* SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS (etc.)

Globelics Academy
University of Tampere, 21 August 2019

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[Own experiences]

Regional Studies

Editor 2008-2013+
Book Review Editor 2007-2013

Cambridge Journal of Region and Society

Guest Editor 2016-2018 etc.

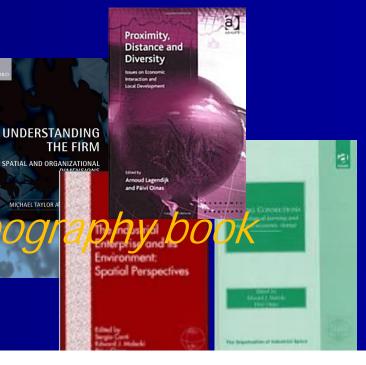
A few edited volumes

Co-editor/Editor, in progress

Springer Economic Geog Series, Advisory Editor, ongoing



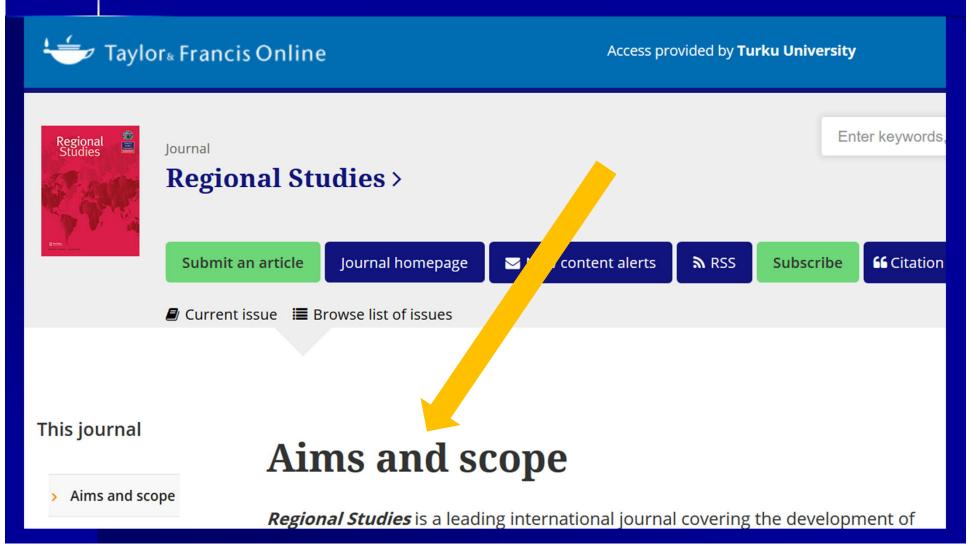




Choosing a journal

- Typical choice: The journals you have been reading while conducting your research, and you likely refer to articles published in it.
- But: appropriate level of ambition?
- Who reads the journal?
- Match between the aims of the journal and your research?

What kind of research does the journal want to publish?



Does my research match the aims of the journal?

- Regional Studies is a leading international journal covering the development of theories and concepts, empirical analysis and policy debate in the field of regional studies.
- The journal publishes original research spanning the economic, social, political and environmental dimensions of urban and regional (subnational) change.
- The distinctive purpose of *Regional Studies* is to connect insights across intellectual disciplines in a systematic and grounded way to understand how and why regions and cities evolve. It publishes research that distils how economic and political processes and outcomes are contingent upon regional and local circumstances.
- The journal is a pluralist forum, which showcases diverse perspectives and analytical techniques.

... match the aims of the journal?



- "[...] Essential criteria for papers to be accepted for Regional Studies are that they
- make a substantive contribution to scholarly debates,
- are sub-national in focus,
- conceptually well-informed,
- empirically grounded and
- methodologically sound.
- Submissions are also expected to engage with wider debates that advance the field of regional studies and are of interest to readers of the journal."



something navel that you think If you're venturing into is important to the readership "[...] Essential criter Regional Studies are of the journal, you have to arque your case convincinly.

- make a subs
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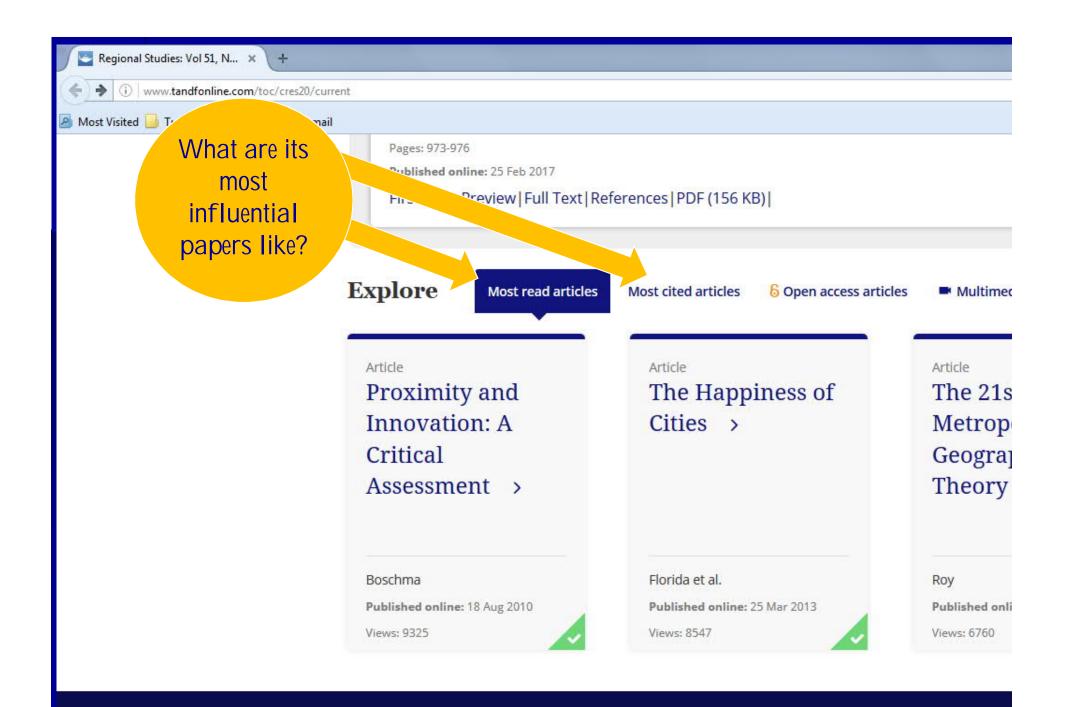


Latest articles

Post-conflict areabased regeneration policy in deprived urban neighbourhoods Spatial influences on domains of life satisfaction in the UK

Article
Geography as
strategy: the
changing
geography of
corporate
headquarters in
post-industrial

Unbounding
gentrification
theory:
multidimensional
space, networks
and relational
approaches >



Journals may have designated sections



Main Section

Original research articles.

Special Issues

- Around key themes, established and emerging researchers.
- Invitation by Guest Editor; cfp; conference sessions; workshops

e.g., Regional Studies Special section: " *Urban and Regional Horizons*"

- Agenda-setting work that stimulates new thinking and novel approaches to addressing the big intellectual questions, issues and challenges in regional studies.
- Often but not always commissioned (=the editor invites authors).
- Interested? Contact the respective Editor.

... Sections



e.g., Regional Studies Special section: "Policy Debates"

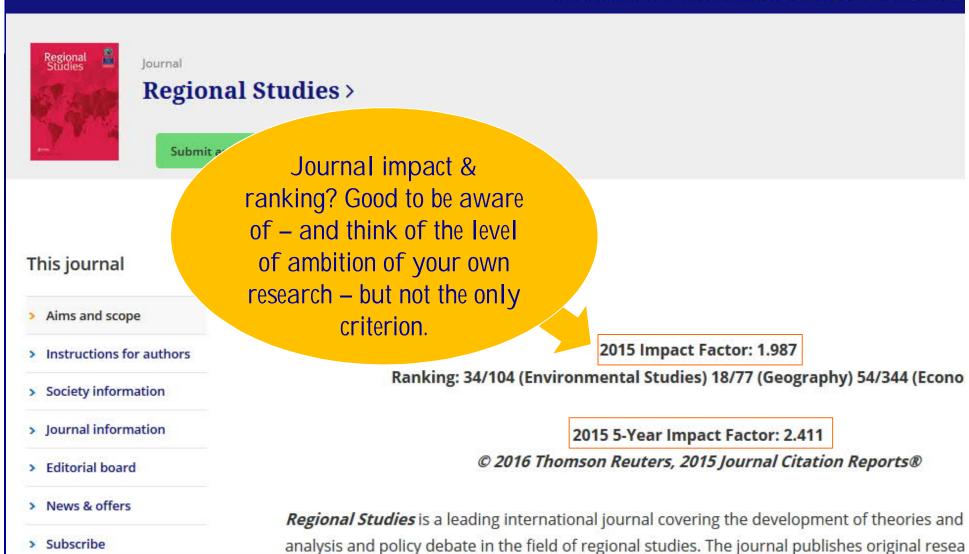
- Forum for analysis and debate about important policy issues of international relevance in urban and regional development.
- Often commissioned.
- Interested? Contact the respective Editor.

Book Reviews

- Analysis and commentary on key recent books in regional studies.
- Often commissioned (various practices in different journals).
- Interested? Contact the respective Editor.



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School, University of Birminghan

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the Journal – who
are the people who
are going to make
decisions about
your work?

m Business

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University, USA

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Professor Ben Derudder - Professor of Urban Geography, Ghent University, Belgium
Professor Ugo Fratesi - Professor of Regional Economics and Policy, Department of
Architecture, Built Environment and Construction Engineering, Politecnico di Milano,

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... Editors.



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Copy Editor

- Dr Cristiano Ratti Gidea Park, Essex,
 UK
- An example varying arrangements across journals

Editorial board



B. International Editorial Advisory Board, support, signaling effect (may review?)

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Instructions for authors

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Thank you for choosing to submit your paper to us. These instructions will ensure we have everything required so your paper can move through peer review, production and publication smoothly. Please take the time to read and follow them as closely as possible, as doing so will ensure your paper matches the journal's requirements. For general guidance on the publication process at Taylor & Francis please visit our Author Services website.

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Supporting Taylor & Francis authors

instructions for submitting at the Manuscript Central.

SCHOLARONE MANUSCRIPTS"

Reserve time for the submission

Welcome to the submission site for

Regional Studies

To begin, log in with your user ID and password.

If you are unsure about whether or not you have an account, or have forgotten your password, go to the Reset Password screen.



Open access?

https://www.tandfonline.com/action/authorSubmission?journalCode=cres20&page=instructions#oa



- "This journal gives authors the option to publish open access via our <u>Open Select publishing program</u>, making it free to access online immediately on publication."
- Many funders of research mandate publishing your research as open access
- Taylor & Francis Open Select gives you, your institution or funder the option of paying an article publishing charge (APC) to make an article open access."



Journal

Regional Studies >

This journal

- > Aims and scope
- > Instructions for authors
- Society information
- lournal information

Journal information

Print ISSN: 0034-3404 Online ISSN: 1360-0591

12 issues per year

How do the issues get filled,

... i.e., what happens after you submit your MS to a journal?

The Peer Review Process

- Anonymous ("double blind") review mostly in use. Submission:
- Submitted manuscripts are checked by the journal office that basic conventions of double blind peer review have been followed (i.e. no identifying information included in the submission, all relevant files have been uploaded).
 - i.e. self-referencing should not happen (violates the principle of anonymity); eliminated by the Editorial Office/Editors.
- Routine check-up using specialist software for what is called 'unattributed copy' that the work has not been published elsewhere and that the author is the originator of the text (= to avoid plagiarism).

The basics are pretty similar across journals

But how the editorial work is organised amongst the editors may vary quite a bit.

→ MS's are then assigned to and screened by an expert overseeing Editor:

Desk Review based on:

- Thematic scope of the Journal;
- Quality of the paper.

Desk Review by the overseeing Editor: "desk rejection" or on to the review process?

Some papers are not sent for external review; an Editor may decide on immediate rejection. Common reasons:

- Scope: Wrong paper for the journal its topic has no obvious link with the focus of the journal.
- * Failure to research the journal before submitting the paper: Too long or short paper; paper not appropriately framed within a relevant debate, etc.
- Quality: not sufficiently developed conceptually or empirically, or in terms of clarity (i.e. poor English, insufficient argumentative clarity) to merit further consideration.

... Overseeing Editor – selection of Reviewers

- If the Editor finds that the MS is of sufficient quality s/he will then identify a number of potential reviewers for the paper and invite some of them to write a review.
- Editors develop their own habits of how to dot this.
 - Can you influence the choice of reviewers ? No. Maybe?
- Securing a sufficient number of reviewers can be time-consuming.

→ Reviewers

- Potential Reviewers are busy academics, they are approached by a number of Journal Editors. Your manuscript will hardly be reviewed by the most well known scholars.
- Reviewers will be sent the title & abstract of the paper when invited to review it, but not the full paper. This helps them determine if this is a paper they might be willing and able to review. → A carefully written abstract is important at the submission stage. Often written last but don't do it fast.

... Reviewers

- Reviewers are volunteers. Conducting reviews of peers' research is a cornerstone of academic work. All parties depend on it at all stages of academic life.
- Review quality varies ... but typically reviews for good journals are quite detailed and comprehensive.
 Agreeing to undertake a review is a commitment.
- When (if) a Reviewer agrees to evaluate the paper s/he is typically given one month to complete the review. But Reviewers do not always meet the time commitment. Sometimes they fail to deliver.

The decision

- A minimum of 2 but often 3 reviews are required before the Editor makes a decision on a paper. Sometimes (e.g., in the case of poor or contrasting reviews) additional reviewers are invited.
- Where the Editor, supported by the reviewers' recommendations, decides the paper has the potential to be developed into a publishable paper they will ask the author to complete Major or Minor Revisions based on the reviewers and their own editorial comments and resubmit the paper within a given time period (e.g., 6 months for Major Revisions).

Manuscripts change in the review process:

- In my experience, most papers eventually published in Regional Studies initially received a decision of Major Revisions.
 - The MSs may change considerably during the review process.
- In a letter to the Editor, the author/s of a resubmission respond to each comment and question by the Reviewers and the Editor and explain how s/he/they have revised the MS or why not. (I.e., you can disagree with the Reviews and/or Editorial comments if you are sure they are mistaken and can convincingly, but politely, argue your case.)

"R&R": A Reject & Resubmit decision (not common)

- A MS is not acceptable but the Editor may find that the ideas in the paper could be worked up.
 - = The paper is rejected as it stands but the author is given the opportunity to consider the reviewers' and the Editor's comments and submit a new MS.
- Authors may misinterpret this decision as meaning they should submit a revised version of the paper (cf "Major Revision") but without genuine re-thinking & re-writing, the MS will probably be rejected.

What's your chance ...?

SOME JOURNALS PUBLISH THEIR REJECTION RATES, SOME DON'T. Some ideas:

- In RS, less than a third of original submissions were given an option to make Major or Minor Revisions and resubmit their paper.
- Major Revisions may be subsequently rejected if the resubmission fails to convince reviewers or editors that initial weaknesses have been adequately addressed.
- Several revision rounds are not unusual.

... your chances ...?

- In major journals, rejection rates are high.
- Do not submit half-baked manuscripts: "Let's see what reviewers say."
- Have you paper read an commented on by peers or more experienced academics around you.

Patience needed

Typically, with the volume of papers received and the time taken to solicit two, three or even more reviews, a submission will take 90-100 days for a decision to be made. (Significantly longer where additional reviews are sought.)

Special Issues

- Contributions around key themes addressed in Journals.
- Interested in being a Guest Editor? Get in touch with the Journal Office or Special Issues Editor and explain your idea. You will be given instructions to submit a Special Issue Proposal.
- 10+ manuscripts per proposal recommended; some/many/ even the whole issue may fail.
- If the proposal is accepted, Guest Editors ensure papers are submitted together and on time, that the papers are of sufficient quality before submission, that revisions have adequately addressed the referees reports etc.

... Special Issues



- All manuscripts go through full peer-review process.
- The Special Issue policies of Journals vary. In the case of Regional Studies, the peer-review process is overseen entirely by the Editors of the journal. The Editors will discuss the reviews and decisions on papers with the Guest Editors, but the final decision on any paper rests with the Journal Editors. = Not "easy publications" / RS.
- Guest Editors write the Introduction to the SI.
- SI's may contain 4-8 articles (also "Mini Issues" with 3 articles).
- Failures are not exceptional.

WHAT DOES IT TAKE TO WRITE A PUBLISHABLE PAPER? - let's think

What is a good title like?

What is a good abstract like?

What do I write in an introduction?

What is a good structure of a paper?

What should I write in a discussion section?

How should I conclude?

* For the future? — Serving the academic community as Guest Editor

- One-time commitment but the process can take 2+ yrs
- Own initiative: Instructions often at journals' websites ->
 how to propose a Special Issue
- Many (most?) journals publish Special Issues
- But e.g. Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society publishes only Special Issues:

"The Journal adopts a focused thematic format. Each issue is devoted to a particular theme selected by the international editorial team." (https://academic.oup.com/cjres/pages/About)

* For the future? — Serving the academic community as Editor

- By invitation
- Commitment for a fixed number of years (often 3-5)
- Highly recommended = very interesting
- Very time-consuming
- Hard to turn down if invited but think seriously of what else is going to be on your plate when you commit for a lengthy period.

Sometimes Academic Associations behind journals

- serving members in various ways



but also involved in some decisions related to their Journal(s), e.g. choosing Editorial Teams

Regional
Studies
Association

OUR PURPOSE

To support members with the latest research, funding schemes, networking opportunities and spaces to grow their research, careers and influence.



Welcome to the global and interdisciplinary forum for city and regional research, development and policy

www.regionalstudies.org





RSA Research Funding &
Excellence Awards

2019 Student and Early Career Conference

Designing Research for Impact: Shaping and Influencing Regional Policy

Regional Studies

Other types of publication

Edited volumes: (co-)editing yourself; writing a chapter

Pros & cons?

Your thesis published as a book

Pros & cons?