

Academic Writing & Research Ethics in Empirical Economics (PhD)

Lecture 1

Course Introduction

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Why this course?

Academic Writing

- ▶ Peer-reviewed (scholarly) publication is an important part of academic life
 - ▶ “The process of subjecting an authors scholarly work, research or ideas to the scrutiny of others who are experts in the same field” (Kelly et al., 2014)
 - ▶ Purpose to the scientific community and society:
 - ▶ Encouraging authors to meet accepted high standards in their field
 - ▶ Ensuring that claims made in a paper are warranted by the research and interpretations are acceptable - not personal views
 - ▶ Input for governments, responsible authorities, and industry
 - ▶ Poor research can have serious implications in general, but more serious implications in some fields (e.g., medicine, engineering)

Why this course?

Academic Writing

- ▶ Peer-reviewed publication to the researcher:
 - ▶ Learn a lot from peer-input = improved future productivity
 - ▶ Helps avoid embarrassing mistakes, errors, and inconsistencies
 - ▶ Acquire prestige and impact in profession
 - ▶ Successfully meet tenure and promotion requirements
- ▶ Despite its importance, the peer-review system has been criticized for a number of reasons - we will discuss these in the “Research Ethics” part of this course

Why this course?

Academic Writing

- ▶ In many econ. PhD programs, graduate students do not have up to date exposure to an academic writing and research ethics course.
 - ▶ A course on research ethics in particular is a very recent phenomenon, even in the most prestigious research universities
- ▶ Most often, the graduate student is left to learn about writing publishable articles mostly from his/her supervisor
 - ▶ What the student can learn will be limited by the relationship with and the capacity of the supervisor(s)

Why this course?

Academic Writing

- ▶ I designed this course to share my research and publication experience drawing on:
 - ▶ Sources produced by colleagues at different universities and research centers
 - ▶ My own 14-years-long experience in writing and publishing papers
- ▶ “I wish I knew when I began my research career” is what motivated me to craft this course!

Why this course?

My Experience I share in this course

- ▶ Published extensively in international peer-reviewed journals
- ▶ Reviewed for dozens of reputable peer-reviewed journals (e.g., Nature, JDE, JEEM, Exp Econ, World Development, etc..)
- ▶ Supervised and mentored a dozen graduate students (MSc, PhD) + Post-docs
- ▶ Taught graduate-level applied and quantitative courses 14 years - Gothenburg + other universities.
- ▶ Visited many reputable departments (e.g., UC Berkeley, Brown, UC Davis, LSE, PSE, Oxford, etc.), as a visiting scholar and invited speaker - learned a lot!!!
- ▶ Raised millions of dollars (in grants - program & project grants)

Introduction

Course Overview - Academic Writing

- ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Why this course? What does it take to succeed in research?
- ▶ Writing Strategies
 - ▶ Identifying a suitable research topic
 - ▶ Writing the Paper
 - ▶ Title and Abstract
 - ▶ Introduction
 - ▶ Literature Review
 - ▶ Describing the Data/Experiment
 - ▶ Empirical/Identification Strategy
 - ▶ Results
 - ▶ Mechanisms, Heterogenous Analysis, Robustness Checks,
 - ▶ Conclusions
 - ▶ Appendix

Introduction

Course Overview

- ▶ Seminar and Conference Presentations
 - ▶ Identifying Seminars and Conferences
 - ▶ Presentation Tips
 - ▶ Networking and Interacting with Peers
- ▶ Publication Strategies
 - ▶ Types and categories of journals
 - ▶ Preparation for submission
 - ▶ Rejection and Revision

Introduction

Course Overview - Research Ethics

- ▶ Good Research Conduct I
 - ▶ What Ethics Dictates and the Law of Demands
 - ▶ Research Ethics Scandals
 - ▶ Research: What, Why, How and form Whom?
- ▶ Good Research Conduct II
 - ▶ Ethics Review and Other Permit Review - Research Involving Humans
 - ▶ Handling of Research Materials
 - ▶ Secrecy, professional secrecy, anonymity, confidentiality

Why this course?

Research Ethics

- ▶ Good Research Conduct III
 - ▶ Supervision & Teaching
 - ▶ Assessing Applications and Proposals
 - ▶ Reviewing Manuscripts for Publication
 - ▶ Committee Work
- ▶ Research Misconduct
 - ▶ Scope and Definition
 - ▶ Fabrication and Falsification
 - ▶ Plagiarism
 - ▶ AI & Research Misconduct
- ▶ Sanctions for Misconduct
- ▶ A Broad Perspective

Academic Writing and Research Ethics

Course Organization

Training Method

- ▶ A collaborative training!
 - ▶ We're here to share insights and learn from each other - we all are expected to contribute
- ▶ Presentation basic issues - instructor
 - ▶ Followed by discussion of cases in groups and reflections

Main Course Requirement

- ▶ Active attendance and Group Work

Academic Writing and Research Ethics

Course Organization

Key References (Academic Writing Part)

- ▶ Articles published in reputable general interest and field journals

Key References (Research Ethics Part) - Freely Available Online

- ▶ Swedish Research Council, SRC (2017). Good Research Practice. Vetenskapsrådet, Stockholm.
- ▶ European Commission (2011). European Textbook on Ethics in Research. Electronic.

Academic Writing and Research Ethics

Course Schedule

- ▶ Course dates: March 10 - 12, 2025
- ▶ 9:00 - 10:30: Lecture 1
- ▶ 10:30 - 11:00: Coffee/Tea Break
- ▶ 11:00 - 12:45: Lecture 2
- ▶ 12: 45 - 14:00: Lunch
- ▶ 14:00 - 16:00: Group Work
- ▶ 16:00 - 16:30: Tea/Coffee Break?
- ▶ 16:30 - 18:00: Free Study Time
- ▶ 18:30: Dinner

Academic Writing and Research Ethics

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