** (**cc. 2,500 words**) and attend another **advising session**.

21 February 2026: Submit the **full draft of your article** (**4,000-5,500 words**) to the Editorial Board to receive feedback before the final submission.

15 March 2026: Final submission deadline.

We welcome submissions from Milestone and non-Milestone students alike!