

Academic Writing Economics (PhD)

Lecture 4 - Pub. Strategies

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Publication Strategies

Where to submit?

- ▶ Relatively too few sources on publishing than on writing
- ▶ I draw on two good sources: Bellemare (2020) & Choi (2002), and my own experience
- ▶ Where to submit? Two practices
 - ▶ Write with a specific journal in mind
 - ▶ Write the paper first and determine where to send it
- ▶ Which ever you choose, it is good practice to write a general audience in mind
 - ▶ Helps even if you submit to a field journal - the editor might be in the same field, but in a different area
 - ▶ Attracts readers outside of your area - more citations

Publication Strategies

Where to submit?

Types of Economics Journals

- ▶ Top-5 General Journals: QJE, AER, JPE, ReStud, Econometrica
- ▶ Second-Tier General Interest Journals: Review of Economics and Statistics (Restat), American Economic Journals (AEJs), Economic Journal (EJ), the Journal of the European Economic Association (JEEA), Experimental Economics (sometimes also viewed as top-field)
- ▶ Top-Field Journals: Journal of Development Economics (JDE), Journal of Labor Economics (JOLE), Journal of Environmental Economics and Management (JEEM), American Journal of Agricultural Economics (AJAE), Journal of Monetary Economics (JME), Journal of Economic Growth, Journal of Health Economics, Energy Journal

Publication Strategies

Where to submit?

Types of Economics Journals

- ▶ Second-Tier Field Journals: World Bank Economic Review (WBER), Economic Development and Cultural Change (EDCC), Environment and Resource Economics (ERE), Journal of Association of Environmental Economists (JAERE), Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization (at some places viewed as top-field), Health Economics, Labor Economics, Energy Economics

Reputable Multi-disciplinary Journals

- ▶ Top: Science & Nature
- ▶ Top-Field Level: Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences (PNAS)
- ▶ Second-Tier Level: World Development

Publication Strategies

Where to submit?

Guidelines

- ▶ Submit to a field journal - cite good number of articles in that and related journal
 - ▶ Submit to JDE - cite key papers in JDE, WBER, EDCC etc.published in the past 5 years
 - ▶ Submit to the Journal of Labor Economics - cite key papers in Labor Economics etc.published in the past 5 years
- ▶ Three purposes:
 - ▶ Convinces the editor not to desk-reject your paper
 - ▶ Helps the editor select the right reviewers for your papers
 - ▶ I think, it also helps reduce irritation by reviewers whose relevant work was not cited
 - ▶ Citing only old articles - the topic is no longer interesting - editor will desk-reject it

Publication Strategies

Where to submit?

Guidelines

- ▶ If you submit to a top-5 general interest journal and if you cite too many field articles -
 - ▶ Some editors may desk reject the paper thinking that it should go to a field journal (Bellemare, 2020)
 - ▶ This practice doesn't sound right though
- ▶ In general, the papers you cite can guide where to submit your paper - to similar journals

Publication Strategies

Rejection

- ▶ You will get rejected several times - there is no success without failing first!
- ▶ Desk rejections
 - ▶ You should be fine if it is a quick rejection - you did not lose so much time
- ▶ Rejection after review
 - ▶ Can be upsetting at times, but could be a great opportunity to get good comments that will improve the paper for the next journal
- ▶ Rejection after revision
 - ▶ I got rejected twice in two second-tier general journals after heavy revisions
 - ▶ Gosh, it was painful!
- ▶ You Must Have Thick Skin for Rejection if you want to succeed in publication!

Publication Strategies

Rejection

- ▶ Take a bit of time after rejection and carefully address the substantive issues before submitting to the next journal
- ▶ Consult mentors and senior colleagues if you're not sure
- ▶ Never submit a rejected paper to the next journal in line without addressing the key comments
- ▶ The pool of reviewers in closely ranked journals is similar
 - ▶ Three times in my career, I reviewed papers for three top-field journals (and they were rejected) and later, I received invitation to review from the corresponding second tier journals
 - ▶ 2/3 did not at all make any change in the paper
 - ▶ Clearly means, the author(s) did not address the comments of any of the reviewers!

Publication Strategies

Revise & Resubmit

Tips

- ▶ Congratulations if you received an R&R in the journal you aspire to publish!
- ▶ But there is no guarantee the paper will be accepted!
- ▶ Take all substantive comments (minor comments as well for that matter) seriously
- ▶ Be genuinely grateful that the reviewers and editors took their precious time to read your paper
- ▶ Respond to each reviewer one by one - when comments are similar, use the same response and wording
- ▶ Provide an excerpt from the text addressing the comments
- ▶ Make your response exhaustive, but to the point

Publication Strategies

Revise & Resubmit

Tips

- ▶ Watch your tone, even if the comment is upsetting
 - ▶ The reviewers and the editor(s) can sense your attitude from your response
- ▶ Sometimes the comment doesn't make sense - or is even wrong
 - ▶ If you have to disagree, you will have to disagree respectfully
- ▶ Make sure to share your response letter with your mentor (you should have one) and solicit their comment
- ▶ You should get all the revision files (manuscript, response letter, and letter-to-editor) copyedited

Academic Writing and Research Ethics

End of Lecture

► End of Lecture