

PhD to Published: Demystifying Publication for PGRs

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Outline

- ▶ Introductions
- ▶ What to publish
- ▶ Journal articles
 - ▶ the process
 - ▶ what reviewers are looking for
- ▶ Co-authoring
- ▶ Open access
- ▶ Answering some questions



Introductions

- ▶ Why we write and why we *want* to write
- ▶ Personal experiences (good or bad!) with writing and publishing
- ▶ The one thing I had wished I known

Why publish?

- ▶ Disseminate your arguments, data and ideas
- Contribute to academic knowledge, debate, argument
- Influence policy makers or other practitioners
- Inform or engage with public
- Educate students
- Establish/develop academic career
- Gain credibility within field, improve CV and career prospects
- Establish track record of publication/dissemination with funders

Bear in mind...

- Research Excellence Framework
- Different forms of Impact



What to publish – journal article, book, book chapter, etc.

Book?

Pros...

- Present work in depth and as one
- PhD thesis may provide considerable groundwork
- Potential to develop nuanced & extended arguments
- Potential to reach wide readership
- Generates publicity, profile, status
- Potential to be rated highly for assessment exercises

Cons...

- Inefficient for REF/metrics?
- Extensive and difficult task
- Finding suitable publisher not always easy
- Hardback-only could limit readership

Chapter in edited book?

Pros

- Publicity – work featured alongside others in field under broad title
- Reach broader readership
- Self-contained (e.g. 6000 words) quick to write
- Once invited, review system often sympathetic
- Deadlines useful!

Cons

- Status unclear for REF, job applications, promotions?
- Can depend on being invited
- Useful but not substitute for journal articles

Journal papers?

Pros

- Self-contained piece (8000 words)
- Efficient for REF/CV
- Potential for high readership by target audience
- Feedback from peers as part of review process
- Highly regarded – career, CV, status...

Cons

- Peer review process can be tough
- Limited breadth of readership
- Not all journals are high status

Submitting an article to a journal

A GUIDE TO THE PROCESS

1. Author prepares article

- ▶ Decide on target journal
 - ▶ Word count; house style
 - ▶ Focus
 - ▶ References from previous issues?
- ▶ The content
 - ▶ Feedback from supervisor/colleagues
 - ▶ Proofread carefully
- ▶ Format
 - ▶ Cover sheet? Separate abstract? Two copies?
 - ▶ Anonymise (acknowledgements, self-references etc.)

2. Author submits article

- ▶ Online submission, including submission form and documents including:
 - ▶ Article (upload)
 - ▶ Separate abstract
 - ▶ Contact details
 - ▶ Keywords
 - ▶ Word count (some journals are strict!)

Author Center Submit a Manuscript

Select your manuscript type. Enter your title, running head, and abstract into the appropriate boxes below. If you need to insert a special character, click the "Special Characters" button. When you are finished, click "Save and Continue." [Read More ...](#)

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Manuscript Type


req Manuscript Type:

req **Title** (Limit 50 words)

 Preview  Special Characters

Press Control-V (or Cmd-V) to Paste

req **Abstract** (Limit 200 words)

 Special Characters

Press Control-V (or Cmd-V) to Paste

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Upload as many files as needed for your manuscript in groups of three or fewer. These files will be combined into a single PDF document for the peer review process. If you are submitting a revision, please include only the latest set of files. **If you have updated a file, please delete the original version and upload the revised file.** To designate the order in which your files appear, use the dropdowns in the "order" column below. View your uploaded files by clicking on HTML or PDF. When you are finished, click "Save and Continue." [Read More ...](#)

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My Files (Uploaded files cannot exceed 30000K)

Order	File Name	File Designation ^{req}	Date	Edit Details	Delete
<i>No files have been uploaded.</i>					

File Upload

Upload new files:

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3. Editors screen the article

- ▶ Different practices; variation by journal
- ▶ Typically check:
 - ▶ Word count
 - ▶ Expression/English language
 - ▶ Focus – within remit of journal?
 - ▶ General quality of article
- ▶ ‘Desk rejection’ possible at this stage

4. Editors send article to referees

- ▶ Different policies by journal
 - ▶ How many referees?
 - ▶ How chosen? (editorial board vs specialists)
 - ▶ Can be difficult to find; editors may need to work hard & delays possible!
 - ▶ Timeline
- ▶ Referee's tasks
 - ▶ Provide feedback on article (format varies)
 - ▶ For author, and for editors only
 - ▶ Make recommendation re publication (categories vary)
- ▶ Some journals provide detailed guidance to referees; others do not

req Recommendation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accept
<input type="checkbox"/>	Minor Revision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Major Revision
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reject & Resubmit
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Reject

Would you be willing to review a revision of this manuscript?

Yes

No

Comments

Confidential Comments to the Editors

Although this article addresses an important issue of internet safety publication in the Journal of Youth Studies. It focuses largely on a robust theoretical framework, and is overly descriptive in nature. I recommend the article to a journal that focuses more explicitly on children.

There are also a few other issues that should be addressed:

1. The paper is full of very short paragraphs. These should be combined to make the paper considerably more readable.
2. In places, the expression is a little weak and needs to be improved (e.g. consecutive sentences).
3. Some statements need further explanation e.g. the four recommendations.

req Recommendation	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Accept for Publication
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accept with Revisions
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reject with view for resubmission
<input type="checkbox"/>	Reject

Comments

Confidential Comments to the Editors

req Comments to the Author

This article explores the higher education choices of young people in a national context where there is no clear status hierarchy of institutions, and considers how privileged groups differ between apparently similar universities. The paper is of particular interest to a journal that investigates a very different situation from that in the UK, but also has more general implications for the various ways privileged groups can use the education system to reproduce their status. I recommend the publication subject to the following changes:

1. I thought more contextual information should be provided in the second section about some of the more general statements that are made. For example, the point about differences between community colleges and universities should be brought into the main text rather than appear merely as a footnote. Similarly, it would be good to hear more about the

5. Editors receive referees' comments

- ▶ May need to send reminders....delay possible
- ▶ Editorial judgement usually closely follows referees' recommendations
- ▶ But – judgement is required!
 - ▶ Referees sometimes disagree
 - ▶ Referees' comments may not always be diplomatic
- ▶ Make decision



6. Editors send decision to author



Usually by email



Usually with all feedback
referees were happy to be
passed on



Editors may highlight
specific/main changes
required

Or expect author to interpret
referees' comments



Very few articles accepted
straightaway

Do not be downhearted by a
'revise and resubmit'!

7. Author revises article

Read	Read referee reports carefully
Use	Use judgement <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Suggestions may conflict – and you do not have to accept all suggestions!
Make	Make revisions
Write	Write covering letter <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Explaining what you have done and justifying anything you have not done
Submit	Submit article

8. Editors review resubmission



If major revisions, usually sent to referees

Original referees usually asked; may decline



If minor revisions, editors may make decision (or send on)



Depending on journal, only one 'revise and resubmit' may be allowed

9. Publisher prepares article



Author asked to sign copyright form



Once copy-editing complete, author sent proofs



Send corrections in – often tight deadline



Advance online publication



Allocation to specific issue

What are journals looking for?

What are journals looking for?

Subject area/approach suitable for journal

Clear (& self-contained) purpose/direction

New contribution

Embedded in existing literature

So what? Why does it matter?

Clear, honest and plausible re: methodology

Clear arguments/conclusions supported by data

General Writing Tips

Overview

– Always remember you have a reader – think of them at all times!

Clear, accessible but academic style

Do not assume too much or little prior knowledge

Ensure you have clear structure & logical development of argument

Tone – clear and confident but not arrogant, simplistic or too keen to wield the hatchet

Length – usually 6000-8000 words but check!

Title/Abstract

Title – clear and to the point ('what it says on the tin' is often the best approach)

- think keywords!

Abstract – clear, simple and accessible.

“My study is about this. Here is why this problem is important. Here is what we know about this problem. These studies leave THIS IMPORTANT THING that needs to be found out. Here is what I did to find that out. I did the study this way. It produced these results.”

(<http://wickedanomie.blogspot.co.uk/2008/03/academic-manuscript.html>)



Where to submit your paper...

Increasing emphasis on quality/reach

Maximising audience – and reaching the
right audience

REF - funding for articles rated 3 or 4 only

International league tables and impact

Open access



Assessing Journal Suitability

- ▶ Impact factor?
- ▶ Other indications of quality (e.g. connected to prominent associations)
- ▶ How is it viewed, informally, within the field?
- ▶ Who is on the editorial board?
- ▶ Where are other people within your field publishing?
- ▶ How parochial/international is the journal?
- ▶ How specialist is the journal?

Assessing Journal Suitability

- Consider what sort of a paper it is you're writing. How specialist is it? Theoretical or empirical? How locally specific? Who is your primary audience? How long is it?
- Find out about impact factors and other formal or informal indicators of quality. Ask colleagues/peers.
- Consider whether speed of publication is an issue. Online only journals publish faster – and there are differences between other journals.
- If speed is not a particular issue, aim high and be prepared to be rejected and send elsewhere.



...making sure
it's noticed



Linking it to your other work

- ▶ Conference presentations
 - ▶ When working on it (pre-submission)
 - ▶ Once been accepted
 - ▶ Once published
- ▶ Referencing it in subsequent publications
- ▶ Review articles, book reviews, rapid response articles
- ▶ Recommended reading on module reading lists

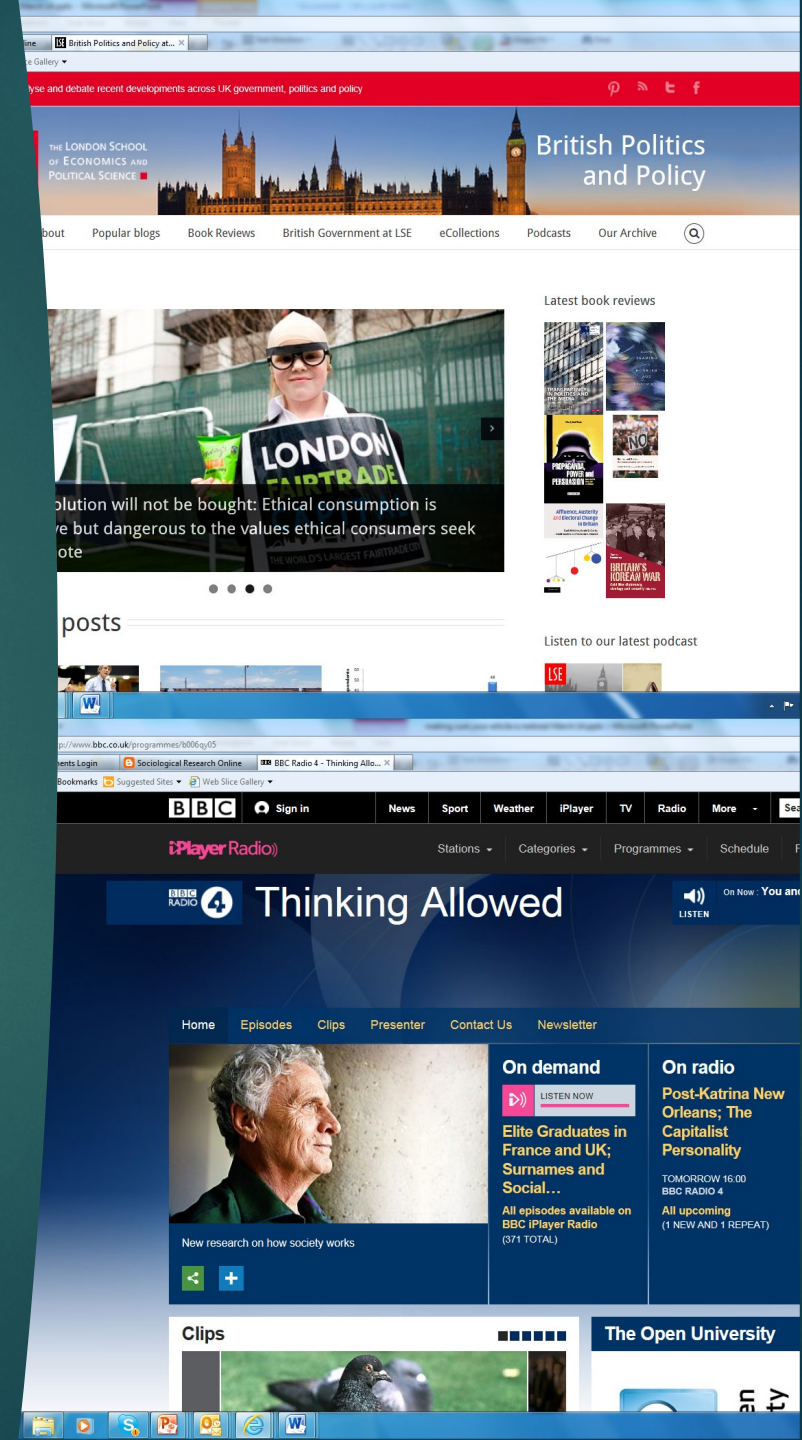


Making it easy to find/access

- ▶ Careful choice of keywords
- ▶ Effective title
- ▶ Open access
 - ▶ Pay publisher
 - ▶ Institutional repositories
 - ▶ Academic websites e.g. Academia.edu, ResearchGate
- ▶ Departmental and/or personal webpages

Communicating to a wider audience

- ▶ Social media
- ▶ Video/Podcasts
- ▶ Blogs
 - ▶ Own, institutional
 - ▶ Journals (e.g. Gender and Education)
 - ▶ Subject specialist (e.g. LSE Politics and Policy)
- ▶ Press releases
 - ▶ Newspaper articles
 - ▶ Radio programmes (e.g. Thinking Allowed, Woman's Hour)





Co-authoring

Panel Discussion: Co-Authoring Questions

- ▶ How do you decide who to co-author with?
- ▶ What are the most rewarding aspects of co-authoring?
- ▶ Do you have any cautionary tales from your experiences with co-authoring?
- ▶ As PGR or ECR's, when should we consider co-authoring?



Open access

Deciding to publish Open Access

- ▶ Open Access = making your article/book/book chapter freely available to read online.
- ▶ **Do I have to publish my article open access?**
If your research received funding, check to see if your funder has an open access mandate. All UK Research Councils follow the UKRI policy:
<https://www.ukri.org/publications/ukri-open-access-policy/>
If there is no mandate, you can choose.
- ▶ **What about REF in the UK?**
No policy yet but there will be an open access element. If your work is already compliant with the UKRI policy, it will definitely be REF compliant.
- ▶ **How do I publish open access?**
Visit the publisher and/or journal website; Sage Open Access:
<https://uk.sagepub.com/en-gb/eur/open-access-at-sage>
Ask your university library about options for the journal and your publication type.
- ▶ **What does CC BY mean?**
Open access work is generally published using a Creative Commons licence. Authors choose the licence. To make the right choice for your work, check out the Creative Commons website: <https://creativecommons.org/share-your-work/licenses/>



Responding to questions