

SOCIOLOGY 979: JOURNAL PUBLISHING IN SOCIOLOGY

Professor Arne Kalleberg
Office: 261 Hamilton Hall (962-0630)
Email: Arne_Kalleberg@unc.edu

Spring, 2018
Mondays, 2:30-5:00
207 Hamilton Hall

COURSE DESCRIPTION

This seminar will expose students 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 23, the last day of class). In order to facilitate this, each participant is expected to do a number of written exercises that relate to what we discuss in class (e.g., writing an introduction and abstract, writing a literature review, describing methods and data, presenting results, writing a conclusion, reviewing other students' papers).

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

My office hours are Tuesdays and Thursdays, 11-12 and by appointment.

READINGS

All readings (except for journal articles that are easily available as e-journals via the UNC library) are available on the Sakai Course Web Page (located in the "calendar" tab for the appropriate class meeting). Many of these readings are from Wendy Laura Belcher's book, *Writing your Journal Article in 12 Weeks: A Guide to Academic Publishing Success* (Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications, 2009); she has a number of tips that you might find useful (though it is not written specifically for the social sciences). Other articles address various topics that we will discuss in the course; I'll undoubtedly will add more readings during the semester.

Sociology 979 Outline -- Spring 2018		
Date	Topic	Assignment
1/22	Introduction	Summary of article
Perspectives		
1/29	Overviews of Journal Publishing and Journal Quality	
2/5	Approaches to Writing an Article	Choose 2-3 journals for your article; Develop writing schedule and identify obstacles/strategies to overcome them
Writing the Journal Article		
2/12	Introduction; Overview of Argument	Write Abstract and Introduction, and Working Title
2/19	Literature Review	Write Literature Review
2/26	Macro and Micro Structure	Write Outline and Summarize Argument
3/5	Presenting Your Evidence	Summarize results/evidence and write conclusion
3/12--Spring Break		
Reviewing		
3/19	Overview of Review Process	Submit Drafts for Peer Review
3/26	The Craft of Reviewing	
4/2	Reviewing--1	Review Others' Draft Article(s)
4/9	Reviewing--2	
Submitting the Journal Article		
4/16	Responding to Reviews	Revise Article Based on Reviews
4/23	Submitting Your Article to a Journal	Submit Article to Journal

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

January 22: Introduction

Assignment:

--Write a short summary (about 150-250 words) of your proposed article. Please upload this summary no later than 11:00 am on January 22 to the "Summary" assignment listed under the "Assignment" tab on the Sakai website.

I. PERSPECTIVES

January 29: 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)

Differences Among Journals

Questions: What are the metrics by which the quality of journals is evaluated? What are the advantages and disadvantages of these metrics? What are predatory journals? Open

access journals?

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).

--Sociology journal rankings (see Sakai Website)

February 5: Approaches to Writing an Article

Questions: How does one choose a journal for submission? 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:

Choosing a Journal:

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

"Thirty-one things to consider when choosing which journal to submit your paper to"

Preparing to Write the Article:

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

Assignments:

--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, as well as considerations such as word limits, etc.

--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.

II. WRITING THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

February 12: 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)

--Howard Aldrich (2015): Can you live up to the titles you choose for your papers?

Assignment:

--Write an Abstract (number of words should correspond to the requirements of your primary target journal) and Introduction to your article. Provide a working title for your paper.

February 19: Reviewing the Literature

Reading:

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

Assignment:

--Write a literature review for your article

February 26: Strengthening the Structure of Your Article

Readings:

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

Assignment:

--Write an outline of your article and summarize your main argument (i.e., the Macrostructure of your article)

March 5: 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

March 12: SPRING BREAK

III. REVIEWING

March 19: Overview of the Review Process

Question: 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.

--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 26: The Craft of Reviewing

Question: What are the components of a good review?

Readings:

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

--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 peer review

April 2: Reviewing--1

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

April 9: Reviewing—2

IV. SUBMITTING THE JOURNAL ARTICLE

April 16: 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 23: Submitting Your Article

Assignment:

--Submit your article to journal