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# PUBLISHING AND PEER REVIEWING SUCCESSFULLY

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*"The authors may display their genius in lectures to students, papers at national meetings, comments on listservs and in informal conversations, and in the practical solutions of real-world problems. Despite these contributions, if the work has not survived the review process and been published in a recognized scholarly venue, the author remains an anonymous member of the community of scholars."*

-Robert L. Dipboye

## **INTRODUCTION**

Finishing a PhD thesis is easy... well, relatively easy. Becoming a *recognized* and *influential* member of the scientific community of your field, on the contrary, is a real challenge to any scholar. This challenge is a particular problem for aspiring scholars (late PhD student, postdoctoral fellows, junior faculty members, etc.), who are just entering the academic world. To achieve recognition and a position of influence in one's field does not require magic, superior personal connections, or innate personality characteristics (although they could help...). Instead, integration and socialization into the academic world can be the result of purposeful practices that everyone can learn.

To facilitate the integration and socialization of aspiring scholars into the academic world, in this workshop we focus on two primary practices, namely *peer reviewing* and



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*academic publishing*. Indeed, the primary objective of an academic scholar is to produce and disseminate knowledge, generally through academic publications. Peer reviewing is a fundamentally important and shared responsibility that is deeply held among academic scholars: “*Reviewers are the unsung heroes of academia.*” (Baruch, Sullivan, Schepmyer, 2006: xii). For these reasons, academic publishing and peer reviewing are seen as the two main means to get recognition and have an influence in shaping one’s own field.

We do not merely emphasize the importance of these two practices for the progress of one’s academic career, or for the science in general, but also offer concrete ways to improve the peer reviewing and publication capabilities of the participants. More specifically, we focus on how aspiring scholar could be efficient in getting out their first publications, and how they could learn the difficult but necessary skills of developmental peer reviewing.

As such, this workshop is designed to *accelerate* the professional development of aspiring scholars and *strengthen* their involvement in the academic world already at the early stages of their academic careers.

## ***CONTENT & OBJECTIVES***

The workshop activities focus on two critical practices of academic scholars:

1. Understanding of the *developmental* peer reviewing practice
  - To improve your peer reviewing capabilities
  - To identify your own strategy to get involved and progress in developmental peer reviewing
2. Understanding of the academic publication practice and its evolution
  - To improve your publication capabilities
  - To adapt your publication pipeline with your objectives

Academic publishing and peer reviewing appear to be the two main activities in the academic enterprise. Those who are not yet experts in these, the good news is that peer reviewing and publishing are not science, nor art; they are practices that can be learnt. You can practice writing and peer reviewing. In developmental peer reviewing you practice the skills to evaluate the rigor, relevance, and value of submitted manuscripts, and help the authors uplift their work. Peer reviewing in turn will help you to write your own manuscripts better, and also prepare yourself for open exchanges between you and the reviewers of your own manuscripts.

The workshop is built around active exchanges between junior and senior academics, who have extensive experiences in academic publishing and peer reviewing. For effective learning, the participants are expected to carry out preparatory works and participate actively in classroom activities.

The workshop takes place in Grenoble as a one-week intensive module.

## **I) Developmental Peer Reviewing (12h)**

The module includes

1. Lectures and class discussions on peer reviewing to understand its role in the scientific enterprise, to learn the basics of *developmental* peer reviewing, and to identify ways to get involved in peer reviewing;
2. Hands-on exercises to train yourself in the practice of developmental peer reviewing. Evaluating a manuscript against common criteria, identification of strengths and weaknesses of a manuscript, and the art of crafting a review letter.

## **II) The Publication Process (12h)**

The module includes

1. lectures on how to craft introduction, literature review, methodology, discussion, and abstract;
2. discussions and tutored group work on the participants' proposals for journal articles. Writing exercises will be conducted within small groups to improve your own paper. Identification and development of the main argument of an article, choosing the appropriate audience and journal for a specific topic, overcoming typical problems in writing an article, other practical aspects of writing and publishing.

### ***APPLICATION***

To be considered for participation in the Workshop, participants need to have at least a paper to discuss and submit a single document of application that includes:

- (1) A short Letter of Application + Curriculum Vitae;
- (2) A full paper aimed to be submitted to an academic journal.

PhD students who are interested must contact Andrea Piccaluga ([picca@sssup.it](mailto:picca@sssup.it))