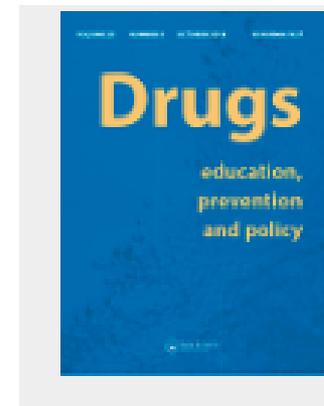
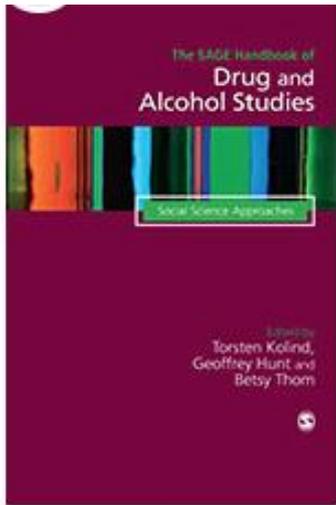


# GETTING PUBLISHED

BETSY THOM

Drug and Alcohol research Centre  
Middlesex University

DRNS Conference  
28<sup>th</sup> Nov. 2018



# ‘Scientific’ publishing

- Original papers - results of an original research study
- Reviews/ systematic reviews / meta analyses
- Editorials: comment and contextualise findings/ policy/ recent debates
- Letters: critical commentary / present brief original findings
- News, commentaries, etc. in different sections of scientific journals

# General structure of a research paper

TITLE  
ABSTRACT  
KEYWORDS

← ATTRACTIVE, MEANINGFUL, SEARCHABLE

INTRODUCTION  
METHODS  
RESULTS  
DISCUSSION

← INFORMATIVE BUT CONCISE

CONCLUSIONS  
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS  
REFERENCES  
CONFLICT OF INTEREST

← LINK CONCLUSIONS TO FINDINGS

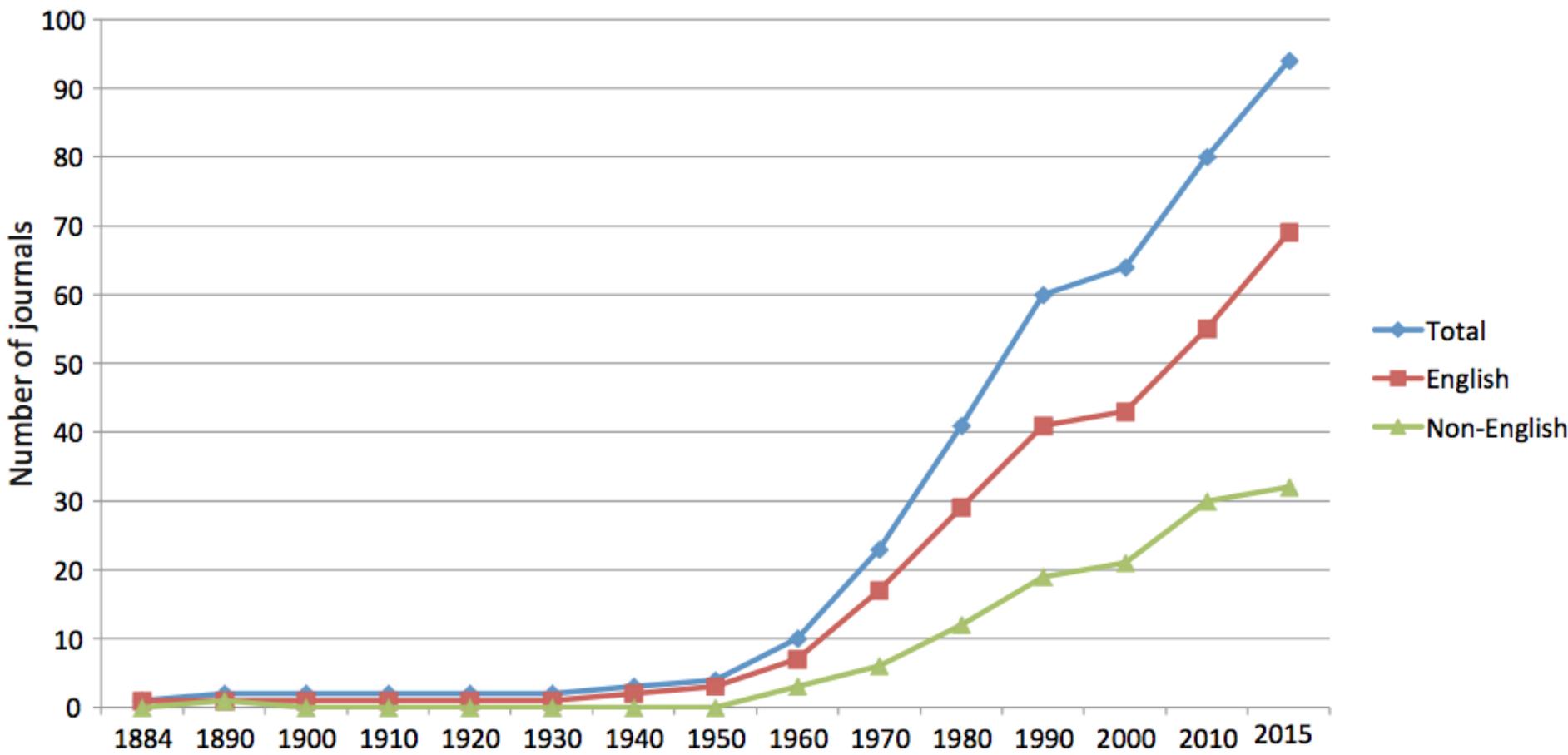
# Key Steps to get you there...

1. Choosing the most appropriate journal
2. Preparing your work for the chosen journal and submitting
3. Responding to reviewer comments and revising

Keep trying!



From: Babor et al (2017) Publishing Addiction Science. A guide for the perplexed Ubiquity Press Ltd, London p13 ([www.isaje.net](http://www.isaje.net))



**Fig. 2.1:** Growth of addiction specialty journals.

# 1. Choosing the most appropriate journal

- Consider the range of appropriate journals: addiction, health, disciplinary etc. (e-journals, etc.)
- Is your material relevant to local, national, international interests?
- Look at: impact factor, circulation, acceptance rate, time to publication (first online), aims and focus, editorial board
- Think about what journals want: citations! quality!
- Open access - Beware 'predatory publishers'
- Have a list of possible journals in order of preference
- If in doubt, contact the editor and discuss – build a relationship and be proactive

# Predatory publishing

- Twenty-nine journals in the addiction field operate in open-access formats. One third of them are members of ISAJE, which evaluates their quality and integrity as a condition of membership. Of the remaining journals, several have been evaluated by Thomson Reuters and are listed in the Web of Science. Others are listed in Scopus, PsycINFO, and MEDLINE, which are indexing and abstracting services that have standards that must be met before a journal's articles are listed. And then there are a few online open-access journals that fail to fulfill the minimal criteria for a responsible scientific journal.
- **Predatory publishing - open-access publishing companies that engage in questionable practices**

## 2. Preparing your work for the chosen journal and submitting

- Follow instructions for authors and re-visit if you submit to a second journal after a rejection
- Proof read carefully and ask yourself if all the tables and figures are needed (space counts in publishing)
- Make sure references are accurate, include all necessary details, in the required format for the journal
- Acknowledge funding sources along with any other acknowledgements
- Include a conflict of interest statement if requested
- Ask someone else to read and comment
- Authorship – is important but can be tricky!

# Murder Your Darlings

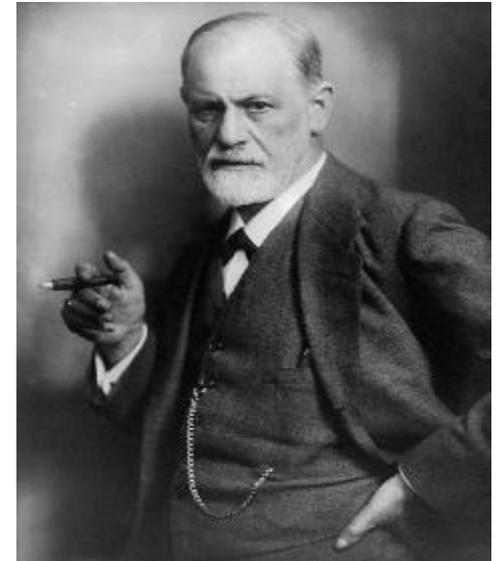


I love this bit! It's such a good quote.

<https://tinhouse.com/murder-your-darlings/>

# Crediting work by authorship

- Who should be first author?
  - Who should be included?
  - What order of authors?
- 
- Do I have to add the Professor?  
(Well, he got the funding, he's famous  
and I need to keep in his good books. And  
Maybe it will get the paper accepted)



# Decisions about authorship

There are some guidelines:

- Early agreement on the precise roles of the contributors and collaborators, and on matters of authorship and publication, is advised (COPE 2001).
- The award of authorship should balance intellectual contributions to the conception, design, analysis and writing of the study against the collection of data and other routine work. If there is no task that can reasonably be attributed to a particular individual, then that individual should not be credited with authorship (COPE 2001).
- All authors must take public responsibility for the content of their paper. The multidisciplinary nature of many research studies can make this difficult, but this can be resolved by the disclosure of individual contributions (COPE 2001).
- Authors should not allow their name to be used on a piece of work merely to add credibility to the content (COPE 2001).

ISAJE (2002) Guidelines on Authorship Credits

Submit – BUT - DO NOT  
SUBMIT THE SAME PAPER  
TO MORE THAN ONE  
JOURNAL AT A TIME

Add a cover letter to the editor – sell  
your paper!

Now what happens to my paper?

# The peer review process

- Editor(s) decide if paper goes to reviewers
- Paper is sent to 2/3 reviewers (finding reviewers hard)
- Sometimes blind reviewing
- Timescales for receiving a response vary (email the editor if it seems too long)
- Decision: reject/ major revision / minor revision / accept
- Most papers are returned for revisions



## A Reviewer's report: The Alcohol Improvement Programme - evaluation of an initiative to address alcohol-related health harm in England: Oct 2012

This paper reports on a mixed methods evaluation of the Alcohol Improvement Programme ( AIP) using both statistical evidence and qualitative interview data.

At the outset of this review I would like to make it clear that I am generally distrustful of so called “mixed methods” evaluations and the present study only serves to reinforce my concerns.

Quantitative Research Design inadequate: the principal outcome measure used -Alcohol Related Hospital Admissions -is far too limited to provide an assessment of the programme. What was needed here was an assessment of how much AIP had changed drinking behaviours and outcomes in the community. (then explains what the best approach would have been).

Qualitative Research: The most serious (problem) is that all the interviews conducted were with various health related staff ...no effort to interview the target population of the general public.

# Common reasons for rejection

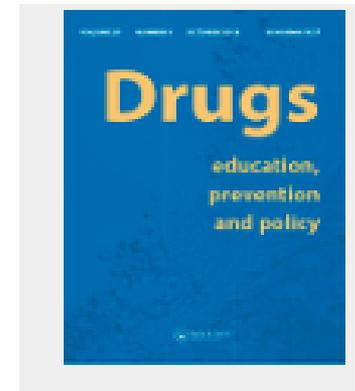
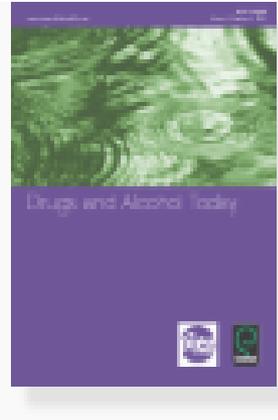
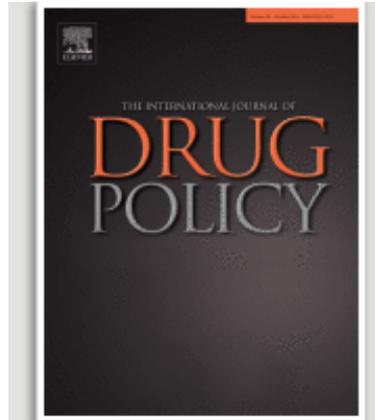
- Does not contribute to knowledge or methods
- Methodology / methods are unsound
- The size of the data set is not defended in a convincing way
- Analyses are not well described / unsound
- Conclusions do not flow from/ relate to the findings, unfounded generalisations
- Content does not address the research question / topic
- Poorly structured/ written/ argument not presented logically/ too many (not enough) quotes/ redundant tables
- Too long
- Ethical issues not addressed, not appropriately observed

# 3. Responding to reviewer comments and revising

- **STAY COOL** – read the reviews and wait a day or so
- Discuss with co-authors
- Remember that some reviewers have a ‘hobby horse’, may not know a lot about the topic, etc. but generally try to be constructive
- Decide which comments are helpful / which are suggestions / which are not appropriate – or you don’t want to do what the reviewer asks
- If necessary clarify any points with the editor
- Revise the paper according to the journal instructions
- Write a response to the reviewer comments – be polite, say how you have addressed each comment
- **NEVER** write an angry complaint to the editor regarding the decision

# Join them!

- Build up experience of scientific publishing by offering to review for a journal
- Look for opportunities to join an editorial board
- Ask an editor/ editorial board member to keep you in mind if a position opens



PUBLISHING  
ADDICTION  
SCIENCE A Guide for the Perplexed

3RD  
EDITION

EDITED BY Thomas F. Babor, Kerstin Stenius, Richard Pates,  
Michal Miovsky, Jean O'Reilly, and Paul Condon



ADDICTION

ISAJE

SSA

[www.isaje.net](http://www.isaje.net)

Babor and Ward (2018) Caveat Emptor: Predatory Publishers, Rogue Journals, and the Potential Corruption of Addiction Science. *Journal of Studies on Alcohol and Drugs* 79: 509-513

COPE: Committee on Publication Ethics: Promoting integrity in research and its publication.

<https://publicationethics.org/about>