Getting Published in the Social Sciences and Humanities

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Biography

- PhD. Harvard 1999
- Associate professor, department of history, Queen’s
- Associate editor of the *Journal of British Studies*; editorial board member of *MIH*; regular external reviewer for academic journals and presses
Peer reviewed publications: reasons

- Communication of research and advancement of knowledge
- Establishment of achievement and contribution to one’s field for purposes of grants, employment, tenure or promotion, merit raises
- Establishing one’s presence in a sub-field, or advertising one’s work on a given topic or problem
- Considering non-peer review publications
Reasons not to publish

- Preserving the viability of a larger or more important project
- Preserving research and writing time for larger projects
- Inability to place work in a journal or with a press of sufficient quality and credibility
Career publication strategy

- Layered publications: built toward monograph
- Preview articles: anticipate and advertise without preempting
- The cost/benefit of book reviews and review essays
- Related but tangential research material
- Directly relevant but overly detailed research material
Articles: where to publish

- The landscape of journals: know the terrain
- Generalist versus specialist journals. Cognate disciplines.
- Quality weighed against degree of difficulty in accessing.
- Decide early. Familiarize yourself with style guidelines, length limits, tone, subject matter, methodological bias.
- Know the genre possibilities: research article, review essay, communication, debate (cont.)
Articles: where to publish (cont.)

- Know editorial staff
- Familiarize yourself and position your argument against other work on the same subject from the journal in question
- Write and revise with the audience in mind
Non-commissioned articles: post-submission

- Process of internal review. Varied. Usually “blind”, but sometimes this is honored in the breech at this stage.
- Purpose and nature of the internal assessment.
- Possible pitfalls
- Outright rejection: reasons
- External Review: the process.
- Decisions and their communication
Acceptance and Rejection

- Editing an accepted manuscript with requested revisions.
- Preparing an abstract/keywords.
- Revise and resubmit
- Rejections. Evaluating and incorporating advice (sometimes conflicting).
- Seeking a new venue
- Accepting the serendipity of the process!
General advice on manuscript preparation

- Do not send manuscripts out before they are ready simply to get “feedback”
- Aim for the best possible journals
- Quality vs quantity. Use caution in considering very minor journals
- Target your manuscript carefully
- Ensure that your argument is original, significant, and sustained by appropriate evidence
- Do not stint the existing literature
General article advice (cont)

- Use caution with internet sources
- Use the best critical editions and translations (where necessary), and be prepared to defend these choices
- Proofread and edit carefully
- Be sparing in footnote acknowledgements (lest you invalidate possible reviewers)
- Be aware that you may tip your identity with the wording of some footnotes.
- External reviewers are often culled from the footnotes.
Academic integrity and copyright issues

- Use care in summarizing the work of others. Familiarize yourself with best note taking practices.
- Cite your source. Do not “crawl” someone else’s footnotes for sources.
- Use care to secure permissions when publishing whole documents, large portions of them, published works or portions of them still covered by copyright, photos, etc. (Mark Swartz at Queen’s copyright advisory office)
- Be clear on your own rights as regards republication, etc.
Open Access

- Open access publishing vs. archiving (with permission)
- OA Publishing growth: 740 journals in 2000 (19,500 articles); 4,700 in 2010 (191,850 articles)
- Electronic publication of monographs
- Registry of Open Access Repositories Mandatory Archiving Policies (ROARMAP)
- Financing OA (institutional subsidy vs publication fees)
- Persistence of subscription journals
- ProfHacker blog at Chronicle of Higher Education; *Digital Challenges to Academic Publishing*
Book Publishing

- Picking a publisher: considerations
- Initial query
- Proposal and chapter submissions
- Considerations: topic appeal, length, possible audiences
- Review and revision process
- Contract
- Editing and proofreading