



Call for Papers

Jakobsleiter vol. 5

Mapping the Future: From Speculation to Prognosis

When doing research, one is normally confronted with material that is, in one way or another, difficult to access. We show patterns that were previously overlooked, reach out to under-represented populations, perform experiments to prove counter-intuitive correlations. We work with the unnoticed, the hidden, and the unseen.

But how can one research something that is not here yet, how can predictions be made about how these patterns are going to develop in the future? How does one trace down something that has not left a trace yet? What are the signs one can meaningfully decode to make a reasonable prognosis?

Despite the apparent difficulty, all of the above are routinely done in various disciplines: from political analysts predicting election outcomes and experts discussing the projected developments in international relations, to meteorologists and climate scientists, to doctors advising patients and urban architects designing public spaces with future uses in mind.

It is to this issue that we dedicate the fifth volume of Jakobsleiter. We celebrate the journey from speculation to prognosis, and then—perhaps—to confirmation as well. Whether you are into chemistry, and study the ways in which materials will behave under given circumstances, a historian looking for the fitting comparison for analysing a social phenomenon, or a student interested in 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 map future developments, or explore how the future was thought of in the past. We invite articles in any discipline, area of life, and historical period**, including but not limited to:

- Developments in life sciences, from pharmaceutical research to predictions about species populations;
- Future impacts of technology in various areas of life;
- The art and science of making political prognoses;
- Predicted effects of climate change on various fields and possible ways to address them;
- Historical examples of thinking about the future, from five-year plans to utopias and dystopias;
- Expectations about the future among particular social groups;
- Predictions about changes in the economy or analysis of existing tools for making them;
- New directions in psychological research.

Articles that do not neatly 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 **April 1, 2026**.

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, it 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 *Jakobseiter*?

- 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 and 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 **April 1, 2026**.
- Articles should be between 3,000 and 3,500 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 [three published volumes here!](#)
- We are also accepting **academic book reviews**:
 - A book review should be between 1,000 and 1,500 words long.
 - The book reviewed should be published within the last two years (in 2024 or 2025).
 - 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 2,000 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.

November 23: 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.**

November 28: Kick-Off Workshop for *Jakobsleiter* 2026—What makes an article original and how to write one? The workshop will be held from 18:00 to 19:15, at Milestone, Wesselényi u. 17., in the Grund.

January 4: [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.

February 1: [Submit the first draft of your article](#) (appr. 2500 words) and attend another advising session.

March 1: [Submit the full draft of your article](#) (3,000-3,500 words) to the Editorial Board to receive feedback before the final submission.

April 1: [Final submission deadline](#).

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