



# *ACADEMIC PUBLISHING*

*\* SCIENTIFIC JOURNALS (etc.)*

*Globelics Academy  
Tampere, 25 August 2022*

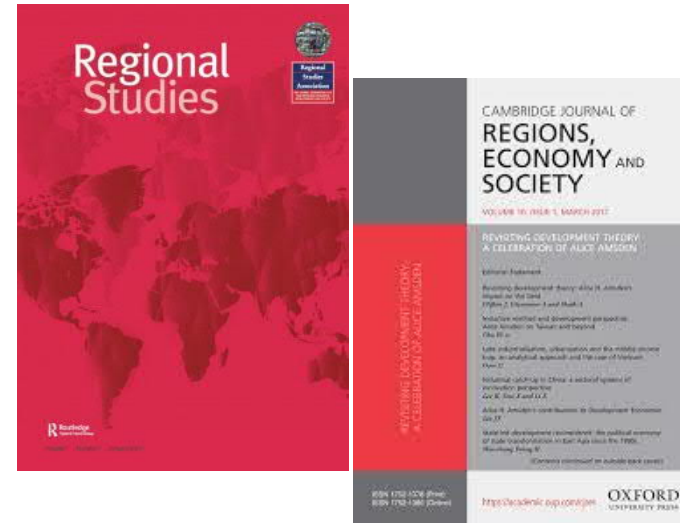
Päivi Oinas  
Dept of Geography, University of Turku, Finland

# Types of roles; own experiences

## *Regional Studies*

Editor 2008-2013+

Book Review Editor 2007-2013



## *e.g., Cambridge Journal of Regions, Economy and Society*

Guest Editor 2016-2018

## *A few edited volumes*

*Co-editor/Editor*

## *Springer Economic Geography book series*

*Advisory Editor*



# 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 **aims of your research**?

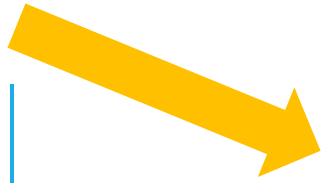
# WHAT KIND OF RESEARCH DOES THE JOURNAL PUBLISH?

## Aims and scope



*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.

Essential criteria for papers to be accepted for *Regional Studies* are that they



# DOES MY RESEARCH MATCH THE AIMS OF THE JOURNAL?

“[...] Essential criteria for papers to be accepted ...



# DOES MY RESEARCH MATCH THE AIMS OF THE JOURNAL?

"[...] Essential criteria for papers to be accepted ...

*If you're venturing into something novel that you think is important to the readership of the journal, you have to argue your case convincingly yourself – don't expect the editor/reader to do the job for you.*

# Latest articles

What has the Journal published recently?  
Does my paper add novelty?

Forthcoming special issue: The dark side of innovation geography

Article



The dark side of the geography of innovation: relatedness, complexity and regional inequality in Europe >

Flavio L. Pinheiro, Pierre-Alexandre Balland, Ron Boschma & Dominik Hartmann

Published online: 07 Sep 2022

102  
Views

0  
CrossRe

9  
Altmetr

What are its most influential papers like?

Pages: 973-976

Published online: 25 Feb 2017

Preview | Full Text | References | PDF (156 KB)

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Most read articles

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Open access articles

Multimedia

Article

Proximity and Innovation: A Critical Assessment >

Boschma

Published online: 18 Aug 2010

Views: 9325



Article

The Happiness of Cities >

Florida et al.

Published online: 25 Mar 2013

Views: 8547



Article

The 21st Century Metropolitan Geographical Theory

Roy

Published online: 25 Mar 2013

Views: 6760



# SOME JOURNALS PUBLISH SPECIAL ISSUES, SECTIONS



## Main Section

- Original research articles. THE TYPICAL ARTICLE.

## Special Issues

- Around key themes, established and emerging researchers.
- Open call or Invitation by Guest Editor (perhaps based on conference sessions; workshops / not)
- Special sections. e.g.,: "*Policy Debates*"
- Forum for the analysis of policy and practice issues.
- Often but not always commissioned (=the editor invites authors).
- 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.

*Journal impact & ranking? Good to be aware of – and think of the level of ambition of your own research – but don't be too shy.*

downloads/views

all articles & issues ▾

 Latest issue



## Citation metrics

- **4.595 (2021)** Impact Factor
- **Q1 (2021)** Impact Factor Best Quartile
- **4.726 (2021)** 5 year IF
- **7.6 (2021)** CiteScore (Scopus)
- **Q1 (2021)** CiteScore Best Quartile



## Speed

- **23 days** submission to decision
- **89 days** submission to review
- **38 days** acceptance to publication

# EDITORS

## Editor in Chief

**David Bailey** - Professor of Business Economics, University of Birmingham, UK

## Deputy Editor in Chief

**Jennifer Clark** - Professor of City and Regional Planning, USA

## Editors

**Alessandra Colombelli** - Associate Professor of Production Engineering (DI GEP) and Entrepreneurship, Polytechnic of Turin, Italy

**Carlo Corradini** - Senior Lecturer in Regional Economics, University of Birmingham

Who are “doing” the Journal – who are the people who are going to make decisions about your work?

Affiliations; disciplinary backgrounds, research interests: might they have the expertise to select appropriate reviewers and evaluate their reviews judiciously so as to make fair decisions.

# EDITORIAL BOARD

## A. Editors, who run the Journal

(assisted by professionals at the Editorial Office)

Editor in Chief

Deputy /Associate Editor(s)

Editors

Special Section Editors

## B. International Editorial Advisory Board

A long list of well-known scholars

→ mainly signaling effect (*may* review your paper but *likely not*)

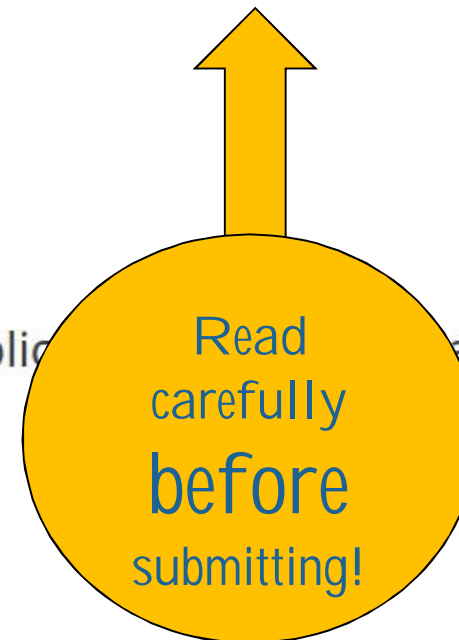
# Instructions for authors



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.

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For general guidance on every stage of the publication process, please visit our Author Services website.

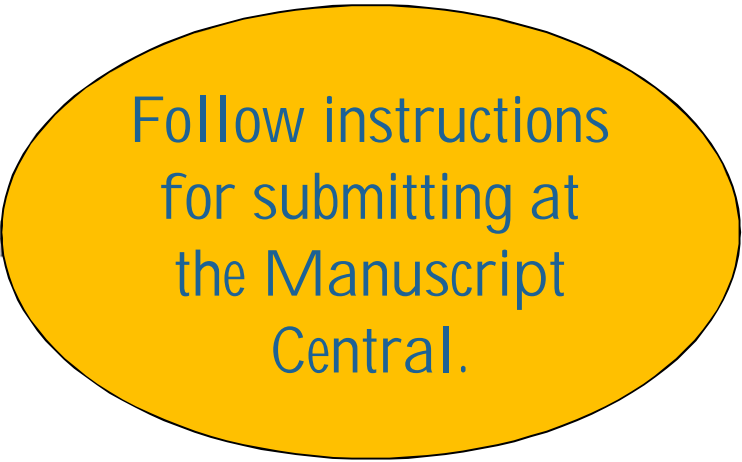


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# RESERVE TIME FOR SUBMITTING YOUR PAPER



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Welcome

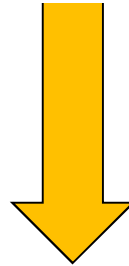
Registration

To begin

If you  
password

Should  
Editorial

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)
  - i.e. **self-referencing** should not happen (violates the principle of anonymity); often eliminated by the Editorial Office/Editors.
- To avoid plagiarism, routine check-up using specialist software for “*unattributed copy*”: – that the work has **not been published elsewhere** and that **the author** is the originator of the text.

# The basics are pretty similar across journals

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

(This may have no relevance for the author. In some cases, however, if you for example aim to publish something very innovative – different from the mainstream – an individual editor may not be on top of the novelty and relevance of your work but a more collectively operating editorial team may be able to recognise the novelty and find appreciative reviewers.)

# Peer Review

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

Desk Review based on:

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

# Desk Review / overseeing Editor

- a) “Desk rejection”, or
- b) 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.

Contribution!

# Selection of Reviewers

## - Overseeing Editor

- 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 do this.
- Can you influence the choice of reviewers – ? No. Maybe?
- *Securing a sufficient number of reviewers can be time-consuming (authors may need patience).*

# Reviewers

- Potential Reviewers are busy academics, they are approached by a number of Journal Editors. *Most manuscripts will hardly be reviewed by the most well known scholars.*
- Reviewers either will be sent the **title & abstract** of the paper when invited to review it, but not the full paper, or they get access to the full paper (varies by journal). Either way, this helps them determine if this is a paper they might be willing and able to review. **As author you don't know. 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 publishing**. 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 at all ...

# 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; varies by journal).



# Revising the manuscript

In my experience, most papers eventually published in *Regional Studies* initially received a Major Revisions decision.

= Manuscripts may change considerably during the review process.

- In a response letter, 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. Then you have to *politely* but convincingly argue your case. Think carefully.

# Rarely, a “R&R” decision (reject & resubmit)

- 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.
- Resubmissions may be subsequently rejected if they fail to convince reviewers or editors that initial weaknesses have been adequately addressed.
- Several revision rounds are not unusual.
- Especially high quality journals may request many revisions.

# ... YOUR CHANCE?

- In major journals, rejection rates are high.
- Do not submit half-baked manuscripts: “Let’s see what reviewers say.”
- Have your paper read and 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 first decision to be made. (Even 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*.
- Guest Editors (participate in) oversee(ing) the review process and make decisions. The Special Issue policies of Journals vary. Often an overseeing Editor from the journal; peer-review process can be overseen by the Editors of the journal and Guest Editor/s jointly.

# ... SPECIAL ISSUES

- Manuscripts go through the full peer-review process.
- If the proposal is accepted, **Guest Editors** ensure papers are submitted on time, that the chosen papers are of sufficient quality before submission, possibly that revisions have adequately addressed the reviewers' comments etc.
- Should not be taken as "easy publications" (but varies by the journal).
- Guest Editors are expected to write the Introduction to the SI.

## – SERVING THE ACADEMIC COMMUNITY AS GUEST EDITOR

- One-time commitment – but the process can take 2+ years
- 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

# WHEN YOUR PAPER IS ACCEPTED FOR PUBLICATION

CONTRACT – as advised by the journal

PROOF-READING – as advised by the journal

OPEN ACCESS PUBLISHING:

- Journals increasingly gives authors the option to publish open access = free to access online immediately on publication.
- Many funders of research increasingly mandate publishing your research as open access ...
- Increasingly made easy (e.g., Finnish FinELib).
- Universities increasingly making sure papers become open access – why?
- Or an article publishing charge (APC) to have open access.





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 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: lots of work vs. one line in your CV ...



# OTHER TYPES OF PUBLICATION

Your thesis published as a book

Edited volumes:

- (co-)editing yourself;
- writing a chapter

-- *Pros & cons?*



FIRST AND FOREMOST:

*ENJOY THE CREATIVE  
PROCESS!*