“Publish or perish”

Son, I don't see your name here...

Can you please check under the 'Publish or Perish' category..?!

Deaf Academics 2015 workshop
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Content of the workshop

1. Publish why?
2. Publish when?
3. Authorship
4. Publish where/what? – hierarchy of publishing
5. Impact factor
6. International peer-reviewed journals
7. Tips for writing successful journal articles
8. Circle of getting a journal article published
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Why publish?

• Scientific research is useless if it is not published
• Disseminate research findings and contribute to scientific debate
• One’s publication record is a key component of hiring, tenure and promotion decisions – and for receiving grants
• Publication depends on quality and originality of the work => peer-review process
• How much you need to publish and what kind of publications (i.e. book, journal articles, ...) can depend on your specific university, discipline and country
• Publishing is most difficult part of research activity!
• Pressure of publishing ↔ “slow science”
Publish when?

• As early (and as often) in your academic career as possible; when you have “substantial findings” (original data that is not previously published) or alternatively: a strong literature review

• If you want to do a PhD, the funding institution/university might expect you to have an existing publishing record!

• Ways to start publishing are:
  – Publish an article based on your MA-dissertation
  – Publish a particularly exceptional/innovative paper you wrote during your studies (consult your supervisor/professor to ask if it is publishable)
  – Publish as part of a research team led by a more experienced academic
“You should spend the next week typing down names of all co-authors on your paper.”
Authorship (1)

• First author: generally the one with the “greatest” contribution; being first author is more prestigious

• Co-authoring: eg. when you work together in a research team or when you want to make a theoretical intervention with one or more other scholars

• Co-authors:
  – Can be ordered according to decreasing degree of contribution (but be aware of senior academics trying to take the credit as lead author even if they write very little)
  – OR are ordered alphabetically (so if your surname is early in the alphabet, you are lucky 😊)

• Problem for many deaf academics: consistently being second author of publications by hearing linguists or other hearing established scholars
Authorship (2)

• Do not co-author your most important research findings such as PhD findings! An article with you as the sole author weighs much more on your CV
• Co-authoring with your PhD supervisor might be a good way to start publishing but is not regarded as prestigious – some funding institutions even do not count publications with your supervisor
• But: co-authoring with established scholars other than your supervisor suggests you can cooperate and have a good network
Publish where/what?

- International peer-reviewed journal with impact factor
- (International) peer-reviewed journal without impact factor
- Book (monograph or as editor)
- Book chapter
- Conference proceedings

✓ It is important to publish outside the Deaf Studies niche! But also extremely difficult as you need to be aware of current debates in the particular discipline/journal where you are publishing, and provide an intervention in these debates!
"Does a blog count as being published?"
“Hierarchy” of publishing

1. International peer-reviewed journal
2. Book: monograph/edited volume
3. Book chapter
4. Conference proceedings

✓ You can use similar data/material in different publications as long as your main argument/theoretical focus is different
Impact factor

• Impact = effect
• Citation = entries in a list of references at the end of an article, chapter, book, etc.
• Simplest measure of impact: “times cited”
• Measure of citation (and thus prestige), not a measure of quality!
• Impact of a journal changes every year
• High impact: 2 or 3 (or more) – good impact: 1,xx
• Where to check for journal impact factor: database Web of Science or http://www.impactfactorsearch.com
• You can use Google Scholar to keep track of who is citing you
International peer-reviewed journals in the Deaf Studies field

- American Annals of the Deaf (AAD)
  - Impact factor of 0.885 (2013)
  - Narrow focus (mainly education)

- Journal of Deaf Studies and Deaf Education (JDSDE)
  - Impact factor of 1.754 (2013)
  - Focus on quantitative research

- Sign Language Studies (SLS)
  - Broad accessible, very widely read, also publishes ethnographic pieces
  - No impact factor

- Deaf Studies Digital Journal (DSDJ)
  - Submission in ASL and International Sign from a broad range of contributors
  - No impact factor, difficult to refer to/cite signed content
International peer-reviewed journal (1)

Before you start writing, check:

• Scope and readership of the journal
• Titles and abstracts of recently published articles by the journal
• Search for key words: has something been published in this journal about your topic?
• Impact factor
• Accessibility of the journal (open access?)
• Do you need to pay for being published in this journal? (sometimes this is the case with open access journals)
• Speed of reviewing and publishing (ask your colleagues for their experiences with particular journals)
International peer-reviewed journal (2)

• Read some sample articles!
• Make connection with current theoretical debates and arguments in the journal’s field – an intervention in Deaf Studies is not necessarily interesting for an anthropology/sociology/education journal!
• Never submit a paper to two journals simultaneously!
AAAAAHHH!!
This research is impossible!!

latest journal issue.

AAAAAHHH!!

AAAAAHHH!!
Someone already did it!!
Tips for writing successful journal articles

• **Crucial:** make very clear from the introduction + abstract what your intervention in the field/debate is. Even with beautiful data your paper might not even be sent out for review without this being clear
• Send your piece to colleagues for feedback before you send it to a journal
• Make sure you keep to the word count and reference style of the journal – simple point, but very often ignored
• Make sure the language in the article is correct
• Write clearly and concisely, don’t try to impress with flowery language, make sure the language is accessible
• Follow all the journal’s regulations regarding layout and style – often they have templates to download from their website, this saves a lot of time and effort
Circle of getting a journal article published (1)

1. Send article to a journal
2. Editor decides if it will be sent out for peer review (2-4 reviewers who are experts in your field)
3. Peer review often takes 3-4 months (or less or more)
4. If your article is accepted: revision typically due within a few months
5. Copy edits
6. Page proofs
Circle of getting a journal article published (2)

- Keep in mind there can be a long delay between submission and publication, depending on how many stages of review and revision you go through.
- This can be 6-8 months up to several years (!) (in the case of high impact journals)
- Publishing in open-access journals where you need to pay to publish is usually quicker
- From the moment your article is officially accepted (but not published yet) you can put it on your CV/publications list
Most scientists regarded the new streamlined peer-review process as "quite an improvement."
Peer review

• Feedback by peers in your scientific field (mostly double blind)

• Different types or reviewer feedback:
  – no revisions (this is almost never the case)
  – minor revisions
  – substantial revisions/resubmission required (this is often the case)
  – not accepted for publication (this is often the case)

• Issues addressed in reviews: eg. overall theoretical contribution, overall empirical contribution, suitability of data, methodology, quality of analysis, argumentation, structure of text, language, ...
Dealing with reviewers’ comments

• Rejection is painful but part of the scientific process and actually useful in refining your ideas – often the only people who will give honest/substantial feedback are the journal’s peer reviewers!
• DON’T: whine to the editors/reviewers that they are too harsh
• DO: pay attention to the feedback the reviewers give you. If you disagree, you can usually argue the point/justify why you have done something. But be aware that you can be asked to compromise a lot of what you write!
• If your piece is rejected, do send it to another journal asap! (possibly one with a lower impact factor or no impact factor or with a different focus
• If you can’t accept the changes they ask, send your piece to another journal
Chapter in edited volumes

- Less demanding than publishing in a peer-reviewed international journal – but lower in academic hierarchy
- But: having a chapter in a book published by a prestigious press such as Oxford University Press is good, perhaps even more so than a publication in a low-ranked journal without impact
- Submission through call for chapters or through invitation
- Review by book editors and in some cases also external reviewers or other authors in the same book
- Edited volumes centre around a certain theme
- Good way to start your publishing career
- Good way to claim you have expertise on a certain theme
- But: do not send your best material/arguments to a book. If it has the potential to make a major intervention, send it to a journal
Monograph (1)

- Good way to publish your PhD
- For most publishers you will need to revise your PhD, such as take out the methodology section, shorten the literature review, pay more attention to the narrative and structure, etc.
- Some publishers do not accept proposals based on a PhD
Monograph (2)

• First step: choose a publisher (this can be a deaf-related press or another press)
• Eg. Gallaudet University Press
  + Very wide range of deaf-related publications (not only academic but also biographies etc.)
  + Wide distribution and widely read
    – Not very prestigious (in contrast to Oxford University Press’ “Perspectives on deafness” book series)
• Book proposal: sell your work!
• Review takes several weeks to several months
• You can first aim high and then send to another press in case of rejection
Good luck with your academic publishing career!

Any further questions:

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