

'Getting published – An Applied Social Scientist looks at the Problem'

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Editors – Who are they?

- **‘Gatekeepers’ ?**
- **Guardians of standards**
- **Radicals/Innovators**
- **Academic leaders**
- **Overworked**
- **Under-resourced**
- **Under-paid**

What makes a publishable paper?

- **An idea/concept/phenomenon/problem**
- **Not a PhD!**
- **Fitting with the editorial theme**
- **Presented as requested**
- **Good empirical research – new data**
- **Some controversy – a new paradigm?**

What makes for a problem paper?

- **Too big**
- **Too early**
- **Too complex**
- **Not presented as requested**
- **Poorly researched, written or organised**
- **Preliminary, not completely researched**
- **Papers obviously rejected by some more esoteric journal**
- **Editors are not there to write your paper for you!**

Issues of refereeing

- **What is the role of referees?**
- **Selection - who can do it?**
- **Poor 'turn-around'**
- **Conservatism: 'Defenders of the old paradigm'?**
- **Use of a standardised refereeing form to increase reliability**
- **Disagreements – an editorial problem or a fruitful debate?**

Some examples

- **Ideas before their time, e.g. psychological contracts in 1991**
- **Research using Regulation theory - hard for general readers**
- **Paper based on IR of Australian states rather than Federal case, but poorly done for one Australian referee**
- **Topics no longer relevant**
- **Paper based on a sophisticated research method to study a trivial issue using limited/poor data**

What can you do?

- **Fed up with slow turn-around on your attempts at getting published?**
- **Help and become a referee**
- **Deliver what you have agreed to do, by the editorial deadline**
- **Then one day you may get published!**