

Roadmap for Publication and Maximizing Your Chances for Getting Published

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Outline

- The process of getting published and timeline
 - Finding journals and CFPs
 - Submitting your article
 - Review process
 - Outcomes
- Maximizing your chances of getting published
 - Being a good fit
 - Having the “right” sources
 - Translations and English
 - Giving back/playing the game

Finding journals and CFPs

- CFP = call for papers
- Listservs: h-net.org, lsoft.com/catalist.html
- Professional organizations in your discipline

Submitting your article

- Every journal has its own submission method and author guidelines (usually on their website)
 - 2 most common methods: email the editor or use an online submission system
- Pay attention to the author guidelines (more on that later)
- It's possible to be rejected at this stage if your article is poorly written, has plagiarized portions, or if it's not a good fit

Review process

- Usually takes months
 - (don't worry, this part has nothing to do with you or your writing)
 - Don't pester the editor(s) for updates, but check in if it's been over 6 months
- Double-blind peer review
 - What they're looking for:
 - Quality of writing
 - Sound arguments/academic rigor
 - Valuable contributions to the field
 - Active engagement with the literature

Outcomes

- “Accepted with minor changes”
 - Means: your paper was excellent, only some small formatting/spelling/grammar errors
- “Revise and resubmit”
 - Means: your paper has good ideas that are worth publishing but it has issues that must be addressed
 - Understanding reviewers’ comments
- “Rejected”
 - Means: your paper has serious flaws that (at best) cannot be addressed without major revisions

Maximizing your
chances for getting
published

Being a good fit

- Just knowing that a journal is of good quality is not enough—you have to do your homework
 - Read multiple articles published by that journal in the past few years
 - Browse the abstracts and citations
 - Talk with colleagues, esp. if they've published in that journal
 - Things to look for: commonly-cited sources, solo vs multiple authors, audience, acknowledgments and funding

Being a good fit

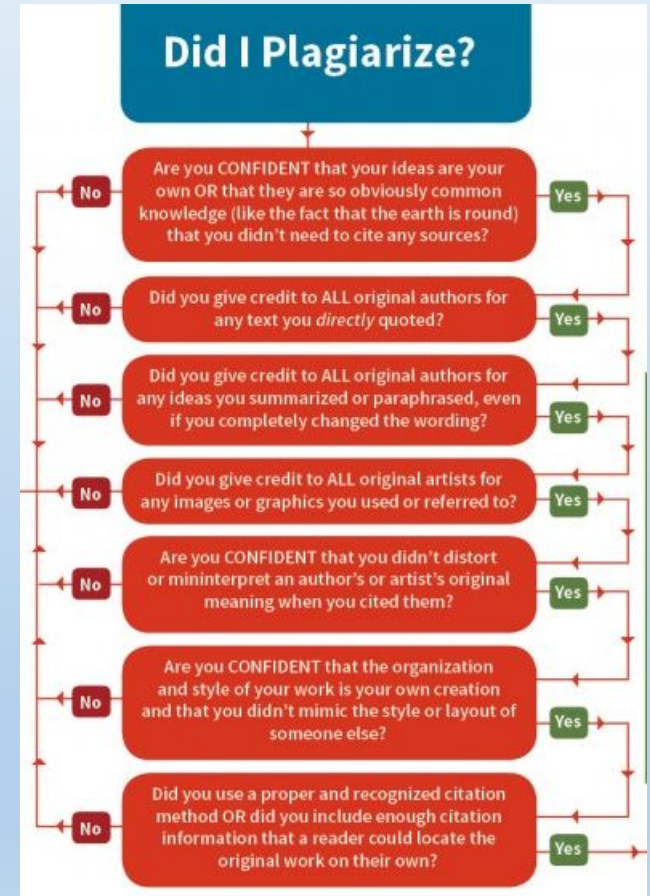
- Author guidelines are vital for things like length, formatting, citation style, footnotes, figures, sections and headers, etc.
 - If you have any questions, ask the editors
- Appropriate style and tone
 - Is the structure of your paper clear?
 - Is your actual writing (words and sentences) clear?
 - Bigger/longer/fancier is usually not better
 - Third person (and not first person) is the overwhelming trend in most disciplines

Having the “right” sources

- Having an article published means that you are entering into a conversation—your work is not an island—and you need to put it in the right context
- Be well-read in your field, not just the “classics” or seminal works, but also current articles
- If you’re ignoring the literature (on purpose or not) your chances of getting published plummet
- Amount and quality of citations

Having the “right” sources

- Plagiarism will automatically get you rejected, and many editors will make a note in their database
 - Self-plagiarism, even in translation
 - Even if you sneak it by them, it can always come out later
- Incorporating nonwestern sources



Translations and English

- You absolutely cannot rely on automatic translation
- You should not rely on manual translation
- Your writing will be much better if you start in English (or the journal's target language) even if you don't think your English is that great
- Translations of your own work is not new scholarship

Giving back/playing the game

- Say yes when editors ask you to do reviews
 - And if you have to say no, tell them why and when you'd be able to review
- Submit often, but never submit the same article to multiple journals at the same time
- Meet your deadlines
 - Many editors have databases where they note if you were late, hard to work with, plagiarizing, and if you keep saying no to doing reviews
- Get to know the people

Examples from my most recent publication—citations

Although we do not claim that focus on where, and in particular the geopolitical where, and related concepts should occupy a paramount position in genocide and mass violence studies, we are of the belief that they do provide a helpful framework, not only for understanding individual episodes and comparative cross-case studies of mass violence, but also for furthering an understanding of motive in particular. Like anthropology (see HINTON, 2002a, 2002b), the discipline of geography has been somewhat late in engaging the multifaceted nature of genocide and related studies and offering our approaches to the community of scholars of mass violence. As noted, this is not to say that geography has been absent from the discussion; many geographers in fact have turned their attention to genocide and related crimes against humanity including WOOD (2001), FLINT (2005), MITCHELL (2004), GREGORY and PRED (2007), KIERNAN (2007), KAHN (2008), TYNER (2008, 2012), O TUATHAIL (2010), ELDEN (2010, 2013), and many others, including a special issue of *Space and Polity* with contributions from O'LEAR and EGBERT (2009), TYNER (2009), OGLESBY and ROSS (2009), MCDERMOTT (2009), DANIELSSON (2009), and LEVINGER (2009).

Examples from my most recent publication—reviewer comments

Reviewer: 1

Comments to the Author

This is a very strong paper that makes an important and pertinent conceptual contribution by introducing the term "territorial cleansing." I believe the paper to be publishable in its current form, with a few minor changes, but would strongly encourage an additional section to the paper to make it even stronger. ...

Reviewer: 2

Comments to the Author

... Unfortunately, the paper as current written falls considerably short of its promise. To begin, there is inadequate discussion between the proposed framework and that of other (including geographical) approaches.

... Conceptually there are many difficulties with the paper. There is a conflation of terms.

... The point is, there is considerable work that has provided empirically detailed, theoretically informed work on (mass) violence; this work has not been adequately incorporated into the present manuscript.

... I regret not being able to provide more positive comments; this is an important topic and I encourage the author(s) to take seriously the above comments and consider how their proposed framework informs or is informed by existing scholarship.