

How NOT to review a paper

Andreas Schoknecht

Cormode, G. (2009). How NOT to review a paper: the tools and techniques of the adversarial reviewer. SIGMOD Rec., 37(4), 100–104.

INSTITUT FÜR ANGEWANDTE INFORMATIK UND FORMALE BESCHREIBUNGSVERFAHREN (AIFB)



SEMBIS
2. Studierendenkonferenz

Übersicht Reviews

■ Ziel

- Paper verbessern
- Entscheidung eines Programmkomitees rechtfertigen
- Erfahrung gewinnen durch das Begutachten von Papern

■ Zweck: Qualitätskontrolle

■ Von wem: Üblicherweise Wissenschaftler des gleichen Forschungsbereichs

Hinweise zum Review Vorgehen

- So früh wie möglich starten: Verständnis einer Einreichung braucht teilweise etwas Zeit

- Notizen machen beim ersten Durchlesen
 - Vollkommen in Ordnung einfach aufzuschreiben, was man gerade denkt
 - Später Zeit, um Gedanken zu sortieren

- Nach dem ersten Lesen
 - Referenzen, Quellen, etc. recherchieren
 - Niederschrift der Begutachtung

Struktur eines Review

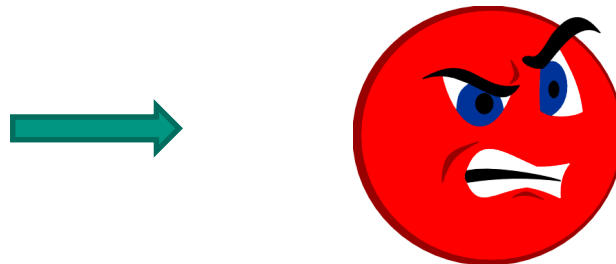
- **Zusammenfassung** einer Einreichung: Neutrale Beschreibung über den Inhalt, wie die Fragestellung lautet, was gemacht wurde
- **Spezifische Kommentare:** Meist Unterteilung in Hauptpunkte und Kleinigkeiten
 - In unserem Fall Hauptpunkte inhaltliche und optische Gestaltung eines Posters
 - Kleinigkeiten sind z.B. Rechtschreibfehler, Verweis mit falscher Abbildungsnummer und Ähnliches
 - Nicht nur negative Aspekte erwähnenswert, auch wirklich gute Punkte sollten angemerkt werden
- Zusammenfassung des Gutachtens am Schluss hilfreich

Tonart eines Reviews

- Autoren kennen Gutachter nicht
- Daher Vorsicht geboten bei der Wortwahl
 - Gutachten konstruktiv schreiben
 - Kritik eventuell als Fragen formulieren
- Kritik an der Einreichung, nicht an der Arbeit selbst üben
 - Als Gutachter sieht man nur die Einreichung und nicht die eigentliche Arbeit

Warum How NOT to... ?

- Beinahe jedes Paper bietet Angriffsflächen für Gutachter
- Bedingungen unter denen ein Review geschrieben wird oftmals schwierig
 - Zeitdruck bzw. Zeitmangel
 - Wenig oder kein Interesse an dem Thema eines Papers
 - Eventuell verlangt ein Paper Recherche nach weiterer Literatur, was zu erhöhtem Aufwand führt
 - Paper präsentiert zu dem Gutachter abweichende Meinung



„Feindlicher“ Gutachter

„Feindliche“ Review-Techniken (1)

- **Zu viel oder zu wenig...**
- aber niemals richtig

- **Beispiel Illustrierende Beispiele**
 - Wenn in einem Paper keine Beispiele vorkommen, beschwert sich ein Gutachter, dass es zu wenige gibt, um die Idee des Papers zu illustrieren
 - Wenn es einige Beispiele gibt, beschwert sich ein Gutachter, dass es zu viele sind und sie den Lesefluss stören oder der Platz besser anders verwendet worden wäre

- **Beispiel Experimente**
 - Entweder sind einige Experimente vorhanden, die jedoch nicht ausreichen, um zu zeigen, dass die Ergebnisse eines Papers für eine große Bandbreite an Daten gut sind
 - Oder zu viele Experimente, die lediglich geringe Veränderungen eines Ergebnisses darstellen und keine nützlichen Informationen liefern

„Feindliche“ Review-Techniken (2)

- Wenn man nichts Schlechtes sagen kann...
 - schreibt man auch nichts Positives über ein Kapitel, Abschnitt, etc.
 - oder wertet den Textteil ab, indem man ihn als langatmig bezeichnet
- Paper schlecht bewerten, aber kaum erklärende Kommentare abgeben
 - Hilft den Autoren nicht bei der Verbesserung
- Sprachfehler
 - „English in some passages is odd and this obscures the meaning.“
 - Rechtschreibfehler oder Sprachfehler zu kritisieren ok
 - Aber wenig hilfreich ohne genaue Angabe

„Feindliche“ Review-Techniken (3)

■ Ändern von Zielen eines Papers

- Gutachter ändert selbst das Ziel eines Papers
- Beispielsweise weil es „fundamentaler“ ist und kritisiert, dass das Paper die (neuen) Ziele nicht erreicht

■ Generelle, unspezifische Kritik

- „Das Paper lässt viele Fragen offen“: Ohne zu sagen, welche
- „Einige Behauptungen sind fragwürdig“: Jede Behauptung kann hinterfragt werden, sogar wenn die Antwort immer „Die Behauptung ist korrekt“ lautet
- „Das Paper ist von geringem Interesse“: Ohne zu sagen, warum und wie das festgestellt wurde
- „Das Paper ist ungenügend motiviert“: Ohne zu sagen, warum
- ...

Bedienungsanleitung (1)

[STARTSEITE](#)
[SEMINAR-ÜBERSICHT](#)
[PERSÖNLICHE STARTSEITE](#)
[MITTEILUNGEN](#)

Startseite > SemBIS: Studierendenkonferenz > **Persönliche Startseite**

Persönliche Startseite

SemBIS: Studierendenkonferenz

2. Studierendenkonferenz

» Autor	0 Aktiv
» Gutachter/in	0 Aktiv

Mein Konto

- » [Mein Profil bearbeiten](#)
- » [Mein Passwort ändern](#)
- » [Ausloggen](#)

Neu freigeschaltete Gutachter-Funktion

Auswahl zeigt eine Übersicht der zu beurteilenden Einreichungen an

Bedienungsanleitung (2)

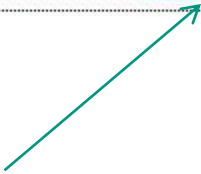
[STARTSEITE](#) [SEMINAR-ÜBERSICHT](#) [PERSÖNLICHE STARTSEITE](#) [MITTEILUNGEN](#)

[Startseite](#) > [Benutzer/in](#) > [Gutachter/in](#) > **Aktive Einreichungen**

Aktive Einreichungen

AKTIV [ARCHIV](#)

ID	MM-DD ZUGEWIESEN	TRACK	TITEL
53	04-25	ModProz	TEST-POSTER
1 - 1 von 1 Treffern			



Auswahl führt zur Bewertungsübersicht
der Einreichung

Bedienungsanleitung (3)

#53 Gutachten (Paper)

Einreichung wartet auf Begutachtung

Titel	Test-Poster
Konferenztrack	Modellierung von Geschäftsprozessen
Zuständiger Leiter	Andreas Schoknecht  (Leiter)

Gutachtenszeitplan

Anfrage des Leiters	2014-04-25
Ihre Antwort	—
Gutachten eingereicht am	—
Gutachten fällig am	2014-05-02

Allgemeine Informationen zu einer Einreichung



Gutachtensphasen

1. Benachrichtigung an den Leiter, Andreas Schoknecht, ob Sie die Begutachtung übernehmen werden.
Antwort

2. Begutachtung der Einreichung.
Einreichung
Ergänzungsdatei(en)

[53-89-1-RV.PDF](#) 2014-04-25
Keine



Einreichung

3. Gutachterformular ausfüllen: auf das Symbol klicken
Gutachtenformular 

4. Zusätzlich können Sie Dateien mit weiteren Informationen für den Leiter und/oder den Autor hochladen.
Hochgeladene Dateien

Keine Datei ausgewählt.

5. Empfehlung auswählen
Empfehlung

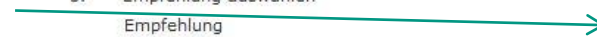
Link zur Bestätigung einer Begutachtung



Link zum Gutachtenformular



Finale Bewertung der Einreichung



Bedienungsanleitung (4)

Antwort Gutachtenformular

Poster Review

Bitte bewerten Sie das Poster hinsichtlich der inhaltlichen und gestalterischen Kriterien, die in der Präsenzveranstaltung vorgestellt wurden.

Inhaltliche Gestaltung *

Visuelle Gestaltung *

Gesamtwertung *

Speichern

Schließen

Mit * gekennzeichnete Eingabefelder sind Pflichtfelder.

Aufgabe: Beispiel-Reviews ansehen

Overall rating
3 (borderline: overall I would not argue for accepting this paper.)

Expertise
4 (Expert)

The Review

I was going to say that this paper addresses a social way to learn BPM, but this is not exactly it, since a good chunk (section 3) is dedicated to go beyond BPM. From my perspective, the paper tries to depart from the social BPM Lab concept to "generalize" to other courses, but I get the feeling that the paper does not fully achieve one or the other.

I was curious to know more about the Social BPM approach, but I felt that the information I got was scarce. For instance, section 2.1 is very short and section 2.2 seems to "rush" some conclusions.

Then the authors move on to adapting the concept to other courses, but I'm left with the impression that most of what is said is ill-supported. For instance, why does the ActiveLab have those specific 4 requirements (bulleted list) of page 4? Are these exactly the same as in Social BPM? Are they adapted? In what manner? What about the 5 phases? Why are these the correct phases. I read the explanation for each, but how am I assured that there aren't other phases that were left out? Or that all suggested phases are really key?

This "division" regarding the focus of the paper also shows in section 4. The related work starts with BPM education, then moves to Action Learning, then to CSCL. Three paragraphs on 3 different topics do not really provide a lot in terms of related work. A more focused paper could have used the same three paragraphs to go deeper on the subject.

I understand this is a research in progress paper, and space is scarce. This is why I think that the authors must make a more assertive decision regarding the topic they want to focus on: social BPM or ActiveLabs in general.

Other related issues:

- The abstract should clearly state (a) what the authors did; (b) how they did it; (c) main results; and (d) relevance and scope of those results. Maybe if you try to answer these questions before writing a new abstract, this will help clear the focus that you want for the paper: a Social BPM case that you tried or the ActiveLabs concept. According to the answer you get, you can remove irrelevant text and add more in support of your main point.
- The paper should also contain even a brief discussion of the research method that is being used. This may also help the reader understand the validity of your 5 phase proposal, since we'll understand how you came to this. Regarding evaluation, this same RM section would help clarify what you think you can read from the one-shot results that you are presenting.
- Please note that it is statistically incorrect to use a mean of the answers as you do in Figure 1. You don't have continuous values in your

Overall rating
3 (borderline: overall I would not argue for accepting this paper.)

Expertise
4 (Expert)

The Review

In this paper the authors describe the extended Active Lab teaching concept as a means to motivate students in IS courses and thereby reducing the number of early terminations. The authors clearly describe the basic concept, how it is organized and executed. However I do have several comments:

- 1) During the course students have several roles such as practitioner, student and scientist. Why are these roles chosen and not for instance business manager (BPM) consultant, developer, supplier, customer etc.? These type of roles would be more in accordance to real life.
- 2) The Horus Enterprise product was used during the course. How was this product selected? Does this fit the definition of bpm? If so, why? And which definition of BPMs did the authors use? Does it adhere to the bpm standard?
- 3) In chapter 3 it is mentioned that during phase 1 practitioners are involved. What type of functions / roles do they have? Or is it a mixed group?
- 4) In chapter 3 a reference to the Bologna declaration is missing.
- 5) In chapter 3 phase 2 it is stated that students are provided with the necessary basic knowledge. Please elaborate on what this basic knowledge contains.
- 6) Chapter 4 related work is very limited. For example there is no reference to: M. zur Meulen (2008) Class Notes: BPM Research and Education (on www.bptrends.com) and P. Ravesteyn & Versendaal, J. (2010) Design and Implementation of Business Process Management Curriculum: A Case in Dutch Higher Education. In KKCS 2010, IFIP AICT 324, pp. 310-321

Especially the last paper is interesting as it describes over 4 years of experience with a similar approach to teaching BPM.

Overall rating
4 (Probably accept: I would argue for accepting this paper.)

Expertise
3 (Knowledgeable)

The Review

This paper addresses an interesting topic: it concerns active lab, teaching concept as a collaboration procedure to elevate students' motivation and understanding of theoretical knowledge.

The abstract is fine and the introduction is good. However, you could make the argument about Active Lab concept much sharper; section 4 could be after section 2; there is no evidence of data validation.

Overall rating
3 (borderline: overall I would not argue for accepting this paper.)

Expertise
4 (Expert)

The Review

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the English language.

The Active Labs concept is presented as an extension of a one-day international training event – the Social BPM Lab, an initiative promoted by a software company.

The Active Labs concept is a 5 phase teaching/learning approach.

It is not clear whether an Active Lab should be run along a whole semester, or just a few days.

A short duration is consistent with a major concern on student motivation.

A longer duration is consistent with concerns on subject coverage and skills development.

In the Social BPM Lab, collaboration seems to be a major strength. However, it is not clear where is the collaborative dimension of the proposed approach.

Collaboration is explicitly mentioned in phase 3 – Independent Learning – but no information is provided on how collaboration is achieved.

More detail is needed in order to be possible to understand the Active Labs concept.

There are some weaknesses in the evaluation of either Social BPM Labs and Active Labs.

Authors show part of a questionnaire use to evaluate a Social BPM Lab event.

I have serious doubts on the usefulness of most of the questions to actually evaluate the efficacy of Social BPM Labs.

It doesn't make sense to me to evaluate the efficacy of a teaching initiative by directly asking students if they have learned.

For a training event promoted by a company, it makes sense to verify the satisfaction of trainees. And perhaps whether the event raised their interest on a subject.

Therefore, questions 1a to 1c are strange to me.

Authors mention they are preparing an evaluation of Active Labs.

I recommend to pay attention to education literature in order to carefully select the evaluations constructs and how to measure the corresponding variables.

Literatur

- Cormode, G. (2009). How NOT to review a paper: the tools and techniques of the adversarial reviewer. SIGMOD Rec., 37(4), 100–104.
- Roscoe, T. (2007). Writing reviews for systems conferences.
<http://people.inf.ethz.ch/troscoe/pubs/review-writing.pdf>