

**STUDENTS IN PSYCHOLOGY**

**SECTION OF THE CPA**

CANADIAN  
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SOCIÉTÉ  
CANADIENNE  
DE PSYCHOLOGIE

**ÉTUDIANTS EN PSYCHOLOGIE**

**SECTION DE LA SCP**

# **Publish or Perish:**

Championing the inevitable challenge of publishing in psychology



**Zarina Giannone, Kyrsten Grimes, Jean-Philippe Gagné, & Georden Jones**

Offered by the CPA Section for Students in Psychology, 2017



# Today's Presenters:

## **Graduate Students**

- Zarina Giannone (PhD Student, University of British Columbia)
- Kyrsten Grimes (PhD Student, University of Toronto)
- Jean-Philippe Gagné (PhD Student, Concordia University)
- Georden Jones (PhD Student, University of Ottawa)

## **Expert Guest Speaker**

- Kevin Kelloway (Professor/CRC, Saint Mary's University)



# Workshop Outline

1. Publishing Deconstructed
2. Preparing a Manuscript
3. Common Barriers
4. Tips and Tricks
5. Professional Editor's Perspective
6. Student Editor's Perspective
7. Q & A with Dr. Kelloway and Graduate Student Panel





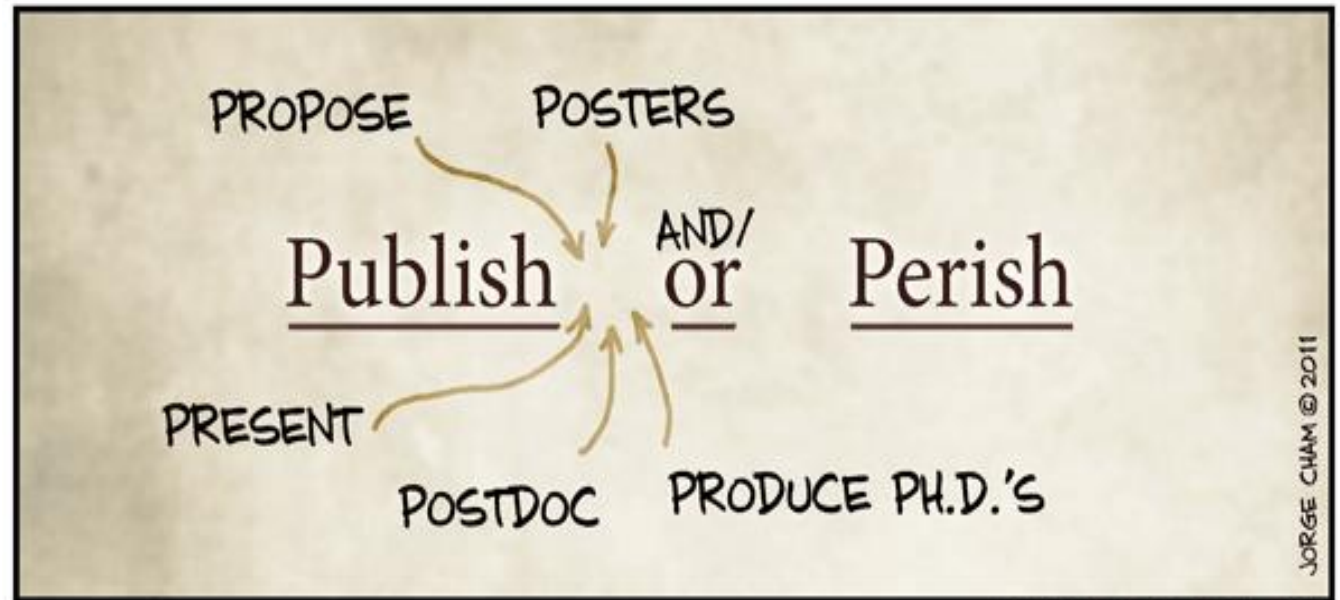
# Publishing Deconstructed

Publishing is imperative to successful scholarship

- Key metric for funding, research/post-graduate opportunities

Rejection is inevitable and it does NOT define you

- Positive Uncertainty



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# Publication Stats

- Top journals receive far more submissions today than just 5 or 10 years ago
- Top journals reject the majority of submissions and expectations are increasing
  - e.g., enhanced study complexity
- High rejection rates





# Hang in there!

Research is highly valued by us, within our research circles, and by the general public!





# Preparing a manuscript





# Journal selection

- Impact Factor
  - The number of times all items published were cited in a given year divided by the total number of “citable items” in that journal during the same year
  - Importance?
- Think about the audience you are trying to target
- Be realistic
  - Canadian journals are less competitive
- Read the publication guidelines!







# Preparing to Publish

- Ensure adequate time for co-authors to review submission
- Author guidelines
- Reference style
- Number of references
- Word count
- Cover page
- Tables and figures





### Author Main Menu

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⋮ ✎ **Kyrsten Marie Grimes** [Corresponding Author] [First Author] [You] ⚠

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We sought to determine what cognitive mechanisms contribute to the development of positive symptomatology in schizophrenia. We hypothesized that the constellation of schizotypal traits would be a risk factor for the presentation of subsyndromal positive symptomatology. In order for subsyndromal positive symptomatology to be present, however, fantasy proneness and an externalizing bias must also be present and automatic thoughts must be externalized. A random sample of undergraduate students (N = 215) with at least a grade 4 reading level and deemed to exert adequate effort were included in the study. Participants completed self-report measures to assess schizotypal traits, externalizing bias, fantasy proneness, and automatic thoughts, with subsyndromal

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Additional Information is Required for Submission.  
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Was this submission funded by a grant from NIH, Wellcome Trust or Research Councils UK? If yes, please enter the specifics of your grant below.  
**NOTE:** If you answer "None of the Above," please skip the following two questions (grant number, granting agency).

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- Wellcome Trust Funding
- Research Councils UK Funding
- None of the Above

**Grant Number**

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**Granting Agency**

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\*OPTIONAL\* Suggest potential reviewers for this submission.

Use the fields below to give us contact information for each suggested reviewer, and please provide specific reasons for your suggestion in the comments box for each person. Please note that the editorial office may not use your suggestions, but your help is appreciated and may speed up the selection of appropriate reviewers.

Note: Please do not suggest someone with whom there is a potential conflict of interest (e.g., colleague, former student/advisor, etc)

A \* indicates a required field.

Given/First Name\*   
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Institution\*  (max 300 characters)  
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- 1) Do not use your name in the filename (e.g. "Williams.docx"). An alternative might be a shortened version of the title (e.g. "Running Header.docx").
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Please either embed tables and figures in the manuscript file OR upload these items below, but please do not do both.

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# Statistics

- Make sure your analyses are appropriate for the hypotheses and variables included in your study
- Make sure you present your results appropriately
- Df, statistic,  $p$  value
- Consider including effect sizes and power if appropriate
- Make sure to report missing data
- Make sure you can explain your data cleaning process if needed







# Statistics

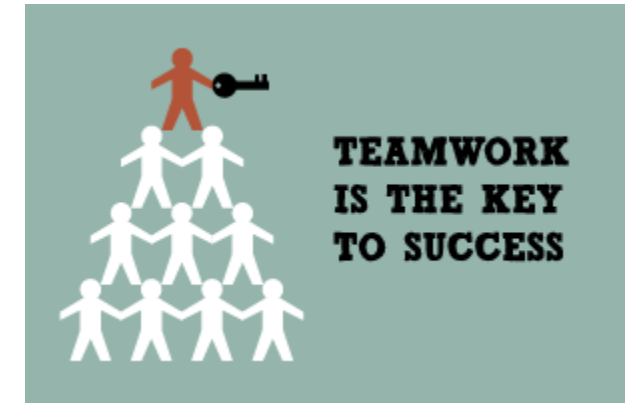
- If you are unsure about your results/analyses
- Consider consulting with a statistician
  - Most universities have statistic consultants on staff
  - Possibility to include them as a co-author
- Very useful when needing to reply to tricky questions from reviewers





# Collaboration

- Consider collaborating with:
  - Clinical researchers
  - Other professors
  - Other students
  - Colleagues met at conferences
- In order to:
  - Participate in different research projects - and publish them!
  - Gain their experience in editing manuscripts
  - Gain their clinical perspectives on the research
  - Gain their input on which journal to submit to



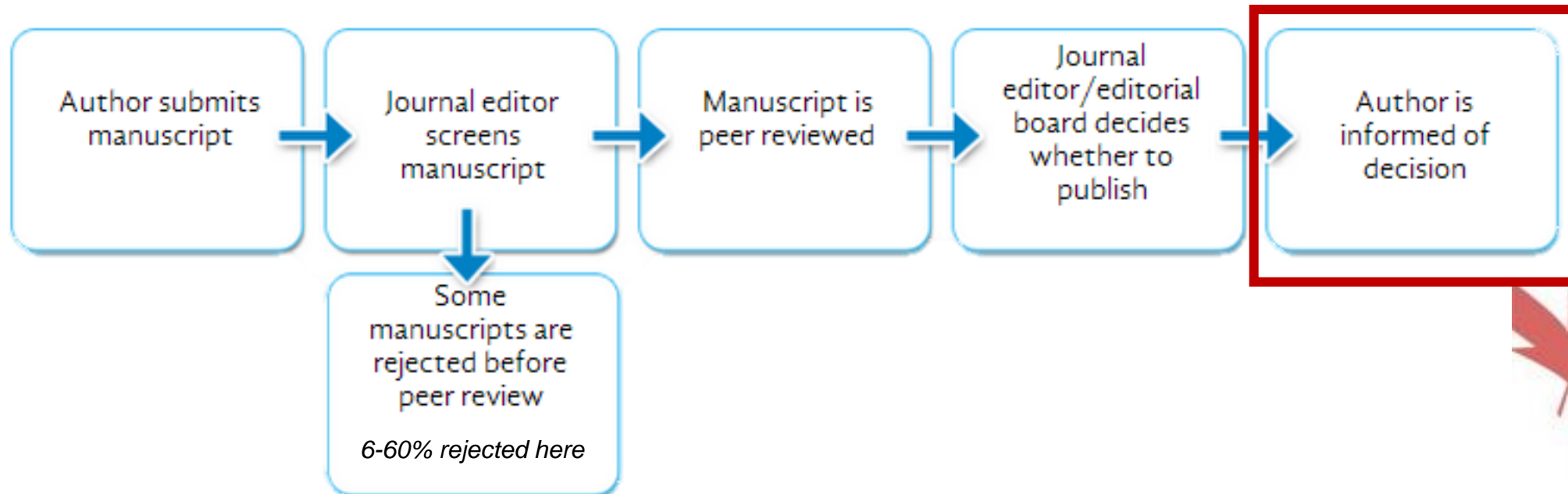


# Common Barriers and Responding to Reviewers





# Reviewers Decisions





# Reviewers Decisions

- Accepted without any changes (**acceptance**)
  - Extremely rare
- Accepted with minor revisions (**acceptance**)
  - The best outcome you can hope for
- Accepted *after* major revisions (**conditional acceptance**)
  - Changes suggested by reviewers/editors (e.g., adding a study)
- Revise and resubmit (**conditional rejection**)
  - Will reconsider in the future (if major changes are made)
- Rejected (**outright rejection**)
  - Do not resubmit to the same journal





# Rejection

- Extremely frequent
- Reviewers tend to write about the negative aspects and limitations
- Select a journal that may be a better fit
- **Incorporate reviewers' comments before resubmitting**
- Reviewers read your manuscript as if a faculty member wrote it
- Fun fact: Peters and Ceci (1982) showed that 1 out of 12 already published manuscripts were rejected by the same journal they had been published in previously
- *“Unfortunately, manuscripts reporting on [topic] are not a high priority for [journal] at the present time.”*





# Responding to Reviewers

- All responses combined may be as long (or longer!) than the manuscript in some cases
- You may not agree with reviewers → always be polite
- If you cannot make a change → explain **why** and include it in the discussion as a **limitation**
- You do not want to make a change → clearly defend your point





# Addressing Revisions

- Reviewer: “Another variable to consider is illness of the participant [...] This would also be a potential variable that would contribute to health anxiety if there were a medically ill parent.”
- Response: “**Thank you** for this observation. Participants were asked to identify whether they had experienced certain health conditions such as asthma, diabetes, rheumatoid arthritis, and so on. **Participants were not asked** to provide details regarding their personal medical risks or contact with health care providers in association with such risks. As a result, **we could not determine** if “medical risk” was associated with increased health anxiety. **To address the reviewer's concern, we added a statement on this matter to the discussion (p. XX).**”







# Addressing Revisions

- Response: “**Reviewer #1 highlighted the importance** of considering several studies characteristics (e.g., controlled studied, blinded studies, method for controlling drop outs) that may produce biased results. As this is a preliminary meta-analysis in an area with little research base, **preserving as many studies for analysis as reasonably possible was of importance**. However, we agree that the potential for bias is cause for concern. **We have added a section (pp. XX-XX) that addresses this bias through an outlier analysis.**”





# Common Challenges

- Rejection
- Reviewers comments
- Edits
- Co-authors
- Balancing different priorities





# Persistent you will be

- 8% of submissions in *Nature* get published
- Rejection is the norm
- Don't give up
  - Resubmit to another journal
  - Rework your paper/analyses
  - Take the feedback the editor gives you
  - Rejection = feedback





# Patience you will learn

- Responding to reviewers comments can be lengthy
- Take your time to respond to the comments
- Don't overlook your responses even if you don't agree with the reviewer
- Take breaks and take time to vent if necessary (so that your frustration does not show in your tone!)





# Meticulous you will become

- Take your time to edit your paper accordingly to the comments
- Make sure your responses are clear and respond to the comment
- Rushing to resubmit won't increase your chances of publication
- Ask for feedback from your co-authors





# Interpersonal skills you will use

- Working with different co-authors may be difficult
- Organize meetings to discuss reviewer comments
- Decide on a plan
- Decide on a timeline
- Decide on tasks
- Decide on authorship at the beginning of the process





# Busy you are

- Think about your priorities
  - Thesis, clinical work, publishing, course work
- Schedule time to work on your manuscript/revisions
- Find a study buddy
- Treat yourself when you are done

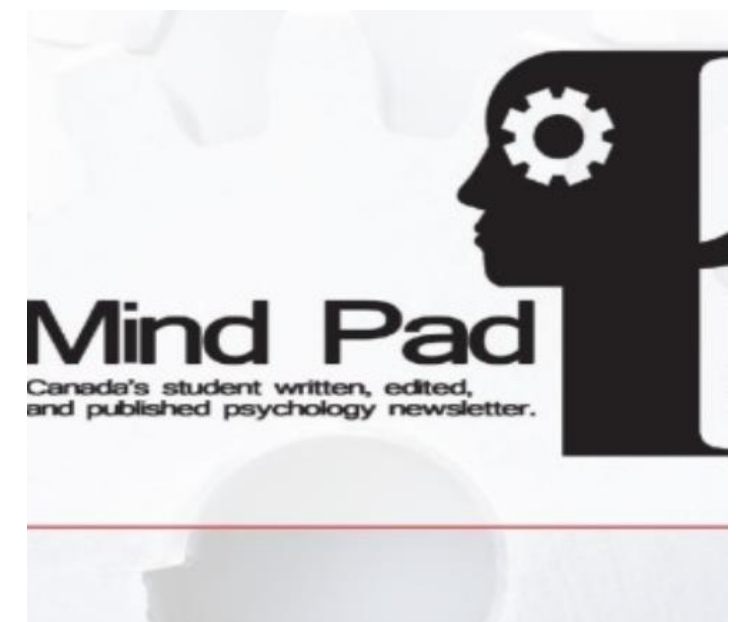




# Student Editor's Perspective

## Mind Pad, Canada's Student Psychology Journal

- What is it?
- Initial publication/peer-review opportunities
  - Authors
  - Reviewers
  - Editors







# Student Editor's Perspective

