Publishing Your First Articles

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Agenda

01 Introduction

- Speakers

- Format of this workshop
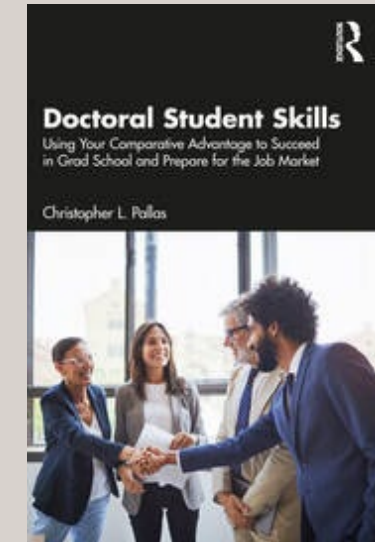
  - Reflection Questions

  - Information

  - Chat/Discussion

Why Should You Publish?

- Your research is a social good

- Establishes you as a researcher with prospective employers

- Improves the quality of your dissertation

- Can help keep your dissertation on track

02 Selecting Appropriate Material

Reflection Question:
Do you know what you want to publish?

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What constitutes a publishable idea?

- **Novel**

  - Analysis of the literature
  - Theory
  - Findings
  - Data
  - Methods

- **Robust**

  - Clear, novel research question (may be a subquestion of your dissertation)
  - Appropriate data and methods

Publication Ideas – Current Students

- Review piece (dissertation proposal)

- Subquestions/cases/ analyses

- 'Greatest hits' – summary of dissertation

- Outputs of RA work (coauthored with PI)

3/6/2024

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Publication Ideas – New Faculty

- Mine the dissertation

- Reuse dissertation data to answer new questions

- Collaborate – pool data

- New research
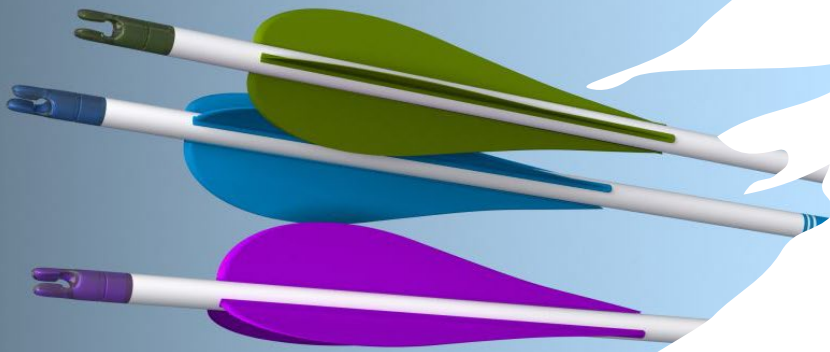
Selecting Appropriate Material:
Question and Answer

03 Finding Appropriate Journals

Reflection Question:
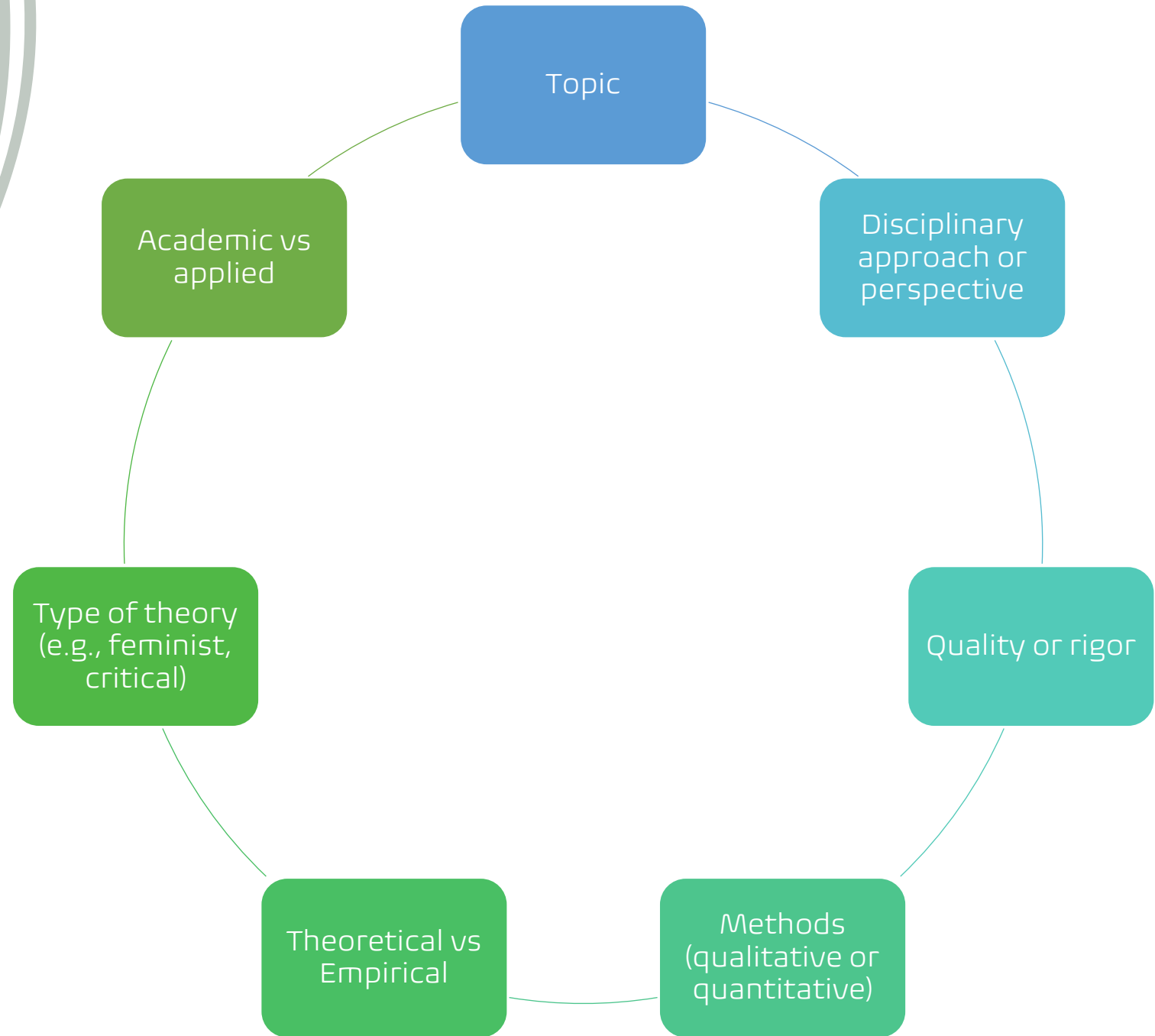**Do you know where you want to publish?**

Key Considerations

1. Likelihood of acceptance

2. Engaging your target audience

3. Enhancing your career

Matching Your Work to a Journal

Topic

Disciplinary approach or perspective

Quality or rigor

Methods (qualitative or quantitative)

Theoretical vs Empirical

Type of theory (e.g., feminist, critical)

Academic vs applied

Step 1: Find Journals That Fit

- Look at what you are reading and citing for your own research

- Find journals cited by authors you are reading

- Consult journal rankings and databases (SCImago; Clarivate; Google Scholar)

- Find listings in research articles or blog posts

- Talk with colleagues or review others' CVs

- **Start a personal list!**

Step 2: Review and Annotate

- Review journals' Aims and Scope to verify fit

- Note special focus, audience, etc.

- Eliminate [low-quality](#) and [scam journals](#)

Step 3: Prioritize

- Which journals are valued most by your target audience?
  - Academics: Review department CVs or T&P requirements
  - Practitioners: Review senior staff CVs
- Published rankings and impact factor
- Usage metrics: [PlumX Metrics](#) and [Altmetric](#)

Step 4: Make a List for Each Project

- Match journals to outputs (e.g., theoretical vs. applied)

- Make a list of 6-10 options for each planned article

  - 1-3 'Reach' venues (e.g. to 5 or 10 in discipline)

  - 2-3 Upper tier (to 25%)

  - 2-3 Mid tier (middle 50%)

  - 1-3 Fallback options (e.g., unranked, specialist journals)

Finding Appropriate Journals:
Question and Answer

04 Preparing and Submitting Your Article

Reflection Question:
What is the most challenging or intimidating part of the submission process?

Prepare the Text

1. Read some articles in your target journal

2. Write or revise your article content to match typical content

   - Language style (e.g. technical, discipline-specific, plain English)

   - Focus of the article (e.g., new theory, new data, policy recommendations)

   - Length of literature review

   - Level of detail regarding methods or theory

   - Word length and title length

Get Feedback

- More feedback leads to better quality
- Present at conferences
- Circulate your work to peers, mentors, conference friends
  - Send your best work
  - Two or more – look for consensus
  - Optional: Take an iterative approach
    - Get feedback
    - Revise
    - Send to new set of colleagues

Polish for Submission

- Revise format and citations according to the 'Instructions for Authors' on the journal website

- Write an abstract

Submitting Your Article

Budget half a day

Submit via an online system

Link via journal's website

Create an online account

Follow the procedures

You will need to provide:

Title

Abstract

Information on coauthors

Order of authors

Keywords

Cover letter

Cover Letter

- A cover letter usually states the following:

  - This piece is original and not under review elsewhere

  - All authors agree to submit it for publication

  - Reasons the piece may be interesting to the journal's audience

Dear [name(s) of lead editor(s)]:

Attached please find the manuscript, "[Title]" I have co-authored the piece with [name] of [university] (email:…).

The manuscript represents our original work, and we have jointly chosen to submit it to [name of journal]. It is not being submitted elsewhere for consideration.

The manuscript… [summary]. We believe that this piece may be of particular interest to your readers given [reasons related to journal's focus, audience, or recent publications].

We appreciate the opportunity to submit this manuscript to [journal] and look forward to your feedback.

[concluding salutation]

Preparing and Submitting Your Article:
Question and Answer

05 Reviewer Comments and Resubmission

Getting Feedback from Peer-Reviewed Journals

- In 2-3 months (typically) you will receive a decision letter and reviewer feedback.
  - One exception: Desk rejection.

- Typical decisions:
  - Accept (extremely rare)
  - Accept with Revisions (uncommon on initial submission)
    - You need to 'Revise and Resubmit' but if you do what is asked, your piece will be published
  - Revise and Resubmit (most common)
    - Your piece has potential. Revise it and we'll send it out to reviewers again for consideration.
  - Reject (also common)
    - Your piece does not meet our standards or fit with our journal. Do not send it to us again.

Dealing with Feedback: Revisions

- Feedback is harsh. Do not be discouraged.

- For 'Accept with Revisions' and 'Revise and Resubmit':

    1. Note deadline for resubmission

    2. Make a list of all critical comments

    3. Plan a response to each one

        - What you will change in the piece or…

        - How you will argue the reviewer is wrong [not recommended!]

    4. Make changes

    5. Write a [detailed response letter](#) indicating the changes you have made in response to each comment (and/or your reasons for not making changes)

    6. Proofread manuscript and letter

    7. Resubmit to same journal

Dealing with Feedback: Rejection

- Still don't be discouraged!

- Decide whether the article really needs to be revised:

  - Did you choose the right journal?

  - Is there consensus among reviewers?

  - Did they understand the key points?

- Make minimum revisions

- Resubmit as quickly as possible to next journal on your list

Reviewer Comments and Resubmission: Question and Answer