

Publishing Academic Papers

What do before, during and
after journal submission



Acknowledgements

- I am drawing here on advice that I have received or followed.
- The presentation is drawing among other things on a presentation of **Prof. Berthold Rittberger**, LMU, Editor of the Journal of European Public Policy



Context

Experience, about 100 papers or chapters; probably 100 rejections of all types

15 years of editing of a top social sciences/ law journal

The presentation is very social sciences perspective. So be aware especially if you are from humanities

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Structure of the Presentation

Part I: Before You Submit – During the Writing

Part II: Choosing a Journal

Part III: During the Review Process

Part IV: Dealing with Revisions



Part I

Before You Submit & During the Writing



#1

- Develop in advance a sense of who is the audience of your paper and research more generally.
- This means – that you might want to know very early on to which journal you are going to submit.



#1-1

- Type of journals – Kingdom, M/S community, Disciplinary Association, European/US oriented, efficient/lax, Commercial/Academic
- Ranked, not ranked; established or not
- “international” –what does it mean?
- Do you know of the editor(s), board members? If not suspicious (perhaps google their citations if you don't know them)



#2

- Write to an audience, look for meaningful debate
- This means – that you might want to know very early on who stands on which side of the debate and where is the debate is taking place (that is, which journals)



#3

- Identify a leader or successful colleague and follow her publication path
- Go for young or mid-career leaders and identify the various 'paths' that they took for academic success



#4

- Identify a brilliant writing style and improve on the current style in your field
- This means that you should analyze different papers and styles of writing. Go also for different disciplines and learn from them.



#5

- Make one contribution in a paper.
- Save the other one for another paper.

- * note: don't publish the same contribution twice but it is perfectly right and indeed recommended to have few contributions from each project
- * Acknowledge and refer to your relevant papers



6#

- Think Big – How am I going to change the academic research in my discipline ?
- But know yourself and your career stage
- Why my research is VERY important and learn to tell some convincing stories around it.



Part II

Choosing a Journal



#8

- Identify the Journals where you supervisor/mentor had published. Analyze them and the choices s/he made in different career stages



#9

- Identify article structure styles and learn how they differ between journals.
- This means that you should analyze different journals and learn which styles are useful and legitimate.



#10

- Don't hesitate to ask the editor/s what is the average, mode and median time for submissions
- Nudge before submission

#11

- Don't hesitate to follow the submission with a personal email to the editor.
- Nudges are effective. Follow all stages of the review with personal note. Don't be shy. Editors are humans.



#12

- Don't publish in a second rate journals unless you have good reasons.....
- Aim high unless you have good reasons....
- The same is about book chapters. Publish them if you have good reasons to be part of a group and if you are prolific writer



#13

- Choose General interest over specialized journal



#14

- Unsure if your paper fits journal x?
- Look at your bibliography
- Which journals do you regularly read and cite?
- Ask mentor and/or experienced colleague
- Ask the editor/s



#15

- Make sure to understand Journal Ranking in Your field



#16

- Always submit a clean and well edited manuscript
- Make sure to have an excellent abstract
- Invest time in the introduction and the conclusions



#17

- Don't hesitate to ask the editor/s what is the average, mode and median time for submissions
- Nudge before submission

PART III

During the Review Process



#18

- Expect desk reject (and don't get upset by this)
- Have a plan B



#19

- Embrace for Rejection
- It happens to everyone and it happens quite often



#20

- Read carefully the reports of the reviewers.
- You will be supervised how different they will be a week or a month after the first time that you read them.
- Discuss them with colleagues and take advice.



#21

- When you receive a R&R decision. It is a big deal, the gam is on !
- First, go celebrate
- Then get to work and don't linger. High priority
- If you need more time, ask the editor/s



#22

- Write a careful revisions letter/memo
- It will go out to the reviewers with the revised version
- Offer a concise answers to each point; describe your changes
- When you do not agree with advice or comment; make a polite and reasoned answer
- Ask your mentor or peers to read the memo



#23

- Write a careful revisions letter/memo
- It will go out to the reviewers with the revised version

- When you do not agree with advice or comment; make a polite and reasoned answer.



Bonus

- Keep a steady pace of publications every year.
- Progress from good journals to excellent journals
- Jump on opportunities to publish with good journals and good group of scholar.
- Take advice from the right people

