Getting published!

How to write good papers and survive peer-review

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Key decisions

- When to publish
- Where to publish
- What to publish
- How to publish

When to publish

- Sooner than you might think…
- You are never ‘ready’ to publish if you don’t try
- Rejection is better than nothing
- Write the thesis in ‘publication’ mode
  - Try to generate two articles from your thesis
- You can start by submitting works presented at conferences to the GS Working Papers Series…soon to be established…

Where to publish

- Follow your bibliography
- Two strategies:
  - If you have time, aim high and settle with medium/low
  - If you don’t have time, be reasonable and aim for the most probable outlet
- If you’re a genius, you can do what you like
- Know the preferences or biases of journals

What to publish

Degrees of innovation	Innovative features: theory, methodology and data		
1	New theoretical development (e.g. formal model)	New methodology (e.g. fuzzy sets) employed for testing an established theory using old data	Original data collected to test an established theory, using a conventional method
2	Development of new theory, tested on old data but employing a new method	New methodology employed for testing an established theory using original data	Original data collected to test an new theory, using a conventional method
3	Original theoretical expectations tested employing a new methodology and using original data		

What to publish (2)

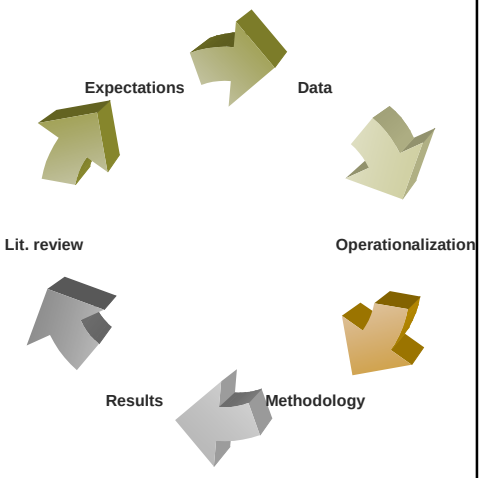
- Your best output
- Your most innovative output
- Your most defensible output
- Don't try to do too much: save the next bright idea for a second paper

How to publish

- Classic structure of an (empirical) article
  - Introduction (added value and results)
  - Literature review
  - Expectations
  - Data
  - Operationalization
  - Methodology
  - Analysis of results
  - Conclusions (results, problems, normative considerations, future research)

Writing papers

- The structure is NOT the way you write papers
- Write, write, write weekly, if not daily
- Be flexible, use ‘rolling hypotheses’



The introduction

- Leave it at the end
- Get the attention early in the paper
- Imitate (don't plagiarize!) skilful writers
- Treat others generously, cite them accurately
- Avoid excessive self-reference
- Cite the works of potential referees in the introduction
- Don't be apologetic
- Choose an interesting title
- Write a concise and incisive abstract

The peer-review process

- First submission
- First report within six to eight months
  - Two/three referees (report for author and for editor)
  - Editor's decision: publish, review and resubmit, reject
  - Contact the editor after six months
- Second submission
  - Revised manuscript and report for referees
- Second report within four to six months
  - Same referees/most critical ones/new ones
  - Editor's decision: publish or reject
- Publication within one/one and an half year

Facts about publication

- About 1/3 of manuscripts submitted to top journals receive favorable reports
- Top ranking journals require approval from all referees
- There no such thing as good luck in publication. Hard work and careful risk taking is required for success

Dealing with rejection

- No submission = no rejection (happy?)
- The best academics get their papers rejected much more often than you think
- Develop a thick skin and be a good looser
- If a “stupid” referee misunderstood your paper, it’s your fault
- Don’t get angry, write better papers

Dealing with revision

- Be excited!
- Take it very seriously: it is the LAST change (do the extra mile)
- Write a detailed response to each referees' comments – don't attack them
- Absorb their comments
- Read carefully also the editor's report
- Take your time

Bibliography

- Dunleavy, Patrick. 2003. *Authoring a Ph.D.: How to Plan, Draft, Write and Finish a Doctoral Thesis or Dissertation*. London: Macmillan.
- http://www.roie.org/how.htm