

Writing and Peer Reviewing for Publication in the Humanities and Social Sciences

Content

Stressed by deadlines? No idea what journal to target? Don't know how to structure your thoughts to produce a convincing argument? Struggling with complex concepts or grammar? Frustrated by criticism from reviewers or lack of response from your thesis director? Want to find ways of cooperating as a peer-review group?

Learn the tricks of the trade from a journal editor with over 15 years of experience. No matter where you are with your writing project when you join for the first session, you should be able to make major steps forward within two months. This course will provide you with expert insights, structured work assignments, personally tailored feedback, and group assignments to develop peer-review groups. These groups will ideally continue their activities beyond the timeframe of the workshop, using concrete hints and tools tested during the workshop to facilitate further collaboration, mutual support, and expansion of participants' scientific networks.

We will discuss:

- how to address a scientific audience in a convincing way,
- what journal to target for publication (if you are writing an article),
- how to get organized for co-authorship,
- what structure serves what purpose in scientific texts,
- how to progress efficiently with the writing (and co-authoring) process,
- how to create convincing tables and figures,
- how to deal productively with reviewers' comments,
- how to provide constructive criticism, etc.

Learning Objectives

Participants know how to analyze a published text in a journal (or book) of their choice; develop a clear sense of their target audience and the expectations they need to meet; recognize what parts of these texts have what function; improve their command of sentence, paragraph, and text structure; are able to detect the values that guide peer-review in their discipline and can rigorously apply them; and know how to organize and conduct critical, constructive, and creative group work sessions in their field of study.

Individual Feedback

Participants will receive personally tailored feedback on their writing. They will also learn how to provide feedback to peers and how to react to peer feedback.

Trainer Dr. Anne Zimmermann, University of Bern

Target Group (Post)Docs with a writing project

Language English

The trainer has long-term experience in helping PhD candidates progress with their writing and research projects mainly in English; but she has also coached students in German and French. Therefore, although the course will be in English, feedback will also be provided in German or French to those writing in these languages.

No. of Participants max. 12

Requirements

A one-page outline of a research idea that you would like to develop into a paper or chapter during the winter term, and at least 4 days of working time spread over the two months of the course's timeframe to proceed with your writing and group assignments. If your writing is more advanced, the assignments you will receive for the time in between sessions will be adapted accordingly. In addition to your commitment to your writing project, please bring along a wish to be connected and a desire to contribute to a supportive network.

Dates April 16 & 30, May 21, June 04, 2024, 8:30 a.m. -12 p.m.

Location University of Bern, Main Building, Hochschulstrasse 4, room 104

ECTS 2 recommended (total of 50-60 hours including course attendance)