

Module: Scientific Writing for Agricultural Economists

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

Time and place: to be announced; Department of Agricultural Economics and Rural Development, University of Göttingen ('Blauer Turm', CIP Room, 6th floor)

Goals

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

Outline

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| Monday: | Literature searches |
| Tuesday: | The journals landscape in agricultural economics, publishing and the review process |
| Wednesday: | Writing I |
| Thursday: | Writing II |
| Friday: | Wrap up |

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 16:00 or 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.

Prerequisites and formalities

The course will take place in English and a **solid command** of the English language is expected. **This is not an English course!** Students who wish to receive credit for this course will be expected to attend all lectures.

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/advice.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 to Publish in Top Journals”, by *Kwan Choi*: <http://www.rokie.org/how.htm>