**PACE Space-20230615\_103119-Meeting Recording**

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1h 37m 34s

 **Julia.Molinari** 0:06
And welcome to our 7th talk in the pace extra guest speaker series on Julia Molinari, the graduate school's pace lecturer, and I'll be chairing and monitoring the the session.

 **Julia.Molinari** started transcription

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 0:13
And.

 **Julia.Molinari** 0:20
This series of talks extends the core pace programme and aims to provide alternative perspectives on doctoral communication by drilling deeper into aspects that sometimes get overlooked in core training programmes, things like alternative or more nuanced ways of doing, knowing and thinking about the nuts and bolts of the doctorate and about our identities as research writers. Our guest speaker today is Nigel Harwood, whose kindly agreed to share his experiences of publishing.

 **James.Sharrock** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 0:22
The.

 **Efrat.Marcu** joined the meeting

 **Jane.Stevens1** joined the meeting

 **Julia.Molinari** 0:49
And speak about various misconceptions novices may have about publishing. Nigel is a professor of applied linguistics at the University of Sheffield. His research interests include academic writing and citation analysis.
He's published his research in journals such as Applied Linguistics, Journal of English for Academic Purposes, Journal of Pragmatics, modern language journal and written communication, and he's a former Co editor of the Journal of English for specific purposes. Crucially, for us today is the fact that Nigel is an author, a reviewer, and a former journal editor, so he's uniquely positioned to offer all three perspectives when it comes to publishing the title of his talk.

 **Ismay.Mummery** joined the meeting

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:36
Is writing for publication in journals things I wish I'd known before I got started. So welcome, Nigel, thanks very much for agreeing to come and talk to us. And we can now look forward to your talk and I will stop sharing my screen.
Ohh I have already stopped sharing cause you started sharing OK off you go.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:59
Thank you, Julia. Thanks for the welcome as well. Can I just cheque very quickly? Can everyone see my screen?
I can't see the chat so I could someone say what are you down? OK. Thank you. Yeah, that's the trouble. Sharing your screen. You can't see anything else. OK. Lovely. Thanks very much for the introduction, Julie. And. And I hope this talk will be interesting today about publication.

 **Julia.Molinari** 2:08
I can. Yeah, we can.

 **F Naysmith (Guest)** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 2:24
So the first thing I'd like you to do is if you've got any questions that you would like me to answer and if you could put those in the chat please. I'm not able to see the chat, but Julia is and she will be able to let me know any questions appear. So I'm just gonna give you a minute or two. Just just to to write anything in the chat that you want answering please.
There will be an opportunity at the end of the session to answer any of the questions that hasn't been answered in the course of the talk. Thank you.

 **Jean.Nash1** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 3:43
OK. Julia, are there any questions that people have have written in the chat please?

 **Julia.Molinari** 3:50
You.
At the start, just very, very practical one. Will you share your slides? That was one question. And when you've done the talk and there's a question here, do journals give guidelines on the topics they're interested in publishing and the maximum word counts for articles? That's one question. Another question is including both academic and non academic practise based citations in journals? Is this journal specific?
And scenes frowned upon in thesis writing.
That's the. That's what I've got so far that I'm seeing.

 **Joanna (Guest)** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 4:29
OK, lovely. Thanks. Thanks everyone for your questions. I'm happy to share the slides with Julia and I'll presume she will then make them available to you. The the second question.
Yes, journals generally should.
Give you guidelines about the kind of topics or the the the scope of the journal.
And word limits as well. They will normally these days give you a word limit. Yes. And the last question about citations.
Yes, it does depend on the journal to some extent and I will talk a little bit about the kind of strategy you might have for deciding where to submit.
Lovely. Thank you. And of course, if any questions that we haven't answered at the end, then feel free we can talk.
So it's Julia said.
And I've got a foot in all three camps in as much as I'm a former Co editor of a quarter one journal English for specific purposes. And I think when I started, I edited the Journal for nine years. When I started, I think we got 175 manuscripts there or thereabouts a year submitted to us. By the time I stood down.
We you can see from the slide we we had double the amount of manuscripts being submitted to us a year and I dare say since I stood down a couple of years ago, it's probably gone up past 400 now.
So.
There are more and more journals at receiving more and more submissions compared to a few years ago. I'm also an author of course, so I have to undergo review myself when I submit work to journals and I review for lots of different journals.
And I think once you understand how the whole thing works it it makes it makes the whole process that there's a lot more sense to it then my problem was when I submitted my first article, I was an MA student. I had absolutely no idea how the publication process worked, and the article was rejected. The well the manuscript was rejected and I just didn't get through the process. I think if I hope if someone had given the talk like this to me.
At that point it would have helped me make sense of everything.

 **Samantha.Osys** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 6:53
So what do I need to tell you?
And if we start with.
This decision that you can get on your manuscript when you send.
Your manuscript to a journal and which decision do you think is the most common? I can't see the chat, but presumably if any of you speak, I will be able to hear that. So if someone would like to say what they think.

 **Barbara.Spicer** 7:21
I'm going to guess the most common response as I reject.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 7:26
You're quite right. It is. That's right. Unfortunately. And and and when I started, I did not know this. I definitely did not know this. I was quite confident that my manuscript would be accepted and in fact accepted. And I wouldn't have to do anything to it.

 **Lewis.Sibanda** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 7:44
So what percentage of manuscripts are rejected? Would anyone like to have a guess?
I'm talking about.
Top journals.

 **Coomerene Rodrigo (Guest)** 7:55
I think about 80%.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 7:57
80%.
Anyone else?

 **Barbara.Spicer** 8:06
I'm going to go higher. I'm going to say 90%.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 8:10
The figures that you've given me are are very much in the Ball Park.
So I'm gonna show you a couple of examples from journals now this is the my former journal English for specific purposes, and in fact these are years of for when I was still editing the journal and you can see on the right hand side there the column on the right, they've got the acceptance rate. So rather than saying rejection rate, they've been a bit more positive than book settings rate. But you can see that the rejection rate is around about 88%.
And that's for English for specific purposes. For those of you who are not in my field of TESOL applied linguistics, this is a quartile one journal. So it is a a top journal, but it's definitely not right at the top. It's it's not right.
At the very top, it's a good journal, it's Q1, but it's not right at the top and and so you can see this, this journal is like 8889% rejection rate.
Which which of course means that the journals in my field that are right at the top, like modern language journal for example, their rejection rates are in the 90s ninety something percent, maybe 95% or thereabouts.
Here's another example. There's another Q1 journal in my field. You can see there are differences here. Their rejection rate is still high, but it's not as high as English for specific purposes.
But it's still well into the 80s, something percent.
So the first thing to say is your paper can be rejected.
But then I've caveated that by saying, especially if you submit to a top journal, you'll understand what I'm doing there. What I'm doing there is saying if you go a bit lower than right to the top, rejection rates fall a bit.
And your chances of acceptance are higher.
And.
Which of course brings you to the whole question of strategy and how high you want to go and.
All that kind of stuff, which which I will talk about a bit later. I'll, I'll just say at this point.
A common way of approaching this issue of where to submit and and so on is to try.
For for a good journal.
In the first instance, and then if you get rejected, you might go a little bit lower down.
Where your chances of acceptance will be a bit higher.
Right. So.
On this slide, I've just sums up a few things about rejection. It's true that we do get our manuscripts rejected by journals. Even top professors get their manuscripts rejected by journals from time to time. I know this because when I was an editor, sometimes we would get manuscripts from.
Well known people, and although they were normally accepted, that wasn't the case always.
Um.
If you go for a high quality journal, you might get a revise and resubmit verdict, and if you get a revise and resubmit from a very good journal.
You can see that as a win.
There's almost a sense if you go right to the top that you're never gonna get anything better than a major revisions. It's unusual to get anything better than that from a top journal. Yeah. If you go a bit lower down and you go for a journal, that's not so demanding. Yes, you might get a minor revisions, except with minor revisions you might do. But if you go to the top ones in my field, if you go to modern language journal, it's very unlikely you're going to get anything better than the major revisions.
And you may well get a revise and resubmit and the way to look at that, although of course it's not what we want. We want to get straight in. But the way to look at a revise and resubmit from a top journal is that you're winning because they haven't rejected you in the first instance. And if they haven't rejected you and they've given you a revise and resubmit and you make the revisions, then your chances of getting accepted are gonna increase.
So you're winning.
So yes, the third bullet point is saying it's extremely rare to get a manuscript accepted with no changes required in 20 years of publishing. I have had, except with minor revisions I've had those before.
And.
I don't remember ever getting a verdict that said accept, but even if it did, I have never been asked not to make any changes. I've always had to do something, even if it's only been an hour's work and the changes have been very modest. I've still had to make changes, and as I say, if you go for top journals, which which I have from time to time, then if you get a major revisions or a revise and resubmit, they'll be.
A lot of changes to make you send that back, hopefully.
They like it and then you get a fair a slightly less harsh verdict next time. And let's say you get a major revisions or minor revisions, but you still have a second round of revisions to make you send that back, and there might even be a last round of very admittedly very small changes. But again, you know, you've been through three rounds to get this done and so.
That connects to the last bullet point on this slide about time and patience.
If, like me, patience is not your strongest virtue.
Ohh, you've gotta bite your tongue. And you you've gotta do something else while you're waiting. And I always say the better, especially when you're if you're a PhD student and you're gonna publish and you're you're near the end of your journey and you're you're lucky enough to have some time available. I know that's not true for everybody, but if you do have some time on your hands, then the best thing you can do once you've submitted one paper is to start working on the next one, because then you you can forget about waiting.
And it it helps make the weight a bit more bearable. So I'm giving you a a rough idea of how long you might have to wait to get the reviews back.
So I'd say the Ball Park numbers would be between two and four months.
I've got an article under review with T Cell quarterly at the moment.
And I think the first go, I think it took us months to get, I'm doing it with with a PhD student, four months to get an answer.
And then it was a good answer. It was a. It was a minor revisions.
We resubmitted and I think then we got three months maybe we had to wait and then they wanted a hopefully a last round hopefully of minor typos and we've been waiting for for a few weeks for that. So yeah, two to four months, I have waited longer. I've waited six months before I've even once waited 13 months.
And that is very unusual. The manuscript was very long. It was sent to a journal with no word limit to to speak to someone's question earlier, but these days.
In my field anyway.
I think all journals pretty much have word limits and and they say so on their website. So yeah, six months is a long time, but it's not unheard of. It shouldn't really be longer than six months, but Ball Park, two months to four months. So you can see it takes time.
And this is a bit of a facetious slide.
But it's true, isn't it? What we want is what it says on the left.
This is a wonderful article. This is from a reviewer. Her fictional reviewer obviously.
A wonderful article. There's nothing you can do to it. It's great. Congratulations. Except it. That's what we want. But unfortunately, the column on the right is what we get.
But what I'm saying there is it's worth it to get into a top journal.
And why is it worth it? I've got a few slides about that, but here are a few reasons why it is worth getting your work reviewed by experts in your field and getting into a top journal.
So if you get reviewers who really know your field and know what they're talking about, they can do a lot of good things for you. If you've made any howlers, if you've made any mistakes, they'll spot mistakes and they'll call you out on it.
If you, if you've missed anything out that you should have mentioned, they'll they'll again identify that they might help you with your discussion. They might say in their reviews you could consider discussing topics XY&Z, and that might really help strengthen your discussion. They might help give you ideas for future research even.
That they say you could discuss, which of course you could then do so in red at the bottom. I've just trying to sum up and I'm saying specialist reviewers can make your article make your work as good as it can possibly be.
They can even teach you things about academic writing as well. I know over the years people have said things about my writing and.
Yeah, I think they have taught me things about how to structure an article or the kind of things to put in in, in an introduction, things like that.
So yeah, they they can help with all these things.
However.
Maybe you've heard this?
This quote on the slide.
So you might have heard all of this. Weighting isn't necessary all of these high rejection rates are not necessary. I've been told I can submit to an online journal and get my article very quickly exacted in in just a week or two, and it can appear online pretty much straight away. Is it true? Yes, it is true. However, there are massive caveats to attach to that.
So the kind of journals that we'll do what I've just described, publish your article in a week or something like that and ask you for no changes or very few changes. We often refer to them as junk journals.
Both the people might refer to them as predatory journals because they're the idea is that like predators, by stealing good work and and for their journal when you could be publishing in good places.
And I've I've written a few.
Uh.
Descriptions that are associated with junk journals on the slide so they don't review much, if any, if at all. So they might not review your work at all. They might not send it out to anybody to look at, and even if they did, you would have absolutely no confidence that the person who's reviewing your work knows anything about your field. They have extremely high acceptance rates and so there might have acceptance rates that are 90 something percent. Well, just compare and contrast that to the top journals.
In my field anyway, and in other fields that may be accept only 5% of manuscripts, and you've a can very quickly realise, OK, there's gonna be a quality problem, because if they just publish anything then.
Your your article that that might be a very good piece of work that you've is based on a PhD that was carefully designed. Your work which is good, is gonna sit alongside rubbish.
Some of these junk journals, these predatory journals, also have a pay to publish model, so the arrangement is if you want us to publish your article, you've gotta pay us $1000.
And.
Good journals don't ask for that, and good journals might.
Have an Open Access policy whereby if you want your article to appear as an Open Access article, you've gotta pay a fee, but that's different. If you don't want a you your your article to be Open Access. Top journals don't don't charge you to publish your work.
And so, yeah, I'm saying there that.
Your work, your research, which you've carefully designed with your supervisors, and it will sit alongside rubbish and serious scholars don't reach young journals. Why not? Well.
Because they're not indexed, so they're not in a serious index, which says this is high quality or this is Q1 or Q2 work and there are many, many, many of these junk journals around and academics these days. Certainly our workload has just rocketed. You'll all know that. And we certainly don't have time to read everything and anything that is published.
Um.
And as I say, junk journals publish rubbish anyway and and we've never heard of these journals. They don't appear in indexes, so serious scholars don't read them.
And and then I've written him .7 there as well.
This is really important if you are thinking about applying for a lectureship in the UK or in the West or at a good university.
They shouldn't take junk journal publications seriously at all. So when we advertise for a job and people send their CV S in, remember we get we'll probably get 100 applications or more. And if in the CV the CV just has a long list of publications, no one's ever heard of, they won't get taken seriously.
So you might be thinking, well, that's all very well and I want to avoid these junk journals, these predatory journals. But how do I know? How do I know which of predatory journals junk journals and which on here are a list of questions that I think will help you. So when you read the most influential scholars in your field, what journals are they sighting?
What channels do the most prestigious people in your field appear in?
If you haven't heard of the journal, has your supervisor heard of it?
Another thing you can do is you can go to the journal website and you can have a look at some of the work they publish. Is it good work? Your current most of you are at the end of your PhD. By now you should be able to tell which work is decent or not. Have a look at one or two articles in the journal. Are they ever good quality? If they're not then there's something wrong. Another approach you can take is the quantitative metrics type approach where you look at indexes. I will introduce an index in a moment.
That you can use to search in and, but one example of an index would be the SSC I the Social Science Citation Index. They only index what they consider to be the better journals in the field is this journal that you've you've seen. Is it in that index? If it isn't, again, that's.
Alarm bells.
So here's the website I was promising.
And so Margo is free. You can use that link and you can use it to look up journal rankings by quartile.
And I'll just show you a few examples.
This is just a word of explanation about what quartile quartile rankings mean. I've already referred in this talk to Q1 and Q2 journals.
And so the idea is inside Margo the quartile 1 journals are supposed to be the 25 top percentage of the journals in the list, but it doesn't show you every single journal in the field. It doesn't rank many of them. So already you've gotta cut off. So they look at education or they look at linguistics or they look at history or whatever the discipline is, and they only rank what they consider to be the best.
The better ones. And then within that that list.
Q1 journals first quartile journals are the top 25% and then Q2 and the next 25% and so on.
So in my field on this slide, I've given you some Q1 ranked journals.
So are all Q1 journals equally as good? No, they're not. Absolutely not. So again, this is an example from teeth on my own field. 2 journals, applied linguistics, and Route journal Relph Journal is certainly not as prestigious. It's not as highly regarded as applied linguistics, but it's still a good journal. It's Q1, but it's, you know, towards the bottom of Q1, but it's fine. But certainly if you had written something.
That you felt was your best work.
It would probably be a bit unusual for you to go to Ralph Journal in the first instance. You probably go higher than that.
But Relp journal, I've published there myself once. It's perfectly fine. It publishes interesting work and. And yeah, it's it's there's the fact it's Q1 is a is a mark of quality.
And.
I'm a lecturer as well as, as you know from what Julie said, the beginning and one thing that I found this year and many years.
Is that my students?
They don't habitually look at Q1 and Q2 journals, even though I try and get them to do that. And I say this over and over again. So I'm just listing a few journals that some of my MA students cited in their essays, and you can see the problem.
Most of these journals that I've listed there, they're they're not even listed in some Argo. They're not even Q4.
That's terrible journal.
And what I'm saying to you is don't publish there.
And This is why no.
OK, at this point I'm gonna muddy the waters.
And I've given you a very strong, clear message. Don't publish in journals that are QQ4, certainly or below or unlisted journals. Don't do it. That's what I've said. But I am aware.
That there are universities in various places around the world that have rules that their lecturers have to follow, which are, in my opinion extremely unhelpful. So let me give you an example. I had a a very, very good PhD student a few years ago from Malaysia.
And he's definitely he did a PhD on differentiated learning. It was excellent, really good. His work, in my opinion, is definitely of international standard. It should definitely go into a Q1 journal. There's no question in my mind about that.
And but his university in Malaysia has an incredibly unhelpful rule, which is that all academics have to publish five articles a year now.
I think.
All of the articles that I've written with the exception may be of one or two have been in Q1 journals.
There might have been one or two in Q2 journals, but.
Nearly all in Q1 journals, but if you only want to publish in Q1 journals.
I can't publish 5Q1 articles a year. I can't do it. The process takes too long.
You need to have strong research to get in there.
And of course, strong research takes time.
I realised there are disciplinary differences and that people that are working in scientific fields may be able to publish more because they often work in large teams. Therefore the work split. Therefore you can get more publications to your name more quickly, but if you're in the humanities or social sciences, publishing 5Q1 articles a year, I've never managed that in 20 years.
Um.
And I would like to start trying because I don't think I'll be able to sleep or do anything else. So if you were unfortunate enough to work in a place where they have these rather arcane rules that make no sense, you would have to go lower down. And I suppose what I would try and do in a situation like that.
I'd try to keep doing good work and publishing Q1 journals, but clearly because I wouldn't be able to publish in Q1 journals 5 \* a year, I'd have to publish in lower rank journals and as well.
But I'm just giving you that for a bit of balance, but if you are working, say in the UK university where they don't have such a ridiculous expectation of five articles a year and Q and then go for the best places, that that's really what I'd say to you go go for as good.

 **Coomerene Rodrigo (Guest)** left the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 30:39
I said places you you can possibly get into.
And.
We've mentioned this. What else should I warn you about that you'll need to write more than one version of your manuscript before it's finally accepted. I mentioned earlier that I've got an article with a coauthor at Tissot quarterly under review. At the moment we submitted the original thing. We got a a a minor revisions, which is excellent. It's a great verdict that from a top quality journal that's as good as you're going to get. But then we have to make the revisions and send it back.

 **Gwyneth.Jones** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 31:20
And then they like that. But they asked for more revision. So you can see we've already done 3 versions and hopefully now it will get accepted, but there's no guarantee it should do so. That means time. So I've given you a concrete example there. It's from a little while ago, but it the the point still stands, the whole process can take a couple of years.
So with the T cell quarterly article that I was telling you about, we submitted in November, I think, yeah, November last year and here we are in June.
And so that's like seven months. And even though we got a great verdict for the original submission minor revisions, you can still it's you can see it's still seven months and it's still going on. So we're hoping that within the next month we'll get a an accept.
And that might happen hopefully, but even still will then have to get the article proofed and we'll have to wait for that and then eventually it'll appear on the website. So all of that might take a year.
And that's very quick.
It can take longer than a year, unfortunately. Let's say you get a revise and resubmit. You've submit it to a top journal. OK, you've gotta wait. Let's say you wait four months for the reviews.
And then you get revise and resubmit and you look at the revise and resubmit comments and you think, OK, they're they're fair, but this is gonna take ages. So it takes you maybe.
Three or four months to do because you've got other things to do with your time as well. Maybe it even takes you longer. You know, maybe it takes you six months before you can actually do it. I don't know. And then that has to be reviewed again. So that's another six month. So you can see it goes on and on.
Right, I'm aware then I've given you what might seem to be a lot of bad news, but don't give up and let's have a look at some misconceptions and how things aren't really as bad as all that.
So this is a really common misconception. If my article is rejected, it means my work's no good.
And I'm saying it's not all bleak. It's not all bad news. That's not necessarily the case if you submit to a really, really good journal, then they reject most of the work. Even very good work that sent to them. So maybe you could go a bit lower. I've got a colleague in my school here at Sheffield who is a really, really good researcher.
And she's very well regarded. She's junior.
She's been out of her PhD about six years, something like that. And she's been submitting to the best journals. That's what she does.
And in some cases she's got in, but in other cases she hasn't. And they they've said to her, this is good work, but it's not quite we're not gonna take it. Maybe 1 reviewer said take it and the other reviewer has been. No. And then the third review has been not sure and the the editors decided to reject it. So she's gone a bit lower down and it will get accepted.
So don't give up yet.
Another reason an article can be rejected is that you're going for the wrong journal.
That's something that you shouldn't be doing if you take advice, particularly from your supervisor.
Or if you're submitting to the kind of journals that.
The people in your field submit to in publishing you should be OK, but if you need to cheque it is the right journal, your supervisor or an experienced colleague will be able to help you.
And when I was editing SPJ English for specific purposes, we used to desk reject, which means reject without sending to reviewers. We used to desk reject most submissions and one of the most common reasons we had for desk rejection was that they'd submitted to a wrong journal. I'm gonna give you a ridiculous example, but we have this every week so my journal English for specific purposes.
And we publish about articles, research on English academic purposes. Every week I would see manuscripts that were about literature. They were literary criticism. Well, it was very clear on our journal website. When you look at the aims and scope, we don't publish articles that were about literature. So any articles that were sent to us about literature would get desk rejected immediately.
So, as I say, that kind of mistake is very easy to avoid by raising the the website's aims and scope by talking to a supervisor, an experienced colleague, and by looking at who which journals the the well known figures in your field. Publishing all of those strategies can help you pick the right journal.
I've written at the bottom too long, too short. Someone asked about word counts earlier. I think things have got a lot tougher than they used to when when I started editing ESPJ about 14 years ago.
We did have a word limit. It was on the website, but I think some journals were less strict than they are now.
And some journalists are still less strict than others. When I was editor, our limit was 10,000 words. If I got a manuscript that was longer than 10,000 words, I didn't care as long as it wasn't ridiculous. What I was concerned about as editor. I just wanted the best work we could possibly get.
And authorities will disagree with that. Probably most editors, to be honest, most editors will say no if the word limit says 10,000 words. OK, if you're 10,200, maybe. But if you're 11,000, we'll we'll just send it back. And some journals actually say that they say if your manuscript is above our word limit, we will automatically describe yet your article. Some of them say that so that there is a bit of variation.
But most journals will have a word limit and they'll they'll stick to it, to a greater or lesser extent. That doesn't mean that.
When your manuscript is finally accepted, it can't be longer. Some journals will allow that. In other words, let's imagine the journal says on their website, our word limit is 8000. So you write your article and it's about 8000. It gets reviewed. They like it. They ask for changes, blah blah blah. A lot of editors will say you can go over 8000 now, some won't. Somewhere.
So depends.
But certainly if a journal has a word limit of 5000 words, let's say and, do you write the 15,000 word article? It'll just get desk rejected. You're sending it to the wrong place.
So we've talked about this a lot. If my articles rejected by one journal, that means no journal will accept it. That isn't true.
We've all had experiences I have.
Of sending a manuscript to Journal X, Journal X rejecting it and then resubmitting to Journal. Why? And getting it accepted? And one thing I should point out at this at this point in juncture is that what you're not allowed to do is submit the same manuscript to multiple journals at the same time. You can't do that. You need to submit the manuscript to only one journal.
The time and then hopefully the first journal will accept it. But if they say no, it's only when they reject it. At that point you can submit it to another journal, but I've also put a point at the bottom of the slide.
They are. Suppose the natural tendency, the natural inclination. If you do get a reject, you get cross.
You don't really read the reviewers criticisms very carefully. You look at them and you just you're not happy and you just send the same manuscript exactly the same manuscript to the second journal. You really shouldn't do that.
When you get a rejection, it's horrid.
I'm not gonna deny that.
And.
The best advice I've got to be honest is if you do get a rejection.
Just put it aside, just put it aside for a week.
And then go back to it and it's not as bad. So you get a rejection even if you get a revise and resubmit, or a major revision, to be honest.
You know, on the one hand, you should think our major revisions, I should be happy. Yeah. But when you see all the reviewers comments that it, it can be very disheartening and you think ohh for goodness sake, I can't be doing with all this. Put it aside for a week, come back to it and I guarantee you it won't be as bad as you thought.
It won't. I still get that feeling even if I get a major revisions.
And and and I see loads of text I think. Ohh no, I just can't face this. It's been so much work to write the thing and now I've gotta change it. Come back to it in a week and it won't look as bad.
But you should look at the the comments carefully, even if you've been rejected and you should look at what they're saying to see if they have any merit in them and that they're there will be something probably that they've said that does have merit. Make the changes, make your manuscript better before you, then send it to the next journal. One reason for making it better is that the the editor of the the Second journal might ask one of the original reviewers to look at your manuscript.
And I can guarantee you if one of the original man reviewers looks at it when you submit to the second journal and you haven't made any changes, they'll write to the editor and say I saw a previous version of this that was submitted to another journal. They haven't made any effort. They haven't made any changes, reject. That's what they'll say. So that's another good reason. But the main reason is look at what they've said because their comments will make your your next your next version better.
And all journals are equally hard to get published in. We've said that that is emphatically not the case.
I mentioned 2Q1 journals earlier in my field. Applied linguistics and relp journal relp journals rejection rate is much lower than that of applied linguistics. They're not all equally hard to get published in.
I've just talked about the idea of the pecking order there as well, so the idea is.
How are you gonna go?
And you make a shortlist of suitable journals that you could send it to and at the top is the best one, and then you've got one or two more a bit lower down you try for the top one and if they reject you, you go a bit lower down. But I would also say think about how good you're work is.
So for example, if you're trying to publish articles from your PhD, maybe the maybe maybe you got three or four articles out of it. Maybe the first two that you write from your PhD you consider and your supervisor considers to be the strongest ones.
Okay so for the strongest ones you could think right, these are the best I've got. These are the best I'm gonna do from this PhD. I'm gonna go for the top. I'm gonna go for journals and at the top or near the top. But maybe when you're writing your fourth article, maybe you think it's fine, but it's not as strong as as article one and two. So then instead of going right to the top, you might think there's no point going right to the top for this 4th one. It's not as strong. It's good, but it's not that good. So I'm gonna go down a little bit.
That might be a more realistic strategy as well.
So as I say, I have published in top journals but.
I doubt habitually send my work there.
And maybe it's cause I'm a bit pessimistic, but I would say no. It's cause I'm realistic.
And so yeah, think about how strong your work is and where it's likely to be accepted.
And there's a point here about being a second language speaker of English.
And you might worry a little bit about how you might think. Well, the reviewers will see my English isn't perfect and will reject my article that there are lots of points I could say to speak to that one. Let me just say one thing. One thing is that probably a lot of the reviewers won't be, won't be first language speakers through English anyway, so they might well be second language speakers of English themselves. Another thing that I would say is in my field of T cell applied.
Linguistics, where we're dealing with things like language acquisition. If anyone should be unprejudiced or have less prejudice and less unconscious bias, it should be us.
And.
So what could you do? You can try and get your manuscript proofread, edited by a professional. When I say professional, I mean someone that is belongs to an association. That professional body like the CIEP. That's the Chartered Institute of Editors and proof readers.
And there are professional bodies like that whose members should be very professional and competent.
And so that's one idea. But of course there's payment involved, and if you go to a professional like that, the payment is gonna be much higher than asking a friend to do it.
Another idea would be to get a proficient English speaker, not necessarily a native speaker of English, but a proficient English speaker, to look at your manuscript. But but this person really should be in your field as well, so that they understand the terminology and the jargon, and so on. And what you're saying. Another possibility is to consider collaborating with your supervisor.
To cool for your paper still another possibility that I haven't got in the slide would be to. If you're not gonna coauthor with your supervisor.
And you could at least ask them once you've drafted your manuscript, you could ask your supervisor if they will take a look.
So all of these things can help, but they.
Junior researcher in my school that I was telling you about earlier who goes to top journals. She's not a native speaker of English. Her English is very good. It's not perfect. I know this because I've read some of her work and I've read some of her forms that she's filled in for working. It's not perfect. It's very good, but it's not 100% perfect. But that level of proficiency shouldn't.
Signify.
She will probably get when she submits reviews. I don't know. She's never shown me a reviews, but she will get comments and but to be fair I get comments.
Native speakers of English. Depending on the reviewer, depending on how thorough the reviewer is, will also get comments as well about language and style.
It's only really when you get to the point where the English is much worse than that.
And and there are multiple errors in every sentence that there's an issue.
OK, so I've got a few slides now where the author is confused or angry.
And I'm trying to explain what is probably happening. So let's say you've submitted to a journal, you've done it online like all journals these days, they're manuscript platforms are online and you can see from your status on this online submission system, it says that your manuscript has been with editor for a month. So some journals will simply say with editor.
Before it, then later says under review. And so you wonder, well, why is it with editor for a month? And so you might think, well, my money script hasn't been safely received. Well, that's easily dealt with because you should have got an automatic e-mail when you submitted the manuscript to say we've safely received it and it's being considered. OK. So probably isn't that it must be that the editor's lazy and it doesn't do anything. So they've just sat on their backside. My manuscript.
It's been with the editor for a month and the editor hasn't done anything. Why not? Right. OK, let's have a look at things from the editor's perspective. So.
I've mentioned to you that in the nine years I. Yeah, I was. Yeah. I added to my journal for nine years in the nine years I edited my journal as submission rate doubled. So the first problem is the editor has lots of submissions to deal with. The second point, which you may or may not know, is most editors get very little support in terms of time or money I got.
An honorarium from English for specific purposes when I was editor, you can be sure that when something has a fancy Latin name like honorarium, that means that you the money involved is pitiful and and it certainly wasn't enough money to pay people to help me. My university gave me no time off, and this is typical of university's, dare I say it in Britain, where they want to have their cake and they want to eat it as well. They want the prestige of having you as a.
The editor of the prestigious journal. But they won't pay you for it, or they won't give you any time off. Some some universities are are better than they do, but a lot of universities give you no time. So that means when does your editing work get done? It gets done at the weekends. I used to edit my journal on Saturdays.
So that means you're you're already doing things in your free time and and it means that you're not working on the journal seven days a week. You're probably working on the journal one day a week.
And the other thing is a good editor. Notice I don't say an editor. I say a good editor, good editor should spend hours reading submissions to decide what to do about them. So that's what should happen. I'm not gonna say all editors do this. I know that not all editors do unfortunately. But what a good editor should do is read a manuscript carefully.
And judge the quality for themselves and judge whether it's good enough to send out for review or whether they're gonna just desk reject it. And if they are gonna send it out for review, who is it that they should ask? And they should be writing notes about the strengths and weaknesses of the work. Already. All of that takes time. It takes hours.
And if I get 6 new submissions in a week, I'm not gonna have the time on a Saturday to go through all six submissions unless four of them are useless. Four of them are about literature, and which my journal wasn't about, and so I can desk reject them immediately. Yeah. Then I'll have the time to look at the other two properly, but I'll probably have a queue of submissions waiting for me. All of this helps to explain to you why a an editor may supposedly.
Just be sitting on a manuscript for a month and then the last point there is maybe the editor's tried to invite people to review the manuscript, but they haven't replied or they've declined to review. And so the editor still trying to find suitable reviewers. You may or may not know this, but reviewers, certainly in my field, get paid nothing.
So the whole system runs on goodwill.
Um, if suitable reviewers are busy, they'll decline.
Maybe they've got. I've got 3 manuscripts. I think at the moment they'll have to review. None of them are late yet. I I don't review late, but you know, I've got 3 already on my plate. If I get a an invitation for three or four more within the next month.
I can't really. I can't really afford the time to do it, so if I decline then the the whole process takes longer, the editor has to find new reviewers.
OK, so we've got past the with editor bit. Let's imagine that now on your online submission system it says under review.
OK then.
So why is it been under review for two or three months?
The Journal website says reviewers are only given four weeks to write their reviews. So why is it three months or four months and I still haven't had my reviews back? So you might think the reviewers are lazy, or you might think the editors are lazy. Let's have a look at the editor's perspective.
Some reviews take longer than others. When I was editor of the SPJ.
And I did have one or two reviewers who were always late.
The reason that I kept asking them to review was inevitably when the review did materialise and it always did materialise. It was a good review and I would, as an editor, have rather had a good review. That was a bit late than a review that was on time, that was unhelpful and when I say unhelpful, I mean maybe it was 2 lines long.
A good review how long should a good review be? Generally, the higher up the journal, the longer the reviews will be because they'll be really good and the person that's reviewed it really knows their stuff and it's tough, but it's helpful. And so it might be 1000 words, it might be longer than 1000 words.
And that's a good review, a bad review. And I did have them from time to time in a SPJA bad review will be just like two or three lines now as an editor, when I got a review like that, I had a document, a highly confidential document that I've never shown anyone, and it was titled useful and useless reviewers. And if I've got a two line review that the name of that person would quickly go into my useless reviewer's file and I would never invite that person.
Yeah. And then after getting that useless review, I would then have to invite 1/3 reviewer. So that helps explain why this whole system takes a long time.
Yeah. So normally most journals will ask for two reviews in my field in, in other fields, it it might vary. Good journals might ask for three. You might even occasionally get a fourth. Two is the standard.
If the review is disagree so one of them says brilliant, the other one says terrible, the editor might go to, then to 1/3 review, which of course makes the process longer, and that might also help explain why you're having to wait.
So.
What criteria do you think review is used? Let me ask you. I've talked a long time and I'm sure you're losing the will to live. Let me stop talking. Could some one or two people shout out? What? What criteria do you think review is used?

 **Dominique.Howard** left the meeting

 **Barbara.Spicer** 55:35
I think possibly originality. If it's something that is just like a fresh, feels fresh.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 55:42
Hmm.
Definitely.
We we definitely like originality, yeah.
Yeah. Although often maybe with PhD work, maybe you've done for it, for example, maybe there's a a well worn for of research that's been done in the West, but you try the same thing in another country.
And that's original enough. So I think sometimes people worry about how original does a, you know, what, does originality really mean? To see have to be completely new? No.
But, but it certainly needs to be newsworthy. I think maybe I'll use newsworthy rather than originality, because originality frightens people because you, you know, we often say I've never had an original thought in my life. Someone's thought it before me and that's depressing, but it's probably true in my case anyway.

 **Dominique.Howard** joined the meeting

 **Barbara.Spicer** 56:32
And I can I just jump in and say something here and Nigel so, so I think.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 56:33
And yeah.
Joe.

 **Barbara.Spicer** 56:39
As you progress through the PhD, you develop confidence so that when you look at your work originally if sorry if using the originally worked again, but you don't see anything you original in it and it's you know as you develop confidence particularly let's think looking back now conducting research during COVID lots of things that were done then became very new and innovative and so on.
So.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 57:02
True.
No, that's true. That's true. I'm just trying not to frighten people.
And I'm using the word newsworthy as in newsworthy to that audience.
And maybe, as I say, something that's been done that perhaps isn't wholly original, but it hasn't been done in this particular context with this group of learners before or so on. But yeah, yeah, of course, you're quite right. During the pandemic, it's made us reevaluate a lot of things and and and maybe you'll work truly is different. So yes, originality and any other offers.

 **James.Sharrock** 57:42
Hello, can you hear me? Sorry.

 **Julia.Molinari** 57:42
Oldham. I'll jump in quickly. Uh uh. Another criterion is the extent to which the work is joining a scholarly conversation that is known within the field. I know Pat Thompson and Barbara Camera have written a lot about the idea of joining the scholarly conversation, which means knowing.
What is already being talked about in that particular area so that you can evidence going back to your point, Barbara, about the originality, it's like what are you contributing to that conversation? So originality can be understood in terms of what's your contribution to an ongoing discussion.
Sorry, I think James. I saw uh your icon flash. I don't know if that means you wanted to speak or not.

 **James.Sharrock** 58:33
Yeah. Can you hear me?

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 58:35
Yeah.

 **James.Sharrock** 58:35
Yep. Um, yeah. I was actually gonna say the same thing that it was located in, like a kind of ongoing conversation sometimes that, you know, journals have their own discussions that are going on and kind of style and and you, they need to see that the references are there, that you're part of that, you know, discussion and and that particular field or or whatever. So it's kind of in a way a bit contrast to originality, that it's also, you know, occurring within at the same time, it says something original. There's something that's also connecting to kind of broader discussions there.

 **Barbara.Spicer** 59:07
Also, a coherent line of sort of a logical and coherent well structured piece.

 **Joanna (Guest)** left the meeting

 **Julia.Molinari** 59:15
And someone's put in the chat rigour and integrity.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 59:21
Yeah, yes. Normally journals will ask you to sign a statement to say that your project has undergone ethical review and and and so on as well. Let me show you a few.
Ideas as well?
So some of these are a bit more practical as well. I think. Is the manuscript a good fit with the? This is practical, but it's very important, isn't it?
And your work might be good quality, but if you're sending it to the wrong place, your chances of success are diminished.
Considerably, and I actually think that this point does fit quite well with with the interesting points that they're right about the scholarly conversation and.
Which which would show familiarity with that journal. The people that sense me when I was journal editor, the literature.
Manuscripts that shows that they had no idea about the journal they they they had no familiarity with it. They had no familiarity with the topics that were discussed, and so on. And so, yeah, is your manuscript, you know, if you've got quantitative work, does the journal that you're thinking about submitting that to, does that journal customarily publish quantitative work? There are some, I I can think of, journals in education, for example, that are. It says in the title that their qualitative journals.
So clearly a quantitative journal wouldn't be a good fit there. We've talked about originality and we've talked about newsworthiness. And the Third Point there is about research design.
I know that in some disciplines research design isn't isn't a thing, cause they do research differently like in literature. But.
If you're doing social science research or something like that.
Um or scientific research? How has the has the research been designed in a sound manner and can you demonstrate that?

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:01:19
Nigel is a hand. There's a hand up. Do you want to take a another question? And now I'm not?

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:01:20
And yes.
Sure.
No problem. Yeah.

 **Amna.Sarwer** 1:01:27
Ohh.
Yeah. So I was wondering, Nigel, this point around how the contribution to this manuscript is seen as valuable by journalists readership. So I'm aware of a case as the journal was Third World quarterly and they published an article about the case for colonialism and that sort of supported the case of you can't colonise other countries. But there was a backlash against against that.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:01:58
Hmm.

 **Amna.Sarwer** 1:01:59
Article and as a result, editors have to they have to resign. So it's very interesting because we're talking about originality and everything, but I think equally it depends on we sort of audience you want to speak to and what sort of political message you are getting across. And I think we have to think about the political setup. A systems are part of and how much we allowed to say.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:02:03
You.

 **Amna.Sarwer** 1:02:22
Um in Inverness, so of course no one is for colonisation, but it just depends on freedom of speech as well. So that's my point. Thank you.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:02:31
Yes, thanks. It's about the the research communities, isn't it? And so on. And sometimes what happens as well is that.
Journals rotate their editors. You know, a lot of journals will only appoint editors for three or four years. It's a fixed term in my case, as as I stuck at the SPJ for nine years, which is a long time and but sometimes when the journals get new editors, maybe that new editor has a very different stance as to the kind of work they're going to accept and the kind of topics they're gonna look at and so on. And so that can change things as well.
Yeah. So the next point is just about how good the manuscript is. Excuse me, sorry.
I've just said it's the standard of work commensurate with the standard of work you'd expect to see in that journal. So I'm thinking about if you've got a journal that's right at the top.
Then clearly there are only gonna publish the best work they can afford to the ones right at the top, get hundreds, maybe even thousands of manuscripts submitted a year, and they can well afford to pick and choose.
And then the little point about presentation as well that doesn't it never hurts, it never hurts to to make your manuscript.
Make sure it's presented as as well as you can.
So.
Let's say you're further in the process now, and you've had a major revisions, which is good.
And you've got the reviews and normally editors say in their letter, they say you've got major revisions. So we'd like to see a revised version go through. The reviewers comments, respond to them, and then send us your revised manuscript. And they normally give you a time limit, which, by the way, you can extend often if if you can't do it in the time limit, you could write to the editor and they probably will give you an extension. And but they ask you to respond to the reviewer's.
Moments. So here's an example from one of my manuscripts. That's a long time ago, but you get the idea. So the reviewer says. I found myself wondering why the authors hadn't done this, and so we've said.
Yes, the review was right. We point this out at the end of the paper, but we've responded to your point by adding a footnote.
And and and so we've said you said this and this is what we've done.
Okay I was reviewing and manuscript not that long ago where I think I saw the first version and I think I gave it revise or Reece and resubmit or or major revisions I I gave it something like that. There was a lot that was wrong with it. So my review was long.
And.
Then the editor wrote back to me and said the manuscript that you reviewed originally, we gave a revise and resubmit. The authors have now resubmitted. Will you review the revised version? Yes. Or will I? So I've got the revised version and all the authors had said was manuscript revised in response to reviewers comments and they hadn't gone through each of my comments and explained what they've done or what they haven't done.
And that creates a really bad impression. Now, it might have been on their part, just inexperience, and they didn't understand that that's what they had to do.
It might have been that, or it might. It might have been laziness, I don't know. But what I did do is go back to the editor and say this is not acceptable.
And to be fair.
In my opinion, the editor should never have asked me to review it. The editor should have gone back to the authors and said this isn't OK. You've gotta explain what you've done.
And so yes, you need to go through the reviewers comments to show that you've taken them seriously and to show that you've addressed them, you're doing yourself a favour.
You're making it easier for the reviewer to see that you've taken their comments seriously and that you've responded to them and you've revised, but you're you're doing yourself a favour by creating a very positive impression. The reviewer looks at what you've done and says Ohh I can see they've done the work.
And in red at the bottom.
I say that I had to revise and resubmit and have to write pages and pages to be fair that that was a really tough review. That's why it was so locked. But then I had a a major revisions, a bit better and wrote a lot less, but the point stands you've got to explain what you've done. Do you have to accept everything that the reviewers say? No, not if you think it's wide of the mark. But even if you think it's wide of the mark, what what they've said, you still need to explain why.
You still need to write something.
So before you submit your manuscript then here are just here's just a a couple of tips about what you can do to help yourself trusted colleagues. It could be your supervisor, it could be someone else who's experienced, who knows the field, who knows who's published themselves. They know the journals, and so on. Get them to have a look at your manuscript if you can. I used to earlier in my career get a colleague of mine who I coauthored with quite a lot.
I used to get her to read everything that I wrote before I send it off. She didn't write a lot, you know, she was too busy for that, but she would read it. She would read it properly and she would make a few comments, and that made me feel a bit better as well because I used to think.
If I've made a howler, if there's some elephant trap there that haven't seen some mistake I've made, she will have spotted. She'll spot it.
And I must admit I don't do that anymore. It's because I just think she's too busy. I can't ask her anymore. But certainly at the start of my career, I did do that. And to be fair, experienced academics, a lot of them will do that. They'll have reading groups, they'll have research groups and they'll circulate things. Depends maybe on your field. But it's a good strategy if you, if you can find someone who's willing to do it.
And.
Yeah, because they they can make your submission as good as it can be, and that may make the difference between getting to reject or or a bit more favourable verdict.
You could also seek advice about where to send your manuscript as well.
And as we've said, if you get a revised and resubmit or you get a major revisions don't give up. I I think this is the thing if you get revise and resubmit and you get cross and you think I can't be bothered.
I'm not doing it. I'm not doing it. I refuse. I'm not doing this. Well, what are you gonna do? You're gonna withdraw your manuscript, and then you've gotta start again. You've gotta go to another journal and you've gotta resubmit. And the same thing might happen.
You your chances of success are far better when you say, OK, I gotta revise and resubmit. I'm gonna look at these men, these reviews, and I'm gonna see which ones are right. And I'm gonna, which comments are right. And I'm gonna make the changes. It will make my manuscript better. It'll involve pain, but I'm just going to do it. I'll resubmit. And you you do revise and resubmit. You make the changes. Next time, you'll probably get a major revisions or even better.
And you can see it's getting better and it's inching towards publication. So don't give up because if you can get into a top journal.
Lots more people read it. Lots more people cite it. I know from looking at my own Google Scholar citations.
Most of my work that's been cited the most appears in the best journals. That's normally how it works. The ones that appear in in one's a little bit lower down, they don't get red so much they don't get sighted so much. It's very good for your career if you can be in, in good places.
And yeah, and then the second tip was if you do get rejected before you send your manuscript off to a second place, revise by looking at the reviewers comments, they can help you, even though you've got a rejection.
So yes, if you.
One one piece of advice I would say consider working with someone who's experienced that might be as a coauthor, or even if it's not a coauthor, but they just read your manuscript and give you some feedback.
And then you can revise based on that feedback and it will improve your manuscript before you send it off for publication.
Um.
I did have one last bit of the talk that I I can just briefly discuss, which is this and some people ask, should I publish my thesis as a book or should I publish it as a series of journal articles? So I'm not sure whether this is relevant. Could I quickly? Is this relevant for anyone or or not?

 **Dominique.Howard** left the meeting

 **Barbara.Spicer** 1:12:01
Yeah, it's it's very relevant for me. So thank you.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:12:02
I.
OK, in which case I'll go through them then.
And it's a difficult question to answer in terms of blanket response. In fact, I I wouldn't try and do that. Why? Because it's discipline specific that that's why, but I'll do my best.
So here are some pros of publishing your thesis, your PhD or your HD as a book.
And.
It avoids what we sometimes call salami slicing. If you're gonna write four or five articles from your PhD, one of the problems you've got is how do I rewrite my methods section in four different ways?

 **Dominique.Howard** joined the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:12:47
You know you can't just cut and paste from the first article that you write.
And that can become more and more difficult the more and more things you publish from a a single project.
And another pro for books is in some fields the monograph the single authored book. For example, it is the most prestigious form of publication in literature. That is the case. I work in a school of English, but it's a school of English literature and linguistics. I can't remember what our official name is. Most of my colleagues are literature people and in their field, yes, the monograph is the most prestigious form of publication, absolutely. So for them.

 **Dominique.Howard** 1:13:27
OK.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:13:29
They would be looking to write a book in applied linguistics, tea cell, my field, the monograph the book is not the most prestigious form of publication, the most prestigious form of publication for me would be an article in a top journal, not in any journal, but in a top journal. So in modern language journal or somewhere like that, that would be the most prestigious form of publication for me.
Problems with books?
If you don't have a publication record already, if you're not well known in your research community, you're putting all your eggs in one basket with a book. In other words, what I'm saying there is all of that PhD or MD that you've taken 345678 years to write.
You're putting all your eggs in one basket. You will have one output. You'll have the book.

 **Dominique.Howard** 1:14:18
Thank you.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:14:21
And if no one knows who you are?
And maybe if it's not with the best publisher as well, then you've got a real lack of visibility and that's all your work done. You've you've published everything you've done and.
You're gonna have to wait now for a few years before you now have a a second research project and you do it all and you collect and analyse the data and and you write it up. So you might have to wait five or six more years to publish anything further. So you really have put all your eggs in one basket and it may not be very visible.
Some people think, mistakenly that ohh it's a lot easier publishing as a book because all I need to do is cut and paste my PhD. I won't have to do anything. Well depends on the discipline again, but often publishes say we won't publish your PhD as it stands because we don't want your literature review to be so long or we don't want your method chat to to be so long for the book. So it might very well be that it still takes time.

 **Dominique.Howard** 1:15:21
Paper.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:15:29
Because you still have to rewrite parts of the thesis depends on the publisher and the very best publishers will probably be more demanding. When I was doing my own PhD 20 years ago, one of my colleagues was a historian.
And he had written what everybody said in the community was a fabulous PhD, and I don't doubt it. He was at an incredibly intelligent guy.
And he got a book contract with CUP to publish his thesis, but it took him ages because they wanted him to rewrite a lot of it. It was worth it in the end, of course, cause he got a monograph published by CUP. But it just shows you it wasn't a problem free and it took time.
What about articles then? What are they? Good things? What are the pros of publishing your workers articles? Well, it can really raise your profile internationally because you might be able to publish three or four articles from your PhD. You can spread them around top journals and that will get people's attention. Maybe in a way that one book won't do at the start of your career and certainly in TESOL publishing in top journals would be more making more visible.
Than publishing a book. I've got nothing against publishing books. I've got nothing against publishing edited books either. I've done both myself.
I've got an edited book coming out next year and I've got a monograph coming out in two or three years, but the point is that I've established my name in the field already at the beginning of my career. I just published articles in order to stop till I was established. Then I started doing other things.
So yeah.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:17:21
Nigel, you've muted yourself.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:17:35
Can you hear me now?

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:17:37
Yeah.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:17:38
Yeah, I've no idea how that happened. That's really odd. Sorry. I'm coming to the end as well. You'll probably be really pleased to hear.
So we said that.
In fields like literature, A monograph is the most prestigious form of publication. So in those disciplines it it probably is a monograph probably is the way forward, but if you do decide to publish journal articles, obscure journals and not gonna help you, we've said that a lot today.
And the publication process in top journals can take time as well, and but it does in books as well so.
Yeah, time is is.
Of the essence.
Take advice from your supervisor when it comes to books and articles, but I've I've just given you my take and I've said in in T cell second language writing, applied linguistics. My advice would be articles every time and and then books when you're better now.
Only.
OK, I've got to the end. I hope that wasn't too soul destroying and I'd like to now throw.
Throw it open to.
Discussion.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:18:53
So Nigel, I've been emailing you some questions. I don't expect you to have been reading your emails whilst you were talking, but I'm just just for the benefit of everybody else. If we start with the questions that have been coming through steadily and then those of you who want to jump in, if you could just wait a second to give Nigel a a chance to sort of.
And catch up with the questions that have been coming in. It might help if I just read them to you, Nigel, what would you prefer?

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:19:24
Yeah, I don't mind. I've I can see. I can see your questions though, Julia.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:19:27
OK.
OK. Do you wanna just? So if we just maybe just take a a a minute pause, just pause ourselves for a minute and give Nigel a chance to to catch up with the with the questions. And Nigel, when you're ready, just jump straight back in.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:19:32
And yeah.
Yeah. So I think some really good questions here actually, but it's reassuring to see some of them have been answered already. So one question was how do you know which are considered high quality journals?
And so.
I think we've answered that really experience. So someone who's experienced in the field, they know which the best journals are, that's one answer, another answer for high quality journals is where do the leading figures in your field publish and where do they not publish? That helps you answer that question as well. Another answer to that would be indexes and quartile rankings. So are the journals in the SSC I the Social Science Citation Index or the Science Citation?
Next, are they according to some Argo Cortana, one at the second question was where are the quartile positions you mentioned published? And if you look at the link in my slides, which Julia will make available to you and I gave you the sign Margo website.
I'll just can I put that in the chat?

 **Helen.Macnee** 1:20:54
Yes, thank you. I asked the question before you did do that and I have looked at it and it is wonderful resource. So thank you ever so much for sharing that.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:21:02
No problem. You're you're very welcome.
There's more and more of these metrics becoming available now and metrics are blunt instrument. You know that there were reasons sometimes why, why so for example, let's say you have a journal like modern language journal, which takes all kinds of research. It stands to reason that because they take all kinds of research, many, many people will cite those articles. But if you've got highly specialised journal, then the community is smaller. Fewer people will cite them and therefore it's more.
Difficult for that journal to become a Q1 journal. They're not perfect the rankings, but they give you they they give you. I think more than a pretty good idea. They're helpful. Put it that way.
So yeah, those are two questions and thanks very much for those.
And right, can you submit the same article to multiple journals? No, we we talked about that in the talk. No, you can't do that. It's not the done thing. You often journals will make you tick a box to say this manuscript is not under consideration anywhere else. So now you can only submit to one at a time, which of course makes the whole process slower. But you can understand why they do that. If people were submitting to everywhere then.
We would just get all these invitations to review of the same manuscript from different journals. It would be chaos.
And somebody said I thought you had to pay to get published in Elsevier journals. They have had a mass walk out of the editorial board because they didn't agree with how much their charging authors.
Yes, you're right.
And my journal was is an Elsevier journal English for specific purposes. When I was editing and this is, you know this is a good few years ago. You're right. There was some disquiet about paying in charging and so on and some people said no, we're not gonna review for them and and so on it was it was about Elsevier charging Gert libraries though in the developing world. So right I I know that later someone has asked a question.
Where does all this money go? It's it's a very good question. So journal companies, publishing companies like Elsevier, they charge libraries in the UK and elsewhere. Of course they charge them a lot of money.
Um to be able to subscribe to their journal and and to give their students and staff access to their journals.
That's true.
You can also pay for good journals that has severe published. You can also pay charges, but like I say, those charges in my field anyway are for up to make your article Open Access. So if I wanna write an article for an Elsevier journal in my field, I won't have to pay anything. However, if I want the article to be Open Access then somebody has to pay now. Unfortunate.
Because my university pays for me, so the last thing I published in an Elsevier journal was last year and.
There was an Open Access charge that Elsevier levied. It's it's a four figure, so, but my my university paid it. Now, if Elsevier baths metre pair, of course I wouldn't have paid it said no. The article would have been published but but it wouldn't have been Open Access.
So yeah, different disciplines do have different conventions, but.
In my field I'm I'm I'm speaking about what I know in my field as an author, I don't have to pay and there are predatory journals that e-mail me in spam me all the time. I I get them regularly that say publishing my journal, which I've never heard of and it's only $1000 that those are the kind of places to avoid.
And a question is there any advice on using sites like academia Dot Edu?
Yeah, I I like ResearchGate. I think that's a bit better.
Um.
They're good in as much as they give you exposure to the community.
Of the researchers within your community might read your articles. It's a good example of how, if your article is Open Access, if your university's paid to to make your work Open Access, you can then deposit the manuscript in academia, Edu, and ResearchGate, and you can make your work available so people can download it and read it.
And I still, even if my work isn't Open Access, I still put my details and my articles there and they can e-mail me for a private copy.
So yeah, I think those I, I I like them. I use LinkedIn as well. Even though LinkedIn you tend to think of as more business, I'll still and that I'll put an announcement or a post there to say my new articles published and so on. So that people can keep abreast of it.
Question having a paid article published in an industry publication with a huge readership, is this seen as cudos laden as in an academic journal? Or is it just different? I I can see how depending on your field, if you get something in an industry publication that could with a huge readership that could do your career, a lot of good. There's a lot of push in academia for what do they call it, knowledge, exchange and and things like that and.
Impact and and and that kind of stuff.
It can help you a lot, can help your career develop in a really good way. And I mean maybe one of the things that I've done wrong or haven't done enough, I've tried to publish in good places.
And in quarter one, journals and and nearly all my publications are in Q1 journals.
But in my field there are some journals that speak more to busy teachers.
And they're not so academic. The articles they publish are not very long, and they they have limits on the reference. The number of references you can cite and so on. I've never tried publishing in journals like that.
And because I don't have the patience to make my article very short and and and this kind of stuff. But you know, maybe it's something that I've done wrong and maybe I'll be better known in my field by a a broader spectrum of people. If I had done that. So in your case, yes, I can see how that could well, do your career a lot with good.
And are there plans to reduce?
Publishing fees, I guess you mean cause they're discriminatory for many young researchers, especially in the global S yeah.
I I think I mean I suppose Elsevier would say we we have special fees for for institutions in the global SI don't know the Inns and out of it they they they'll say that and that and I'm sure they do have that whether it's as equitable as it should be is of course another question.
But but I would just.
I would actually say that Open Access publishing has changed things. There's absolutely no doubt about it. I was having a conversation with one of my colleagues the other day. She's an established author.
I'm not going to say she's terrifically well known.
But she isn't established author.
She published her first monograph with a well known publisher, not CUPA bit lower down, but a well known respectable publisher.
And she's just published a new book, and she went for an Open Access publisher.
And we were just discussing it the other day, and I can see a number of benefits. It means that with an Open Access publisher, you can immediately disseminate your work.
In the global South, everywhere and and there's just no issue with with access or paying ridiculous prices for a hard back.
And and and all of these things that we, we as academics get very unhappy about the publishers, do I I I don't like it. It's it's ridiculous that my my last well, my only monograph.
And to date, hard back only for a year. 160 pounds. I mean, it's crazy. And then even when they do publish the paperback, it's still far too expensive. So.
Open Access I I think things are moving and and so it's not all gloom and doom.
Where does the money go? If it's not to editors, to reviewers and to authors? Yes, that's to say it doesn't go to any of those people. Reviewers review free of charge. Authors don't get paid when they published journal articles and editors. Yeah, we get some money, but it's it's an honorary and it's not a salary. I can tell you that.
Um, I don't know where the money goes, as the honest answer, I suppose the kind of.
That that the knee jerk responses to say it lines the pockets of publishers who are terrifically rich and and dividends for shareholders. I don't know. I don't know, I'm afraid.
And.
Yeah, can Open Access at times be considered as low quality by people? I think This is why many most academics continue to publish with the usual suspect publishers because we're worried that if we publish with Open Access publishers, we're worried that our work won't be seen as as prestigious. And in our ref exercises, you know, when our research is evaluated, we worry.
That we won't get such high rankings.
But I think things are changing and I also think that mainstream publishers are realising that they've gotta do more on the Open Access front. So things are opening up a bit, but I can't deny that there are worries that we have about publishing Open Access. Yes, there are. But there's a big difference between publishing your book with an Open Access publisher. There's a big difference between that and publishing in a top Q1 journal.

 **Lewis.Sibanda** left the meeting

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:31:49
Where you can publish free of charge. But if you want your work to be Open Access, they levy a fee, that's fine.
As long as you're university gonna pay the fee for you, that's great.
Then you've got the best of both worlds. You've got Open Access and you've got a top journal.
I've run through all the questions Julia's sent me and I I don't know if there are any others.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:32:12
Yeah.
I just wanted to jump in before I ask others if if they've got questions and on the issue of Open Access, it might also be worth bearing in mind that if you're applying for UK RI funding, for example, the requirement for allocating that funding includes publishing Open Access. So it's now tied in to UK RI funding. I know there are all kinds of other funding streams, but I'm just thinking, you know, you may be looking.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:32:25
I.
The.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:32:44
To apply for grants from.
Um from the UK research.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:32:47
The.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:32:50
And budget. So it's worth bearing in mind that Open Access is a requirement and then, as Nigel has said, even now within that Open Access.
Um, feel there are hierarchies, so I think everything you've said, Nigel, about, you know, being aware of the the quality of the journal and the readership of the journal and so on and so forth, I think starts applies equally also to the choice of what Open Access publication you you want to you want to pursue.
Um, OK. Does anybody have any further questions or comments before we let let Nigel go and have some lunch?
Ohh, I think James has his hand up.

 **James.Sharrock** 1:33:43
Yep, thanks to your presentation, Nigel. It's very interesting. Yeah, just to kind of quick comment. It's like something I'm kind of struggling with in a way or or different kind of problem.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:33:46
Thank you. Thank you.

 **James.Sharrock** 1:33:54
And so there are these kind of channels in my field. I'm I'm partly working in disaster studies, but my focus is on Nepal and in Nepal there are some high quality journals and the publishing English that are not online.
And you know, part of my also interest is in kind of working with academics there, people that I know and building collaboration. So there's kind of tension there between the kind of incentives of publishing in these sort of Q1 journals and then also working with people from kind of quote unquote global South.
And I wondered if you kind of had any thoughts on that and and you know in that kind of situation they're not, you know, junk journals by any means, their peer reviewed and high quality.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:34:36
Yeah, it's a really good question. And and if it's interesting, I did this talk at my own university a week or two ago and exactly the same thing came up. And I think you're examples and your description are really good and clear. And yeah, I I can see how they'd be a very good case for you to publish in Q1 journals, but also to publish in these local journals as well that I think that that would be my inclination because as you say, the local.

 **James.Sharrock** 1:35:02
Hmm.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:35:04
Kennels are not junk journals. Their peer reviewed, and they're very, very relevant.
And and their context specific and so on. So it might be the case that that you you try and have a foot in both camps, I can think of a researcher in my own field that Julia will will be well aware of. Suresh Kanagarajah, I think he's a he's a really good example in our field of someone kind of garage is Tamil.
And and he worked in Sri Lanka for a number of years before he moved to to to New York. And he works. He's worked in America for years, but he's he's published. So he publishes in the usual Q1 journals for us that are published in the West. But it keeps his hand in. And he does. He's written a lot about his local context to to.

 **James.Sharrock** 1:35:46
Hmm.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:35:51
Raise our awareness in the West of this context and how not all contexts are like the the context in the West that we're familiar with, perhaps. But he's also published in journals that that, you know, I've never heard of that a local journals to his own local community. And I I think he's he's done a really good job of keeping his foot in both camps. So yes, that's what I think I would say to you, James. I I would I would think very carefully I I wouldn't discourage you.

 **Dominique.Howard** left the meeting

 **James.Sharrock** 1:35:55
Hmm.
Right.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:36:21
From from publishing in those local places, but obviously if you wanted a career in the West and and you go for a a selection and its selection panel in in the West, they would probably want both they would. There would probably want stuff from the West as well in Q1 journals. So yeah both I think.

 **James.Sharrock** 1:36:21
Chill.

 **Amna.Sarwer** left the meeting

 **James.Sharrock** 1:36:37
Hmm.
Thank you. Thanks Anna.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:36:45
Okay well there.

 **Nigel Harwood (Guest)** 1:36:45
But, but you know, if you I I was just gonna say before. Sorry, Julie. I was just gonna say, but you could also seek advice as well because you know, I'm not in disaster studies and you you could ask your your own community as well to see what they say and your supervisor and big big people in your field. That would be my my.
The suspicion that that that would be a good strategy.

 **James.Sharrock** 1:37:04
Sure.
Thanks.

 **Julia.Molinari** 1:37:07
Yeah. Ohh, really really good advice and there are no more questions than Nigel. There are lots of thanks and great session in the chat. What I'll do is I'll copy the chat and stick it in a Word document and and send it to you. I'm going to just stop the recording and so.
Ohh.
And so this is the end of the session. I'll stop the recording and then we'll just say some final goodbyes.

 **Mirjam.VonBechtolsheim** left the meeting

 **Julia.Molinari** stopped transcription