

SOCIOLOGY 979: (JOURNAL) PUBLISHING IN SOCIOLOGY

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Tuesdays, 9:30-12:00
150 Hamilton Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

My teaching goals for this seminar are for students to be exposed to: a variety of issues related to journal publication in Sociology (such as types of journals, indicators of journal quality, issues related to collaboration); the experience of writing an article for submission to a journal; and reviewing articles for journals.

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

To achieve these goals, I will require several things from you:

1) **Preparing an article for submission to a journal.** You should start with a paper that you have already written for a class, conference, or Master's paper, and prepare a revision of this paper that is suitable for submission to a journal (ideally by April 21, the last day of class). In order to facilitate this, each participant is expected to carry out a number of exercises that we will discuss in class (e.g., writing an introduction and abstract, writing a literature review, describing methods and data, presenting results, writing a conclusion).

2) **Class participation.** I expect you to come to the seminar and take active part in discussions of seminar topics, do the assigned readings, and do reviews of other students' papers.

I will also invite a number of Sociology faculty members and advanced graduate students to visit selected classes to share with us their perspectives on publishing in journals. A schedule of visits will be posted on the Sakai course website.

My office hours are Tuesday and Thursday, 2:00-3:00 pm and by appointment.

READINGS

Wendy Laura Belcher, *Writing your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2009).

In addition, I will ask you to read a number of articles, which can be accessed through the Sakai Course Web Page.

COURSE CALENDAR

****Any changes to these dates/topics/readings/etc. will be posted on the Sakai Course Web Page****

January 13: Introduction

I. PERSPECTIVES

January 20: Overview of Journal Publishing

Questions: What are the differences among types of publication outlets such as refereed journals, conferences, non-refereed outlets (e.g., book chapters), working papers, and books? Why is it important to publish in journals? What are the advantages and disadvantages of collaborative research and publication? What factors influence success in publishing?

Readings:

-- Elisabeth S. Clemens, Walter W. Powell, Kris McIlwaine and Dina Okamoto, "Careers in Print: Books, Journals, and Scholarly Reputations." *American Journal of Sociology* 101 (1995): 433-495 (especially pp. 433-464; 479-484).

-- Dorian Stoilescu and Douglas McDougall, "Starting to Publish Academic Research as a Doctoral Student." *International Journal of Doctoral Studies* 5 (2012): 79-92.

--Benjamin Schneider, "Some Propositions about Getting Research Published," Pp. 216-226 in L.L. Cummings and Peter J. Frost, *Publishing in the Organizational Sciences* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1995).

--Belcher (2009): "Starting Your Article" (pp. 43-53)

--Types of Journal Articles (see Sakai Website for examples of different kinds of articles)

Assignment:

--Write a short summary (about 150-250 words) of your proposed article. Indicate which type of journal article (based on the list of different kinds of articles posted on the Sakai Website and Belcher [see pp. 44-48] that you consider your article to be)

January 27: Differences Among Journals; Choosing a Journal

Questions: What are the metrics by which the quality of journals is evaluated? What are the advantages and disadvantages of these metrics? How does one choose a journal for submission?

Readings:

--Joel A.C. Baum, "Free-Riding on Power Laws: Questioning the validity of the Impact Factor as a measure of research quality in organization studies." *Organization*, 2011, pp. 1-18 (especially pp. 1-5; 13-16).

--Belcher (2009): "Selecting a Journal" (pp. 99-136)

--Sociology journal rankings (see Sakai Website for examples of Sociology journals)

Assignment:

--Choose 2 or 3 possible journals to which you are considering submitting your article. Indicate why you have chosen these journals and obtain a copy of the "instructions for manuscript preparation" from their websites. If available on the website, also find out information on the journal's impact factor, circulation, and other data you feel might be relevant to a submission decision.

II. WRITING THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

February 3: Perspectives on Writing an Article

Questions: What components should a good article contain? What are the differences between empirical and "theoretical" articles? What are the differences between articles that use quantitative as opposed to qualitative data? What are the characteristics of iterative vs. linear approaches to writing?

Readings:

Belcher (2009): "Designing Your Plan for Writing" (pp. 1-41)

Eloisa Martin (2014): "How to Write a Good Article," *Current Sociology* 62: 949–955

Lynn White (2005): "Writes of Passage: Writing an Empirical Journal Article," *Journal of Marriage and Family* 67: 791–798

Assignment:

--Develop a schedule or plan that you will use to write your article. Identify 2-3 obstacles that you feel might interfere with your writing schedule (see the examples in Belcher, pp. 26-38) and suggest how you intend to overcome these obstacles.

February 10: Introduction, Abstract, and Overview of the Argument of Your Article

Question: How does one start an article?

Readings:

--Belcher (2009): "Abstracts" (pp. 54-64); "Advancing Your Argument" (pp. 67-96); "Opening Your Article" (pp. 201-217)

Assignment:

--Write an Abstract (number of words should correspond to the requirements of your primary target journal) and Introduction to your Article

February 17: Reviewing the Literature***Reading:***

--Belcher (2009): "Reviewing the Related Literature" (pp. 139-168)

Assignment:

--Write a Literature Review for your Article

February 24: Strengthening the Structure of Your Article***Readings:***

--Belcher (2009): "Strengthening Your Structure" (pp. 171-186); "Editing Your Sentences" (pp. 235-265)

Assignment:

--Write Outline of your Article and Summarize your Main Argument (i.e., the Macrostructure of your Article)

March 3: Presenting your Evidence

Readings:

--Belcher (2009): "Presenting Your Evidence" (pp. 189-199); "Concluding Your Article" (pp. 217-218)

Assignment:

--Summarize your results/evidence for your argument and write the conclusion to your Article

III. REVIEWING

March 17: Overview of the Review Process

Questions: What are the various steps in the review process for a journal article?

Readings:

--"Your manuscript's journey through the *AMJ* review process." *Academy of Management Journal* 2008, Vol. 51, No. 3, 409-412.

David Brunnsma, Monica Prasad, and Ezra Zuckerman, "Strategies for Reviewing Manuscripts" (especially pp. 1-5).

--Peter J. Frost and Ronald N. Taylor, "Partisan Perspective: A Multiple-Level Interpretation of the Manuscript Review Process in Social Science Journals," pp. 13-43 in L.L. Cummings and Peter J. Frost, *Publishing in the Organizational Sciences* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 1995).

March 24: The Craft of Reviewing

Questions: What are the components of a good review?

Readings:

--Sherry E. Sullivan, Yehuda Baruch and Hazlon Schepmyer, "The Why, What, and How of Reviewer Education: A Human Capital Approach." *Journal of Management Education* 34(2010) 393-429 (especially pp. 399-413).

--Denise M. Rousseau, "Publishing from a Reviewer's Perspective," pp. 151-163 in Cummings and Frost.

Richard L. Daft, "Why I Recommended that your Manuscript be Rejected and What You Can do About it," pp. 164-182 in Cummings and Frost.

Elaine Romanelli, "Becoming a Reviewer: Lessons Somewhat Painfully Learned", pp. 195-202 in Cummings and Frost.

Assignment:

--Submit Draft of your Article for Review

March 31: Reviewing--1

Questions: Discussion of students' reviews of each others' papers

Readings:

--Belcher (2009): "Giving, Getting and Using Others' Feedback" (pp. 221-232)

Assignment:

--Review Each Other's Draft Article(s)

April 7: Reviewing--2

IV. SUBMITTING THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

April 14: Submitting Your Article to a Journal and Responding to Journal Decisions

Readings:

--"Revisiting AMJ's Revise and Resubmit' Policy Process," *Academy of Management Journal*, Vol. 51 (2008): 1049-1050.

--Belcher (2009): "Wrapping up Your Article" (pp. 267-269); "Sending your Article" (pp. 271-284); "Responding to Journal Decisions" (pp. 287-319).

April 21: Reflections and Evaluations

Assignment:

--Submit your Article to Journal