

Writing for Scholarly Journals

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Overview

- “Getting a publication”
- Differences between a good course paper and a strong journal manuscript
- Selecting a scholarly journal for a manuscript submission
- What reviewers look for in a manuscript
- The difference between “decline” and “revise and resubmit” decisions
- Your questions





“I need some publications”

- Submitting a manuscript to a journal means you have study results, a methodological innovation, a critique, or an argument you want to **contribute** to the scholarly conversation in the field.
- This means you must have a sense of the scholarly conversation on your topic.
- ✗ “I need a publication; what shall I write?”
- ✓ “I have a great paper; where can I submit it?”





“But I NEED publications!”

- READ MORE
- Responses and other critiques
- Book reviews
- Turn your conference presentations into papers
- Turn your thesis/dissertation chapters into papers
- Consider a graduate student journal or conference (e.g., *SFU Educational Review*, *PES work-in-progress session*, *Canadian Committee of Graduate Students in Education session*)





“But this paper got an A+”

Why a great final paper in a course may not be a great manuscript for a journal article:

- A good course paper shows competent writing, a good understanding of the course material, an ability to analyze, synthesize, build an argument, etc.
- A good journal article manuscript does all of the above AND makes an original contribution to the field.





“There are so many journals”

- Where do the authors you read publish their work?
- What journals are affiliated with the scholarly societies/associations in your field?
- Do you want/need your article to be open access?
- What are “predatory journals”?
- Read the “aims and scope” section!
- Read (and follow) the “instructions for authors” section!





Warning signs for predatory/ low quality journals

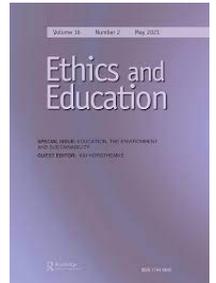
- scope is too wide
- journal owner is dubious (“International Center for Promoting Knowledge”)
- errors (“Journals are processing to assign a DOI number”)
- editor not using an institutional email address
- unrealistic turn-around time
- “We have read your article “...” and can tell you are an expert in the field.”
- article processing fees
- fake editorial board members
- irrelevant fields

When in doubt, ask your supervisor!





Ethics and Education



... aims to stimulate discussion and debate around **the ethical dimensions of education**. The journal addresses issues in **both formal and informal education and upbringing**, and includes within its scope relevant aspects of applied ethics, including bioethics, medical ethics, management ethics, sex education, ethics of therapy and counselling, professional ethics.

... welcomes **all traditions and forms of ethical enquiry**, from a wide range of philosophical and religious perspectives. As well as appealing to those with a direct interest in ethics and education, the journal will also be of interest to philosophers, educationalists and policy-makers.

<https://www.tandfonline.com/action/journalInformation?show=aimsScope&journalCode=ceae20>





Ethics and Education review criteria

1. Quality of writing (Is this paper well written and well structured? Is it accessible for a specialist audience? Is it accessible for a wider audience?)
2. Quality of argumentation (Is the argumentation sound? Are conclusions valid?)
3. Educational focus (Does the paper focus sufficiently on educational issues?)
4. Ethical focus (Does the paper spell out the ethical focus sufficiently?)
5. Engagement with existing literature (Does the paper engage sufficiently with existing literature on the topic?)
6. Originality (Is this an original contribution to the discussion?)
7. Significance (How significant is the contribution?)





Philosophy of Education



- ... publishes a wide range of work that addresses **philosophical questions about education**, with philosophical and education both construed broadly. This international peer-reviewed journal welcomes work in ethics, epistemology, politics, and aesthetics, including work in the overlapping domains of race and gender theory, pedagogy, and methodology.
- ... is committed to the rigorous and vigorous exploration of questions about curriculum, pedagogy, school policy, higher education, and the school's relationship with the larger society.
- ... accepts **submissions that are first presented at the Philosophy of Education Society as conference papers.**





Philosophy of Education review criteria

1. Does the paper contain a:

- Well formed question?
- Clearly articulated claim?
- Compelling conclusion?

2. Is the argument:

- Well-justified?
- Persuasive?
- Crafted using appropriate philosophical tools/approaches?
- Situated in philosophical/historical context?
- Situated in the context of educational policy/practice?
- Provocative?

3. Is the paper:

- Well-crafted?
- Well-organized?

4. Is the question/claim:

- Meaningful?
- Original?
- Important to the field of philosophy of education or to philosophical reflection on educational policy/practice?
- Likely to provoke members' interest and response?





“I am a total failure”

- Accept
 - Accept with minor revisions
 - (Accept with major revisions)
 - Revise and resubmit
 - Reject
- It is VERY common to be asked to make major revisions to your manuscript
 - Even experienced authors receive rejections and major revisions
 - Learn to sort the useful from the useless feedback





Strategies

- Ask supervisory committee members and/or peers for feedback before submitting
- Never respond to reviewer comments on the day you receive them
- Make a list of journals in order of desirability
- Do NOT gamble and submit the same paper to more than one journal at a time
 - Published conference abstract \neq full conference proceedings





Other questions?

- co-authorship
- acceptable time-in-review
- book chapters: peer-reviewed? quality of the publisher? editor?
- finding calls for papers: sign up for association newsletters or journal alerts; search journal publisher site



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