PhD Seminar on Academic Writing

Version of 03.02.2021

Language: English
Term: Fall 2020/2021
Number of ECTS: 4
Lecturer: Prof. Christoph Fuchs, PhD

Scheduling:
Day 1:   18. March 2021 (online), 9:30 – ca. 16:45
Day 2:   22. March 2021 (online), 9:30 – ca. 16:45
Day 3:   24. March 2021 (online), 9:30 – ca. 16:45

Registration:
Participants will be admitted on a first come, first served basis. The maximum number of participants is 20.

Course Description:
This course aims at improving participant' academic writing skills, and help them to publish papers at leading journals. The course is an intensive one-week course, where participants are expected to focus exclusively on this course. Participants are expected to submit a piece of writing before the start of the seminar. This can be a draft of a conference paper or a draft of a regular paper. The goal is to course is to revise the written piece after each day of the PhD course. At the end of the course, the initially submitted piece of writing should be revised substantially and should be re-submitted to the professor. Participants should also actively take part in the discussions.

Prerequisites:
First writing experience (in English). Please note that attendance is expected on all three days.

Content:
Macro principles of good writing and publishing (Day 1)
1. What makes a paper a good paper; why do some paper get published and others not
2. Topic selection
3. Writing as a contribution to scholarly discourse: Finding your conversation, finding a story to tell
4. Structuring a paper: Different options and when they are appropriate.
5. Creating tension
6. Knowing the key ingredients for each section of a paper: what has go into an introduction, a literature review, etc., and where exactly should it be located.
7. Good sections, good paragraphing (pyramid principle, topic sentences etc.)

Micro principles of good writing (Day 2)
8. Rules for building strong sentences, cohesion among sentences (e.g., relating to action characters, strong verbs, 2-3-1, paragraphing, creating overlap, from known to unknown, concision)
9. Choice of tense and mode to fit section of the paper and the content, choice of words that send the right "signals", etc.
10. Conducting your writing project: Strategies for productive writing and editing

Writing to be read (Day 3):

11. Writing to get published in leading academic journals
12. Writing strategies
13. Surviving the review process
14. Measuring and managing your impact as a scholar
15. Ethics of writing and publishing

Intended learning outcomes:

(1) At the end of this course, participants know how to craft high quality papers.

(2) Participants know the principles of good academic writing, and recognize these principles.

(3) Participants improve their own writing and editing.

(4) Participants understand the publishing process, including research ethics issues that can arise in its course.

(5) Participants understand how scholarly impact is created and measured, and can apply this knowledge to increase their own impact.

(6) Participants get an understanding why many papers get rejected.

Responsible for module:

For any questions or comments, please contact Christoph Fuchs, christoph.fuchs@tum.de. Please note that this a preliminary syllabus, which might be subject to changes.

Recommended readings:

Bem, Daryl J. (2000), "Writing an empirical article." Guide to Publishing in Psychology Journals: 3-16.

Grant, Adam M., and Timothy G. Pollock (2011), "Publishing in AMJ—Part 3: Setting the hook." Academy of Management Journal, 54.5:873-879.

McCloskey, Donald (1985), "Economical writing." Economic Inquiry 23.2: 187-222.

Pinker, Steven (2014). The source of bad writing. The Wall Street Journal.

Pollock, Timothy G., and Joyce E. Bono (2013), "Being Scheherazade: The importance of storytelling in academic writing." Academy of Management Journal, 56.3:629-634.

Rynes, S. (2002) "Some reflections on contribution." Academy of Management Journal 45.2: 311-313. http://cmsdev.aom.org/uploadedFiles/Publications/AMJ/rynes.2002.pdf

Shaw, Jason D. (2012) "Responding to reviewers." Academy of Management journal, 1261-1263.