

From Thesis to Publication

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Learning outcomes

- By the end of the session, participants should have a good understanding of how you can make your thesis into a book, and into journal articles; where they will send your material, and how to give your work the best chance of getting accepted.



Session Outline

Part 1: Publishing my thesis

Part 2: Turning chapters into journal articles



Where do I pitch?

- **Group Activity:**
 - What is your thesis arguing in **one** sentence
 - What are your key contributions to knowledge?



Researching Potential Publishers

1. Who publishes books like mine?
2. Are there any publishers that I've been engaging with a lot in my research?
3. Is the publisher a well-recognised academic press?
4. What is the publishers reputation like (ie, how do they look after their authors?)
5. Will they market my book?
6. **Are there any book series which my work speaks to?**

Example Book Series – Routledge Regions and Cities

<https://www.routledge.com/Regions-and-Cities/book-series/RSA>



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Regions and Cities

About the Book Series

In today's globalised, knowledge-driven and networked world, regions and cities have assumed heightened significance as the interconnected nodes of economic, social and cultural production, and as sites of new modes of economic governance and policy experimentation. This book series brings together incisive and critically engaged international and interdisciplinary research on this resurgence of regions and cities, and should be of interest to geographers, economists, sociologists, political scientists and cultural scholars, as well as to policy-makers involved in regional and urban development.

If you would like to discuss a potential new book for the series, please contact:

Kristina Abbotts – kristina.abbotts@tandf.co.uk – Routledge Commissioning Editor

The *Regions and Cities* book series welcomes Open Access projects. Please contact Kristina Abbotts or visit <https://>

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Series Editors

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Politecnico di Milano, Italy

Rob Kitchin

Maynooth University, Ireland

Jörg Knieling

HafenCity University Hamburg, Germany

Nichola Lowe

University of Minnesota, USA

Attention Authors

Interested in proposing a book for a book series?



Publishing a Book: The Process 1.

- Submit a book proposal
 - Typically; your book title and subtitle
 - One line Summary
 - Elevator pitch
 - Short description
 - Detailed description
 - 3 key benefits the book offers
 - Table of contents
 - Chapter synopsis
 - Publications that are similar to your book
 - Sample chapters
 - Competing or comparable books
 - Market and readership
 - What institutions might be interested in the book
- The proposal gets reviewed
- You get invited to respond to feedback
- The publisher considers your proposal



Publishing a Book: The Process 2. After Acceptance

- Sign a contract and agree a date to deliver the manuscript
- You write your book!
- Manuscript delivered
- Review
- You make amendments on the basis of the review
- Copyediting
- Indexing
- Publication
- **Promotion**



Practical Activity: Make a list of Publishers and Book Series that would be interested in your book



Break



Turning your Book Chapters Into Journal Articles

- Make sure your central argument can be made in 8-9000 words!
- **Task:** consider two journal articles that you might publish from your thesis.
- For one of these articles, what will be your central claim?



What are the Building Blocks of a Good Journal Article?

1. Abstract

What the paper is about

What academic literature it speaks to

What is it arguing

On the basis of what empirical research

2. Introduction (why is your topic important; research question; how the paper is organised)

3. Literature review

This is what other research is saying about this topic area; and it matters to the scholarship

This question hasn't yet been addressed – or that there are important gaps in how this topic has been addressed

(Thematic background)

4. Research methods

BE RIGOROUS!!!

5. Empirical findings

6. Discussion

7. Conclusion

8. Bibliography



Which Journals Do I Target?

- Which journals are interested in my topic area?
- Which journals am I citing a lot?
- What are good quality journals to be engaging with?



How do I Find Out What The Journal Wants?

<https://www.tandfonline.com/journals/rtep20>



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Territory, Politics, Governance

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Essential First Steps

- Read the Aims and Scope!
- Read the Instructions for Authors
- What is the submission process.

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Territory, Politics, Governance

Routledge
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CHOICE	TYPE
☐	Research Article
☐	Editorial

- 1. Cover letter to the editor including why your article is relevant to the journal, and suggest reviewers
- 2. Anonymous copy of your manuscript, and one with author identification
- 3. Article highlights
- 4. Article submission site proforma questions

The Process

- The Editor does an initial sift
- Paper goes to a co-editor
- Co-editor reads and decides if to send out to review
- Co-editor assigns reviewers
- Reviewers send reviews
- Co-editor decides if to invite revisions (incl. major, minor or revise and new submission)
- (if yes), author completes revisions
- If accepted, paper goes to production



Completing the revisions

- Don't be dismayed!!!
- Reviewers have given their time. Give their comments full consideration.
- Sometimes, different reviewers can give conflicting opinions. Co-editors might give guidance about how to address this, or you might need to use your own judgement.
- **Be polite!!**
- Present your revisions really clearly so it's easy to see what changes have been made – perhaps using highlight, or a table.

Reviewer 2	
innovation ecosystems framing is good, I like the justification for it. However, it doesn't come through particularly in the analysis/results. It should be clearer. Is there also any way in which you are pushing the idea forward?	We are really glad that you liked the innovation ecosystems approach. However, on reflection as we have developed the paper we have had to scale this part of the research back and now focus on path creation instead. We hope that this does not detract from your thoughts about the paper overall. However, the principle of this comment has caused us to reflect on what our work adds to the scholarship around new path creation. For this (and as we now state in paragraph 1 of the conclusion page 8) we add a study to the under-developed existing research around local government leadership of new path creation.
Secondly, I would suggest referring to land managers themselves more - most land is privately owned, so they have a strong role in whether schemes like BNG are taken up. This will avoid the assumption that filling the skills gap alone will automatically lead to BNG uptake, there is also a need for negotiation, compromise, persuasion to encourage engagement by those who own land. Land managers are also highly heterogeneous (aren't we all), so assuming that they lack skills is a little generic - some are experts themselves, including in ecology, so it's important to acknowledge their tacit/experiential knowledge to avoid defaulting to top-down approaches (Rust et al, farmers and experts paper may be of interest). I'm aware that land managers weren't interviewed within the scope of this study, so further acknowledgement (via existing literature) of skills/motivation needed would suffice.	In the opening paragraph of the research methods section page 7 we now make clear that the local government officers and leaders had been working closely with land managers and other stakeholders, as part of the development of and consultation about, Local Nature Recovery Strategies. We refer again to land owners and managers in the 'economic, social, and institutional actors' section of page 8.
Did you also look at facilitation skills among participants? This is crucial, again for negotiating with land managers etc. It would be worth exploring this further.	We also want to make clear that at no point are we saying that land managers lack skills. Quite the opposite. Although we also know that in some areas there is a serious lack of training capacity for land managers who sometimes need to travel significant distances to address training needs. But we completely take your point about the distinction between formal and experiential skills. We have added a line in the section above on page 8 to make this clear, stating that "These roles and actors include persons whose knowledge and skills come from practical learning, through to academic knowledges" and also included 'facilitation' in our expression of the range of skills included.

If you get a reject after a revise and resubmit, that's ok!!!

- Sometimes a reviewer doesn't really like your paper – and this might say as much about them as it does about your paper.
- A rejection (at any stage) might also be indicative that your paper Just Didn't Fit in that publication route **and that a different journal/publisher will be a much better fit.**
- *BUT*, engaging with reviews always makes your paper stronger
- All of us get times when getting published is more tricky than at others



Key Things to Remember

- If you present your work well, **to outlets that are interested in your kind of work**, you give yourself the best chance. Make sure publishers can see that they can have confidence in you.
- Some of you will be doing research that speaks to well-established questions.
 - Others will be doing more exploratory work, pushing disciplinary boundaries. Make sure that publishing decision makers know why the (big) questions that you're asking really matter.
 - Tailor who you submit to, to publishers that *like* the big questions
- Develop judgement of **when to be humble, and when to be bold**
- Publication is a (lengthy) process. Be prepared for that.
- Your 'final' work is not at all final. You'll have a load of editing to do follow the review process. And this helps to make our work more rigorous.



Any Questions

