Publishing articles from your PhD

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7 steps to success

1. Try to have more than one paper ‘in the pipeline’
2. Select the right journal and research it carefully

    - Read the journal’s scope and aims
    - Look at the contents of a recent issue and skim-read some articles
    - Find out who the editors are and what they have written
    - Know its ranking and reputation
        - the ranking everybody loves to hate
    - Consider a journal special issue

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1. Try to have more than one paper ‘in the pipeline’
2. Select the right journal and research it carefully
3. Write a good paper!

    - Original
    - Rigorous
    - **Significant**

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1. Try to have more than one paper ‘in the pipeline’
2. Select the right journal and research it carefully
3. Write a good paper!
4. Be strategic in the way you present the paper
    - write clearly and avoid overly elaborate language
    - if English is not your first language, consider using a proofreader
    - remove all traces of it being PhD research
    - Abstract, Introduction and Conclusion are crucial
    - acknowledge limitations but don’t dwell on them
    - reference your preferred referees (a lot!)
    - be tactful, even where critical of other authors
    - reference relevant papers in your target journal

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5. Seek feedback from colleagues before submission

    - seminar and conference presentations
    - working papers
    - reading a draft article

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5. Seek feedback from colleagues before submission
6. Act promptly on comments from referees
    - minor revisions: may be editorial decision
    - major revisions / revise & resubmit: will go back to referees (same or different ones)
    - reject: this is the *expected* outcome. Try not to take it personally.

Making revisions

- Try not to react defensively
- Pay careful attention to editorial remarks (if any)
- If referees disagree, either use this to your advantage or query with editors the direction you should take
- Revise the paper taking seriously each of referees' comments
- Keep a note of how you do so and turn this into a covering note when you resubmit
- Don't use 'track changes' (unless you're asked to)
- Aim to resubmit within 3 months unless otherwise instructed

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3. Write a good paper!
4. Be strategic in the way you present the paper
5. Seek feedback from colleagues before submission
6. Act promptly on comments from referees
7. Don’t give up!