

Module: Scientific Writing for Agricultural Economists, October 2008

Instructor: Prof. Dr. S. von Cramon-Taubadel

Time and place: October 6-9, 2008, Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, University of Göttingen ('Blauer Turm', CIP Room, 11th floor)

Goals

This course is designed to help PhD and advanced Masters students in agricultural economics improve the skills that are required to communicate and ultimately publish scientific research in refereed journals.

Outline

Monday, October 6:	Literature searches
Tuesday, October 7:	The journals landscape in agricultural economics, publishing and the review process
Wednesday, October 8:	Writing I
Thursday, October 9:	Writing II

Format

- The **course (3 credits)** will begin **each day at 9:30** with a lecture block lasting **until 12:30**. At the end of each block, students will be provided with an assignment. We will reconvene **each day at 17:00** to discuss the results of the day's assignment. Assignments will involve some writing as well as internet literature searches. Participants who can bring laptops are encouraged to do so. Otherwise, our computer laboratory will be available to participants each afternoon.
- A **second set of 3 credits** can be earned during the ensuing 2008/09 winter semester. Each participant will draft a short article based on a topic from his/her ongoing research, meeting at regular intervals with Prof. v. Cramon to discuss outline, structure and writing.

Prerequisites and formalities

The course will take place in English and a **solid command** of the English language is expected. **Note that this is not an English course!** Students who wish to receive credit for this course will be expected to attend all lectures. As capacities in our computer laboratory are limited, priority will be given to students majoring in Agricultural Economics.

Lecture material

There is no text for this course. Lecture material will be made available to participants. Useful websites that will be referred to in this course include:

- The *Commonwealth Forestry Association's* On-line Guide to Scientific Publication: <http://www.cfa-international.org/ONGSWmanu.html>
- *Jack Lynch's* Guide to Grammar and Style: <http://www.andromeda.rutgers.edu/~jlynch/writing>
- *University of Toronto* – Advice on Academic Writing: <http://www.utoronto.ca/writing/advise.html>
- *University of Exeter* – Workshops in Economic Psychology: <http://www.exeter.ac.uk/~SEGLEa/psy6002/writing.htm>
- A portal for literature searches by *Sebastian Hess* and *Inken Köhler*: <http://www.uni-goettingen.de/de/sh/29498.html>
- Some words of encouragement from *George Akerlof*: <http://nobelprize.org/economics/articles/akerlof/>
- "How the Mighty are Fallen: Rejected Classic Articles by Leading Economists" (Gans and Shepherd in the *Journal of Economic Perspectives*, 8(1): 165-179, 1994): <http://www.jstor.org/view/08953309/di980578/98p0156e/0>
- "How to Publish in Top Journals", by *Kwan Choi*: <http://www.roie.org/how.htm>