



Spring Term 2015

Leading House Ph.D. Course Writing and Publishing Concise Research Papers - Syllabus -

Lecturer:	Prof. Dr. Uschi Backes-Gellner , University of Zurich; Prof. Dr. Kerstin Pull , University of Tübingen
Workshop dates:	March 02-06, 2015
Location:	University of Zurich, Room tba
Preliminary Schedule:	The lectures take place in the form of an intensive 5-day course. Monday, March 02: 11:00 -18:00 Tuesday, March 03: 08:00-18:00 Wednesday, March 04: 08:00-18:00 Thursday, March 05: 08:00-18:00 Friday, March 06: 08.00-12.30
Module Number; ECTS:	tba; 3 ECTS
Course webpage:	tba

Aims of the course

We will discuss various topics related to writing concise papers that will be published in refereed journals. We focus particularly on how to find a topic, how to structure the argument and how to sell a paper as well as how to handle revisions and resubmissions. The aim is pursued by three different course elements. Firstly, each student presents a piece of the required readings and thereby works out general guidelines based on the assigned text. Secondly, students will work on group assignments where they jointly rewrite a given sample text focusing on the clarity and the structure of the argument. Thirdly, students present and discuss their own work and receive feedback from the audience in general and from one fellow student in particular in form of a referee report on their work. During the discussion, we will put special emphasis on the quality of the text (style, argumentation, clarity).



Required Readings

Literature is posted on the course web page (password-protected, password will be distributed after final registration)

1. Learning from the Big Shots

- Rubinstein, A. (2013): 10 Q&A: Experienced Advice for ‘Lost’ Graduate Students in Economics. *Journal of Economic Education* 44(3): 193-196.
- Pischke, S. (2012): How to get started on research in economics?
- Hamermesh, D.S. (2005): An Old Male Economist's Advice to young Female Economists. CSWEP Newsletter, Winter 2005: 11-12.

2. Style Guide and Academic Writing

- From the Editors (2013): Being Scheherazade: The Importance of Storytelling in Academic Writing. *AMJ* 56(3): 629-634.
- Locke, K.; K. Golden-Biddle (1997): Constructing Opportunities for Contribution: Structuring Inter-textual Coherence and ‘Problematizing’ in Organizational Studies. *AMJ* 40(5): 1023-1062.

3. Group Assignment: Rewriting a given sample text focusing on clarity and structure of the argument

4. Choosing a Target Journal

- Journal Rankings; Mission Statements; Review statistics and processes; Editors’ Reports

5. Setting up the Paper and Getting Published: The Example of Top Management and Economics Journals

- **AMJ:**
 - From the Editors (2011): Publishing in AMJ—PART 1: Topic Choice. *AMJ* 54(3): 432–435.
 - From the Editors (2011): Publishing in AMJ—PART 2: Research Design. *AMJ* 54(4): 657–660.
 - From the Editors (2011): Publishing in AMJ—PART 3: Setting the Hook. *AMJ* 54(5): 873–879.
 - From the Editors (2011): Publishing in AMJ—PART 4: Grounding Hypotheses. *AMJ* 54(6): 1098-1102.
 - From the Editors (2013): Integrating Theories in AMJ Articles. *AMJ* 56(4): 917-922.
 - From the Editors (2012): Publishing in AMJ—PART 5: Crafting the Methods and Results. *AMJ* 55(1): 8-12.
 - From the Editors (2012): Publishing in AMJ—PART 6: Discussing the Implications. *AMJ* 55(2): 256–260.
 - From the Editors (2013): Crafting References in AMJ Submissions. *AMJ* 56(5): 1221-1224.
 - From the Editors (2012): Publishing in AMJ for Non-U.S. Authors. *AMJ* 55(5): 1023-1026.
 - From the Editors (2012): Publishing in AMJ—PART 7: What’s Different about Qualitative Research? *AMJ* 55(3): 509-513.
- **AER, RES, JHR:**
 - Moffit, R. (2011): Getting Published in Economics Journals. CSWEP Newsletter, Spring 2011: 4-5, 10.
 - Anderson, P. (2011): Hints for Having a Painless Publishing Experience, CSWEP Newsletter, Spring 2011: 6, 11.



6. The Review Process

- From the Editors (2012): Responding to Reviewers. *AMJ* 55(6): 1261-1263.
- Corman, H; N. Reichman (2011): ABCs of R&Rs, CSWEP Newsletter, Spring 2011: 8-9, 13.
- Özler and McKenzie (2012) “Q&A with Larry Katz, editor of QJE” Development Impact, January 4, 2012. - See Larry Katz’s answer to the second question
<http://blogs.worldbank.org/impactevaluations/qa-with-larry-katz-editor-of-qje>

7. Empirical Evidence on the Publication Process – What do we know?

- Van Dalen, H.P.; A. Klamer (2005): Is science a case of wasteful competition? *Kyklos* 58.3 (2005): 395-414.
- Azar, O. H. (2007): The Slowdown in first-response times of economics journals: can it be beneficial? *Economic Inquiry* 45(1): 179-187.
- Card, D.; S. DellaVigna (2014): Page Limits on Economics Articles: Evidence from Two Journals. *The Journal of Economic Perspectives* 28(3): 149-167.
- Welch, I. (2014): Referee Recommendations. *Review of Financial Studies*.
- Coupé, T. (2013): Peer review versus citations—An analysis of best paper prizes. *Research Policy* 42(1): 295-301.
- Ioannidis, J.; C. Doucouliagos (2013): What's to know about the credibility of empirical economics? *Journal of Economic Surveys* 27(5): 997-1004.

Helpful web sources:

- <http://people.su.se/~mkuda/tips4economists.html>

Further Reading:

- Booth, W.C.; G.G. Colomb; J.M. Williams (2003): *The Craft of Research*. ISBN: 0-226-06568-5
- Davis, G.D. (1997): *Writing the Doctoral Dissertation*. ISBN: 0-8120-9800-5.
- Day, A. (1996): *How to get research published in Journals*. ISBN: 0-566-07886-4.
- Huff, A.S. (1999): *Writing for Scholarly Publication*. ISBN: 0-7619-1805-1.
- Reid, N. (2010): *Getting Published in International Journals* ISBN: 978-82-7894-338-0
- Silvia, P.J. (2002): *How to Write a Lot*. ISBN-13: 978-1-59147-743-3.
- *The Economist: The Economist Style Guide*. Profile Books. ISBN-13: 978-1861979162
- Williams, J.M.; G.G. Colomb (1990). *Style: Toward clarity and grace*. ISBN-13: 978-0226899152



Target audience and preconditions for participation

The seminar is particularly designed for doctoral students in the economics of education course program, but is also valuable in general for doctoral students in economics or business economics. The seminar will take place en bloc in order to enable the external PhD students of the course program in economics of education to attend.

Credit requirements and grading

Students are required to read the *Required Readings* before the course starts. Full attendance is mandatory

- Presentation of general guidelines on scholarly writing from an assigned piece of required reading (20-30 min)
- On the spot discussion of another piece of required reading (5-10min)
- Narrative table of content of working paper (2 pages)
- Presentation of one dissertation project (working paper) based on narrative table of content (20-30 min)
- Rewriting a sample text focusing on clarity and structure (group work, two half-day sessions)
- Referee report on one fellow students' working paper/dissertation chapter based on narrative table of content with respect to style, clarity of argument etc. (2 pages)
- Presentation of referee report (5 - 10 min)
- On the spot discussion on one fellow student's research project (5 min.)
- Revised version of narrative table of content (take home, 1 week)
- Written evaluation of revised version of fellow student's paper (1 page, within one week)

Application

The number of participants is limited. Course registration **until January 25, 2015** is mandatory. Please send your application (including a one-page CV) to curdin.pfister@business.uzh.ch

WWF Statutory Course Policies

According to WWF study regulations, all exam dates are final as published in the VVZ and syllabus. This means that the final exam date is not negotiable. It will not be possible to take any exams on different dates.

Academic dishonesty in any form will not be tolerated. Anyone caught cheating or engaging in unethical behavior will be reported to the Dean's office according to the guidelines on academic dishonesty set forth by the University of Zurich.

The information in this syllabus supports the official information in the electronic university registration tool (VVZ – Vorlesungsverzeichnis). In cases of doubt, the official information at the VVZ is decisive.

For UZH students: Don't forget to officially register using the registration tool of the University of Zurich.