

PUBLISHING

PART 1

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**most of the materials are taken from slides by Brian D. Joseph, Joe Salmons, Keren Rice, Jeffrey Lidz, and Kai von Fintel from the workshop "The Publishing Process" at the 2015 LSA Summer Institute.*

FROM TERM PAPER TO SUBMISSION BY BRIAN D. JOSEPH

- Term paper / MA Thesis / PhD Dissertation ≠ journal article
 - different audience and purposes
 - no need to include long literature review
 - don't need a 'topic for dummy' section

HOW DO YOU KNOW IF YOU HAVE SOMETHING PUBLISHABLE

- Ask your advisor
- one term paper = one paper; one MA thesis = a couple of papers, one dissertation = several papers (but this depends).
- one dissertation to several journal articles or a book?
 - depends on tenure expectation and timing
 - Note that the ethical norms in our field are such that you can publish an article or two and *then* publish the whole as a book but not vice-versa.

WHICH JOURNAL TO SUBMIT TO?

- check content
- check paper types
 - Full Research Papers
 - Review Papers: These types of papers review and summarize other research, papers or topics
 - Squibs: short papers focusing on one point
- check submission format

BEFORE SUBMITTING

- have your advisors, fellow students, other faculty read it.
 - the ideal is to develop into part of a community of scholars, with common interests and common goals; your peers play a role in this regard, particularly ones who are closer to finishing or who have just finished.
- PROOFREAD: language/writing problems are a basis for a desk rejection.
 - no typos
 - no sentence fragments
 - no missing references
 - no "notes to self" about stuff to fill in, etc.

SUBMITTING TO MULTIPLE JOURNALS?

- NEVER AT THE SAME TIME
- simultaneous submission of the same paper to multiple journals is a serious violation of the norms in our field

CHOICE OF PUBLICATION VENUE (KAI VON FINTEL)

- Before submitting you should share early, often, and relentlessly
 - advisors, mentors, colleagues, friends
 - reading/work-in-progress groups
 - workshops, conferences
 - your website
 - LingBuzz/ROA/SemanticsArchive
 - mailinglists
 - reddit, twitter, facebook, whatever
- Why?
 - feedback • connections • exposure

WHERE TO SUBMIT

- papers in journals win over chapters from edited books
- candidate journals?
 - where has similar work been published?
 - ask people
 - reputation/exposure/impact
 - selectivity
 - speediness of the review and decision process
 - quality of feedback (do editors craft decisions with positive guidance?)
 - respect for authors' rights (open access friendliness)
 - quality (and existence) of copy-editing
 - quality (and existence) of professional typesetting
 - speediness of publication

OPEN ACCESS

➤ Green OA

- allows posting to personal/institutional/disciplinary websites of preprints • of postprints(better) • of the final published version(best)

➤ Gold OA

- “author-side” fee for open access publication
- gold OA journals(such as Frontiers of Science)
traditional toll OA journals(hybrid,OA option)
some institutions, grant agencies will pay or subsidize
- Don’t be taken in by predatory gold OA operations!

➤ Platinum OA

- no cost to authors or readers
- institutionally supported (perhaps NPR model) e.g. Semantics and Pragmatics

FROM SUBMISSION TO DECISION (JOE SALMONS)

- Australian Journal of Linguistics
- Biolinguistics
- Brain & Language
- Diachronica
- Functions of Language
- IEEE Transactions on Professional Communication
- International Journal of American Linguistics
- Italian Journal of Linguistics
- Journal of Comparative Germanic Linguistics
- Journal of Jewish Languages
- Journal of Linguistics
- Language
- Language Dynamics and Change
- Latin American Journal of Content and Language Integrated Learning
- Lingua
- Linguistic Inquiry
- Linguistic Typology
- Semantics & Pragmatics
- Studia Anglica
- Posnaniensia

WHO IS INVOLVED IN HANDLING MANUSCRIPTS

- A whole set of different people may be making key decisions and doing key work on your manuscript:
 - At some journals, esp. smaller ones, the main editor does this, often alone.
 - Some journals have co-editors who share the work.
 - Some journals have a team that deals with this, that is, as a group.
 - The role of Associate Editors varies. In some cases, AEs provide advice on reviewers and such; at others, they take the lead.
 - Some journals allow you to select which editor will handle a manuscript.

DO YOU DO 'DESK REJECTIONS' (WITHOUT EXTERNAL REVIEW)?

- The answer from all journals was 'yes'.
- In addition to quality and fit with journal, quality of the prose and language were mentioned.
- Many editors stressed the value of saving time for the authors and sparing reviewers manuscripts that would not be accepted.
- Some journals desk reject a majority of submissions; others only do it in clear cases.

ARE REVIEWER GUIDELINES AVAILABLE TO POTENTIAL AUTHORS?

- Most have guidelines and they are often available, but not all journals have them.
- A piece of advice from one editor: Guidelines or no, “young scholars should work with a mentor in preparing the paper.”
- Three editors indicated that they are going to make guidelines available to authors, so the practice is spreading.
- If guidelines are available, you should look at them carefully and make sure your paper fits the relevant bill.

HOW MANY REVIEWERS TYPICALLY VET A PAPER?

- Often two for simple cases (where two can cover the range of theory and data).
- Often three where it's more complex.
- PLUS input from editorial team, editor.

WHAT IS THE BASIC TIMELINE FOR THE PROCESS?

- Serious mismatch between goals and reality.
- The common pattern:
 - a week or so to check the manuscript,
 - time to find readers (from a week to a couple of months),
 - readers often with a deadline of a month,
 - then we can start on a decision.
- Readers commonly take longer than a month, often 2-3. It then takes a week to a month to draft and revise a decision.
- Typical GOAL is 2-3 months and a typical REALITY is 4-6 months.

WHO IS INVOLVED IN WRITING EDITORIAL DECISIONS?

- Three categories (but pretty constrained variation):
 - the editor (executive editor or ‘handling’ editor),
 - the editor does it with input from an associate editor,
 - the editor regularly works with / consults a broader team.
- Things are moving from the first toward the second or third, based on some comments.
- Even editors who write decisions alone consult other editors on difficult cases.
- It was once common for decisions to be collations of reviews. One editor said: “Our decisions are epically detailed, typically going far far beyond a collation of the peer reviews.”

FURTHER POINTS FROM EDITORS

- The most common decision is ‘revise and resubmit’, which should be taken as good news: It means that the paper is publishable if the author engages seriously, scrupulously, and constructively with the reviews.
- Authors can always discuss reviewers’ points, or the incompatibility between reviewers’ demands, with the handling editor, who will advise the author.

FURTHER POINTS FROM EDITORS

- Due to the editorial management platforms (e.g., ScholarOne, Editorial Manager), it may seem like no action is being taken when, in fact, a lot of work is going on behind the scenes.

FURTHER POINTS FROM EDITORS

- ... we consider reviews **ADVICE**; **DECISIONS** about publication or otherwise are taken by the Editorial Board in light of this advice. Thus, the Editorial Board reserves the right to overrule (positive as well as negative) reviews. In practice this doesn't happen a lot, though.