

PUBLISHING AND WRITING STRATEGIES FOR AGRICULTURAL ECONOMISTS

Instructor

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Course Description

The course is designed to help PhD students in agricultural and food economics in improving (i) their knowledge of the market for publications, and (ii) their skills which are required to communicate successfully with reviewers and editors. Based on the contents of the course, PhD students shall be better prepared to publish their research findings.

Outline

1 Introduction

- Traditional or cumulative dissertation
- Relative importance of journal publications

2 The Relevant Journal Market for Research Findings

- Agricultural economics journals and journals of neighbouring fields
- Quality of journals and of research output
(citation-based methods, survey-based methods, hybrid methods)
- Quality journals of journals and the review process

3 Basic Rules of Successful Publishing and Writing

- The creative process
- Selection of a journal
- Major elements of a journal article
- Style of writing
- Review process and revision

4 Exercises in Writing

Teaching methods

Lectures (50%), exercises (25%), seminar (25%)

Grading

To be specified in the course

Credit points

3

Requirements

The course will take place in English and a solid command of the English language is expected. Students who wish to receive credit for this course will be expected to attend all lectures.

References

(i) Books and journal articles:

Heckelei, T. (2010), Publishing as an Agricultural Economist: Thoughts on Why, Where and How. In: Anania, G. and R. Herrmann (eds.), Professional Interest, New Issues and Recent Methodological Developments in Agricultural and Resource Economics. Special Issue, "German Journal of Agricultural Economics (Agrarwirtschaft)", Vol. 59, No. 3, pp. 133-143.

Ladd, G.W. (1979), Artistic Research Tools for Scientific Minds. "American Journal of Agricultural Economics", Vol. 61, No. 1, pp. 1-11.

McCloskey, D.N. (1998), The Rhetoric of Economics. Second edition, Madison, WI: University of Wisconsin Press.

Moed, H.F. (2005), Citation Analysis in Research Evaluation. (Information Science and Knowledge Management), Vol. 9, Dordrecht, Netherlands: Springer.

Ritzberger, K. (2008), Ranking of Journals in Economics and Related Fields. "German Economic Review", Vol. 9, No. 4, pp. 402-430.

(ii) Internet sources:

CFA (Commonwealth Forestry Association) (2010), an Online Guide to Scientific Publication. Webpage of the Commonwealth Forestry Association. URL: <http://www.cfa-international.org/ONGSWintro.html>.

Choi, K. (2002), How to Publish in Top Journals. <http://www.roie.org/how.htm>

Sexton, R. (2009), Playing the Perilous Publication Process: Reflections of a Sometimes Author, One-Time Editor, and Too-Frequent Reviewer. Plenary Paper, 2009 EAAE PhD Workshop, Giessen, Germany, September.

http://fss.plone.uni-giessen.de/fss/fbz/fb09/institute/iam/prof-mae/eaaphdworkshop2009/dateieneaaphdworkshop/eaaphdworkshopsexton/file/EAAE_PhD_Workshop_Sexton.pdf

Software

MS Office; SPSS or EViews helpful

Language

English

Organization

The Course is held at Justus Liebig University, Giessen, in one week. Lecture parts are in the morning, exercises and seminar parts in the afternoon. The next course will take place from March 19 to March 23, 2012.