

# **How to Prepare Research Articles for Publication in Peer-Reviewed Journals**

By Prof Jacob Weisdorf (SDU and CEPR)

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*Venue:* Auditorium 424, Academic Building of the Ukrainian Catholic University, Kozelnytska Str., 2A, Lviv

Step-by-step, this talk goes over the process of preparing, writing, and submitting a research article for publication in an international, peer-reviewed journal. The talk highlights a set of difficulties that scholars regularly run into along the way. Simple solutions to these problems are suggested to help increase the probability of publication. Examples are provided from the field of economic history, a cross-field between humanities and social sciences.

Four matters will be discussed at length:

## *1) Off to a good start*

Many research projects start off on the wrong foot. Journal rejections and difficulties in dealing with the requests of editors and reviewers often go back to wrongdoings at the very beginning of the work upon which the article builds. The right groundwork will avoid later problems. The talk explains the main pitfalls and suggests some roads forward, also for studies already off to a weak start.

## *2) Following the standard*

Many research manuscripts do not follow a normal structure. Moreover, authors are sometimes not aware that each section of the article serves a particular purpose, or indeed what those purposes are. Manuscripts with unusual structures and incomplete sections are difficult for editors and reviewers to assess for publication. Writing an article in a standardised way takes very little effort, but improves the chances of publication considerably. The talk explains how to structure an article and what each section must include.

## *3) Targeting the audience*

Many journals cover a wide range of subjects. Journal readers therefore come from a variety of backgrounds topic-wise. Authors oftentimes do not realise who their audience is, or what journal readers need to know in order to appreciate the article's contribution. The language used in many manuscripts only appeals to experts in the author's own field, leaving other readers in the dark. Much can be gained by preparing the text for a wider audience. The talk suggests how to do this.

## *4) Finding out when to submit?*

Authors often submit their manuscripts to journals prematurely. Central problems in their studies have not been appropriately dealt with, and the

manuscript gets rejected because it requires too many major revisions. The talks explain how to know when a manuscript is ready to be sent to a journal.

#### 5) *Making editors and reviewers happy*

Manuscripts do not get published without the editor's consent. Editors rarely accept a manuscript for publication if their reviewers advise them not to. It is of crucial importance, therefore, to try to make reviewers and editors happy. Specific steps can be taken, not least for non-native English-speaking authors, to make their jobs easier and more pleasant. Both when the manuscript is first submitted and when the editor invites the author to submit a revised version. The talk explains some key steps as well as how to avoid the usual pitfalls.

#### **The speaker:**



Jacob Weisdorf is a professor of economics at the University of Southern Denmark, a research fellow at the CEPR in London, a research associate of the CAGE in Warwick, and a research affiliate at the Sant'Anna School of Advanced Studies in Pisa. He has a doctoral degree in economics from the University of Copenhagen and one in economic history from Lund University. His research interests concern the forces that led to the wealth of nations, including recent studies on England (the cradle of the industrial revolution), Italy (an industrial runner-up), and sub-Saharan Africa (a still-to-come region). Prof Weisdorf is also a former editor of the *Scandinavian Economic History Review*. He has 30 articles indexed in Scopus database and his publications have over 1,000 citations in Google Scholar Index. See more: <https://sites.google.com/view/jacobweisdorf>