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Scientific Publishing in Economics

Or,

How to survive and prosper as a young academic in economics

This course is designed for PhD students and freshly-minted PhDs considering a scientific career in economics. The course provides a general overview over the process of publishing in economics rather than coaching participants in writing a specific paper.

The course addresses the following questions:

What is a "scientific publication"? Why publish? What makes a paper "publishable" in a good journal? How to assess the quality of scientific publications? How do referees and editors evaluate papers? How to write a scientific paper? What could be a promising strategy for submission? What are the right journals for my paper? How should I read, understand and deal with referee reports? How can I be a good referee? Which norms and rules must I observe? The course also gives some general advice on "dos and don'ts".

Requirements

1. Hand in a document (max. 2 pages) one week before the course with
   - Your name, (expected) year of PhD, career goal
   - List of your publications so far, if any (including R&Rs, no working papers)
   - Title and abstract (max. 100 words) of a recent paper (or one you are currently working on)
   - Where you plan to send the paper (journal name and explanation why max. 20 words)
2. Prepare an "elevator talk" of your research (30 seconds)

Times and Places

Day 1: October 10: 9:30-17:00, Bd des Pérolles 90, Room E040 (ground floor)

The academic environment
Some facts on publishing in economics
The players in the publication process
Refereeing
(coffee break: 11:00-11:30; lunch break 12:30-14:00, coffee break: 15:30-16:00)

Day 2: October 11: 9:30-17:30, Bd des Pérolles 90, Room E040 (ground floor)

Some dos and don'ts (what to do, where to go, whom to know)
The entire publishing process in a journal – some case studies
Your papers, elevator talk
End: 17:30
(coffee break: 11:00-11:30; lunch break 12:30-14:00, coffee break: 15:30-16:00)

Readings

Althouse, B.M., West, J.D., Bergstrom, C.T. and Bergstrom, T. (2009): Differences in Impact Factors Across Fields and Over Time. *Journal of the American Society for Information Science and Technology* 60(1): 27-34.

American Economic Review, Submission guidelines http://www.aeaweb.org/aer/submissions.php

Amir, R. and Knauff, M. (2008): Ranking Economics Departments Worldwide on the Basis of PhD Placement. *Review of Economics and Statistics* 90(1): 185-90.

Bagues, M. Sylos-Labini, M. and Zinovyeva, N. (2017): Does the Gender Composition of Scientific Committees Matter? *American Economic Review* 107(4): 1207-38.

Baker, M. (2016): Is there a Reproducibility Crisis? *Nature* 533 (May 26): 452-4.

Baser, O. and Pema, E. (2003): The Return of Publications for Economics Faculty. *Economics Bulletin* 1(1): 1-13.

Berk, J.B., Harvey, C.R. and Hirshleifer, D. (2017): How to Write an Effective Referee Report and Improve the Scientific Review Process. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 31(1): 231-44.

Boyle, G. (2008): Pay Peanuts and Get Monkeys? Evidence from Academia. *BE Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 8(1): Article 21.

Brodeur, A. Lé, M., Sangnier, M. and Zylberberg, Y. (2016): Star Wars: The Empirics Strike Back. *American Economic Journal: Applied Economics* 8(1): 1-32.

Camerer, C.F. et al. (2016): Evaluating Replicability of Laboratory Experiments in Economics. *Science* 10.1126/science.aaf0918

Card, D. and DellaVigna, S. (2013): Nine Facts about Top Journals in Economics. *Journal of Economic Literature* 51(1): 162-72.

Cardoso, A.R., Guimaraes, P. and Zimmermann, K.F. (2010): Trends in Economic Research: An International Perspective. *Kyklos* 63(4): 479-94.

Cawley, J. (2014): A Guide and Advice for Economists on the U.S. Junior Academic Job Market: 2014-2015 Edition. IZA DP No. 8428.

Cochrane, J.E. (2005): Writing Tips for PhD Students. (link)

Coles, P., Cawley, J., Levine, P.B., Niederle, M., Roth, A.E. and Siegfried, J.J. (2010): The Job Market for New Economists: A Market Design Perspective. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 24(4): 187-206.

Conley, J.P. and Önder, A.S. (2014): The Research Productivity of New PhDs in Economics: The Surprisingly High Non-Success of the Successful. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28(3): 205-216.

Eriksson, K. and Simpson, B. (2013): Editorial Decisions may Perpetuate Belief in Invalid Findings. *PLOS ONE* 8(9): e73364. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0073364

Fanelli, D. (2009): How Many Scientists Fabricate and Falsify Research? A Systematic Review and Meta-Analysis of Survey Data. *PloS One* 4(5): e5738. doi: 10.1371/journal.pone.0005738

Frey, B.S. (2010): Withering Academia? *Analyse und Kritik* 2: 285-96.

Hacker, J., Krull, W., Lohske, M and Strohschneider, P. (2018): Auswahl von Forschern: Wie die Qualität sich verbessern lässt. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* 19.7.2018.

Hamermesh, D. (2013): 'How Does the Economics Profession Work?' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WDjfM-83F5I

Hamermesh, D. (2013): Six Decades of Top Economics Publishing: Who and How? *Journal of Economic Literature* 51(1): 162-72.

Heintzelman, M. and Nocetti, D. (2008): Where Should we Submit our Manuscript? An Analysis of Journal Submission Strategies. *BE Journal of Economic Analysis and Policy* 9(1): Article 39.

Hilmer, C.E., Hilmer, M.J. and Ransom, M.R. (2015): Fame and Fortune of Academic Economists: How the Market Rewards Influential Research in Economics. *Southern Economic Journal* 82(2): 430-52.

Ioannidis, J. (2005): Why Most Published Research Findings are False. *PloS Medicine* 2(8):e124. doi:10.1371/journal.pmed.0020124

Krawczyk, M. and E. Reuben (2012): (Un)Available upon Request: Field Experiment on Researchers' Willingness to Share Supplementary Materials. *Accountability in Research* 19: 175-86.

McAfee, R.P. (2010): Edifying Editing. *American Economist* 55(1): 1-8.

Neue Zürcher Zeitung: Vermessene Wissenschaft. (10.8.2011: 52)

Olken, B.A. (2015): Promises and Perils of Pre-analysis Plans. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 29(3): 61-80.

Oswald, A. J. (2007). An Examination of the Reliability of Prestigious Scholarly Journals: Evidence and Implications for Decision-Makers. *Economica*, 74: 21-31.

Schönenberger, A. and Stadler J. (2018): Lügenmärchen. *Profil* 30.7.: 63-7

Schwabish, J.A. (2014): An Economist's Guide to Visualizing Data. *Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28(1): 209-34.

Serrano, R. (2018): Top5itis. Working paper Brown University.

Starbuck, W.H. (2010): How Much Better Are the Most Prestigious Journals? The Statistics of Academic Publication. *Organization Science* 16(2): 180-200.

Stern, D.I. (2013): Uncertainty Measures for Economics Journal Impact Factors. *Journal of Economic Literature* 51(1): 162-72.

Stock, W.A, Siegfried, J.J. and Finegan, T.A. (2011): Completion Rates and Time-to-Degree in Economics PhD Programs. *American Economic Review* 101(3): 176-187.

The Economist: The Disposable Academic. Why Doing a PhD is often a Waste of Time (Dec. 16, 2010, link).

The Economist: Unreliable Research: Trouble at the Lab (Oct. 19, 2013, link).

Thomson, W. (1999): The Young Person's Guide to Writing Economic Theory. *Journal of Economic Literature* 37(1): 157-83.

Torgler, B. and Piatti, M. (2011): A Century of American Economic Review. CREMA working paper 2011-04.

Williams, W.M. and Ceci, S.J. (2015): National Hiring Experiments Reveal 2:1 Faculty Preference for Women on STEM Tenure Track. *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*; published ahead of print April 13, 2015.

Young, N.S., Ioannidis, J.P. and Al-Ubayadli, O. (2008): Why Current Publication Practices May Distort Science. *Plos Medicine* 5(10): 1418-22.