



Slides & References

The challenge for younger scholars is to find appropriate journals for the work, and to prepare the manuscripts meticulously according to the style and guidelines of those journals. (Kester et al., 2019)

How to Get Published: An Editorial View

Dr Gaz J Johnson

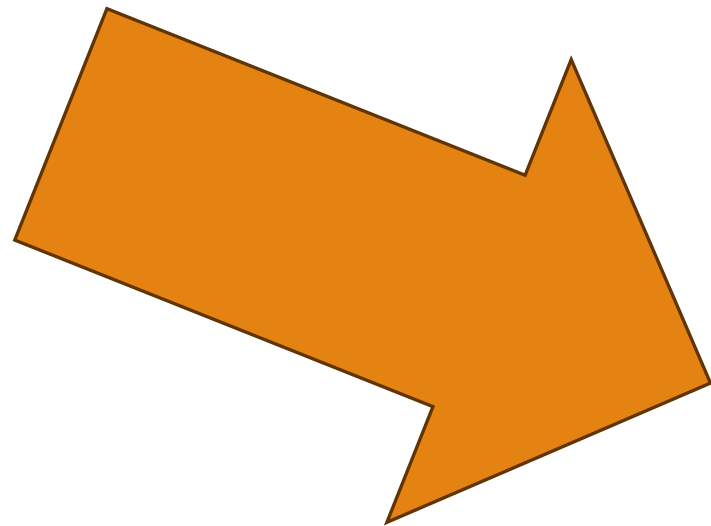
Exchanges Journal, Editor-in-Chief

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21st Jan 2025



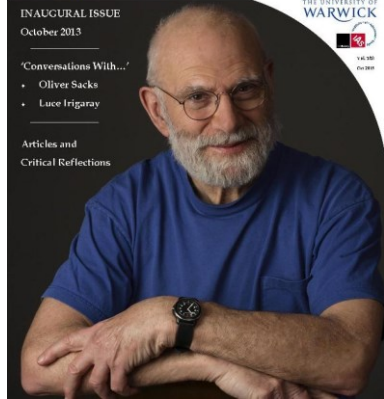
Write
something



Submit it



Exchanges: the Warwick Research Journal



Oct 2013



Oct 2018



Oct 2024

Context: Exchanges

- Founded 2013 'by & for ECRs'
- Diamond open-access (no fee, CC-BY)
- Subtitle change & refresh in 2018
- Broad, inclusive interdisciplinarity
- 2 issues annually + special issues
- Companion podcast series

What & Who We Publish

- An 'interdisciplinary assemblage'
 - Intrinsically interdisciplinary or...
 - Addressed to an interdisciplinary audience
 - Submissions accepted globally
- Developmental mission
 - Support emerging & first-time authors
 - Operates in an 'academic altruistic' mode
 - Also seeks to enhance authors' profiles
- Acceptance rates
 - 2024: 76%, Overall: 57%

Top Articles in 2024 included:

- *Critical Analysis of the Electric Vehicle Industry*
- *Representation of Race Relations in Disney Animated Features*
- *A kiss is the beginning of cannibalism': Julia Ducournau's Raw and Bataillean Horror*
- *Academic Fraud: Solving the Crisis in Modern Academia*
- *The Use of Miro in Teaching Practice*
- *Myths of Male Same-Sex Love in the Art of the Italian Renaissance*



Contributing & Getting Involved



Submissions

- Open & themed calls
- Peer & editorially reviewed formats
- Championing early career authors

Editors & Associates

- Regular need for associate editors
- Board invitations via recommendations

Reviewers

- Open & invited calls for new reviewers
- Advice & bespoke training

Special Issues

- Varied themes of cross disciplinary interest
- Long term projects with associate editors
- High reader interest



Exchanges Discourse [Podcast]



Top Episodes in 2024

- BiChar, Artificial Pollination & Multispecies Justice
- Energy Poetry One: Harnessing the Wind
- Voices of Transnational Girlhood(s) on Identity, Gender, and Culture
- Researcher Vulnerability & Physical Impacts
- Postdisciplinarity, Ontologies & Futures

Available on *Spotify*



Publishing: A Nano-Guide

Format & Audience: Shaping your idea

Evaluate & Engage: Choosing a candidate journal/publisher

Write & Submit: Overcoming the hard bit

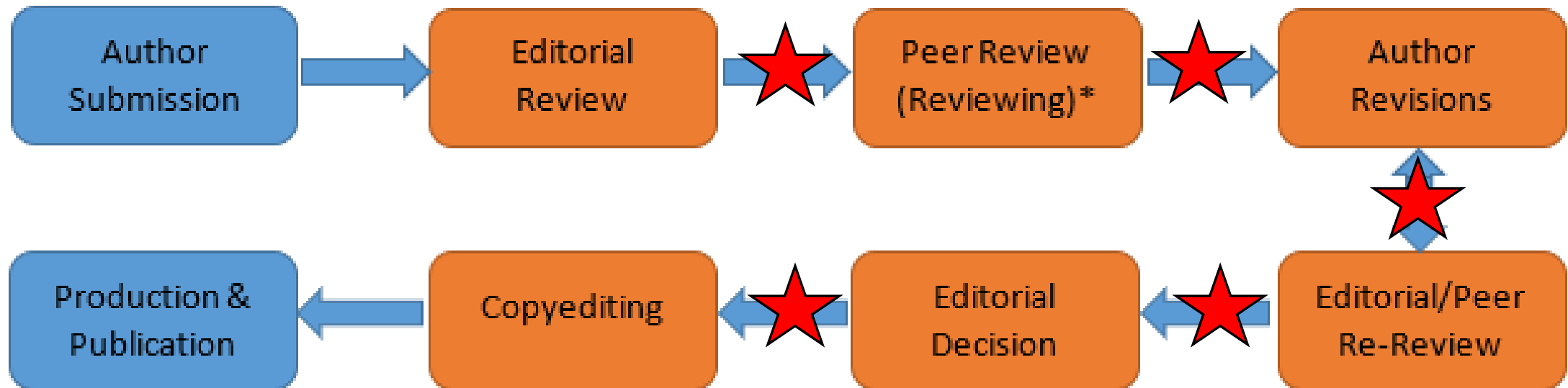
Editorial Review: Falling at the first hurdle?

Review & Revision: Coping with the *really* hard bit

Finalise & Publish: Reaching the promised land



Publishing Process in Abstract



Highway to the Danger Zone! (AKA rejection, decline etc.,)



Make sure to use
the *CORRECT* editor
& journal name!

Locating & Evaluating

- Finding 'right candidate journal' is important
 - *What* you want to publish may determine choice
 - Don't rely solely on 'metrics' as an evaluator
- Scholarship is social
 - Find your tribe – reach out to authors/editors
 - Communities, societies, special interest groups
- Familiarise yourself with candidate journal
 - Read aims/scope/guidelines carefully
 - Read 2-3 articles - do your 'values' align?
- Consider if the candidate journal:
 - Publishes your preferred article format?
 - Is read by your target audience?
 - Charges publishing fees, &/or is open access?
 - Is exclusive or generous in author rights?
- Beware of 'predatory' (trash) publishers
 - Think – Check – Submit guidelines
- Follow guidance & requirements accurately
 - Auto-rejection (structure, content, word-count)
 - 'Prestige/high volume' journals reject more
 - Article submitted with one title at a time



Preparation & Audiences



- Careful preparation is key
 - Don't rush to submit
 - Good enough...isn't good enough!
- Beware of overstuffing
 - One clear idea, well argued/explored
 - Common error of ECRs
 - Chapter /= Article /= Conference Paper
- Seek critical friends as well as proofing
 - Read, re-read, re-edit, polish
 - Walk away & give yourself time/space
- Write with ALL your audiences in mind:
 - Your potential editor (first reader/gatekeeper)
 - Your reviewers (& harshest critics)
 - Your readership (the intended final audience!)
- Writing for interdisciplinary audiences
 - Clarity matters more for broad readership
 - Explain 'common' terminology &/or concepts
- Internationalise your text
 - Use idiomatic & colloquial terms/concepts sparingly



Introductions & Impressions

One editor can say is
'No' – but the next one
might say 'Yes'!

- Make a good first impression with your editor
 - Titles clearly, meaningfully, articulate themes
 - Abstract signpost readers through text
 - Consider SEO in keyword selection
 - Often used to evaluate suitability
- Introduction also crucial
 - WHY your research matters?
 - HOW it relates to the literature?
 - WHAT is this paper going to achieve?
- The human touch can benefit your chances
 - Approach editors BEFORE submission
 - Establish interest & chance of consideration
 - Cite (suitable) works in your candidate journal
 - Demonstrate alignment with other pieces
- Submissions typically checked for:
 - **Compliance:** Style, word count, formatting requirements
 - **Scope:** Closely matches publisher's interests?
 - **Originality:** Sufficiently original? Plagiarism?
 - **Importance:** Article significant enough?*

**Non-commercial publishers/journals worry far less about this!*



Revisions & Decisions

Summarise 'harsh' feedback in your own words & use this when making revisions.

- Revisions requested most typical outcome
 - Embrace benefits to your writing - don't fear them
 - Extensive feedback means reviewers feel it's worth developing
- Address ALL reviewer/editorial comments
 - Walk away as needed and deal with 'dispassionately'
 - Meet editorial deadlines or risk rejection
 - Challenge aspects where needed
- Time & effort publishing Tier 1 journal
 - Smaller, 'lower' tier journals can be more accommodating
 - If in doubt - take it elsewhere!
- Other considerations
 - Clearance for third-party materials (other's IP)?
 - Satisfying publisher 'gold' open access charges*
- Decline (rejection) is not always the end
 - Don't invest all your self-worth in your article
 - Journals encourage/advise on resubmission
 - Check acceptance rates – you aren't alone

**Scholar-led diamond OA titles don't charge authors...*



Publication & Beyond

- A.B.P.
 - Always be promoting your content
 - Exploit your socials
 - Drive readers to your articles
- Consider follow up publication
 - Self-citation...sparingly though
- Consider interdisciplinary publication
 - Reach new audiences
 - Expand interest, contacts & collaborators
- Publishing & editorial involvement
 - First to hear of new opportunities
 - Deeper understanding of quality & timescales
- Creating your own journal
 - Lot of work but can make genuine impact
 - Showcase 'marginalised' topics
 - Or collaborate with established title?





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