

## 1 ☐ Writing your research for publication

What things might you write?

- Original articles for journals
- Published conference papers
- Review articles or chapters for edited books
- Book reviews
- Research monograph
- Government or other sponsored report

## 2 ☐ What determines the type of publication?

- Nature of your discipline (Social Science vs Humanities)
- Style of your specific project
- Your own position and career stage
- The priorities of your organisation or your supervisor

## 3 ☐ Publication strategy

- Develop one early in your career
- Should aim to maximise the quality and impact of your research dissemination
- Must be geared in part to external events (e.g. likely dates for RAE; time when you may be seeking new job or promotion)
- Should pay attention to what matters within your discipline

## 4 ☐ Different disciplines

- In the humanities the single-authored research monograph, published by a good publisher, is to be aimed for whenever possible
- Supplement with relatively small numbers of other publications - articles in journals or books.

## 5 ☐ Social sciences

- Monographs very important in some disciplines (e.g. social anthropology), but in most
- Refereed journal articles are used as strongest indicator of research quality, and
- In some disciplines a very narrow range of 'top' journals is seen as essential to target (.e.g. Economics)

- 6 ☐ Aim to publish a good number of high quality articles
  - Encourage ug and masters students to publish (you will naturally be co-, usually lead author)
  - Co-publish with PhD students (it teaches them to write/publish - but you would usually not be lead).
  - Make sure you publish your 'own' work regularly too - whether alone or with collaborators
  - Think about questions that may be asked about collaborative publications and if necessary, negotiate your place in the author list accordingly.
  
- 7 ☐ If aiming for journal articles
  - Consider appropriate ways to get closure on project to deliver a paper
  - Consider getting peer feedback with a conference presentation (but not published paper)
  - Publishing work in journal articles does not preclude the synthetic monograph at later point
  
- 8 ☐ Consider 'outlets' for your chunk of work
  - Prestige of target outlet vs. 'scale' of contribution (take advice, and read models)
  - Citation impact factor (in some subjects)/reputation for quality (in all)
  - Outlet's reputation for speed of processing manuscripts (check dates, take advice)
  - Publication lag (not the same thing)
  - Appropriateness for your topic (published there before?)
  
- 9 ☐ Impact factors
  - How many times on average article in journal is cited by all other journals in fixed period post-publication.
  - Tend to be American-dominated, and affected by reference/citation styles
  - Journals with high impact factors tend to be good, but there are often good journals lower down the league table where, e.g. a new field in European-dominated work is becoming established
  - Irrelevant for many disciplines, but important for some.
  
- 10 ☐ Further factors to consider
  - British vs overseas
  - New vs established journals
  - Publication requirements (length and style)

- Be pragmatic. Better to get your work into a good journal in time for RAE/job hunting than to waste 2 years having it rejected from the best!
- Get two or three 'good' works under your belt then aim higher and higher when you have time to do so.

#### 11 ☐ Further factors...

- Careful time planning
- Typically two years from initial submission to article appearance, and may be worse
- Target different chunks/stages to different outlets with different time-scales
- Think about relationship between conference papers and full articles

#### 12 ☐ Criteria for publication

- Self assess for quality and whether there is a novel contribution
  - What was the motivation for the work?
  - What contribution to theory/method or practice?
  - Have you achieved some 'closure' on the problem?
  - Are you interested/excited by the results?
  - Will others want to use your methodology?
- Answers may affect your choice of publication outlet

#### 13 ☐ Points about style

- Required style differs between disciplines, and between different outlets within the same discipline
  - Referencing style required
  - Expectations about length
  - How you report method and results (e.g. Nature vs Current Biology vs APA)

#### 14 ☐ Common requirements

- Clarity of presentation
- Use short, simple, jargon-free sentences
- Signposting (particularly for longer works)
- Summarising
- Use of examples
- Failure to 'decentre' can render your work meaningless to a new reader
- Spelling, punctuation, grammar (attention to detail)

15 ☐ **What happens when you submit to a journal**

- It will be sent for review (sometimes blind) by 2-5 referees (usually takes 2-6 months)
- The action editor will send a 'decision' drawing on views of referees but not entirely determined by them
  - Accept (unlikely first time);
  - Accept with revisions;
  - Revise and resubmit;
  - Reject with invitation to resubmit;
  - Reject

16 ☐ **If decision is disappointing**

- Put to one side for a couple of days
- Then look at comments and use these to decide whether to have another go, or send to another journal or not
- Learn the rules of the game about arguing with editorial decisions, and interpreting decision letters

17 ☐ **When you resubmit**

- Address in covering letter how you have dealt with earlier concerns
- Review (and letter) may get sent out to referees again, and new decision may invite further revision
- Some journals can require many iterations before acceptance - and possible rejection at each stage

18 ☐ **If accepted**

- Your work may be copy-edited before proof stage
- You will have copy-edited and/or proofs of ms to check very quickly
- Use this chance to check very carefully for easily corrected errors
- Check likely publication date with journal
- Congratulations!