

# To publish or not to publish: Understanding the process of publication and peer-review

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Section for Students in Psychology – Canadian Psychological Association

June 2, 2019

# Today's Speakers

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  - Editor of *Canadian Journal of Behavioral Science*, Former Editor in Chief of *Canadian Psychology*, and Founding Editor of *Science and Practice*.

# Workshop Outline

- Introduction and Overview
- Steps to Selecting a Journal
  - Activity: How to Select a Journal
- Publication and Peer-Review
- Manuscript Decisions and Process
- Responding to Reviewers
  - Activity: Example of a Response to Reviewer Comments
- Getting Your Work Published: A Few Tips
- Q & A Period



Retrieved from: <https://www.litcharts.com/blog/shakespeare/hamletssoliloquy/>

# Introduction

## Why publish in a scientific journal?

- Provides a forum for scientific communication
- Certifies the scientific value of an author's work
- Provides access to reliable knowledge
- Confers scholarly prestige
- Facilitates career advancement

# Key Questions

- What are the relative benefits of publishing in a disciplinary versus specialty journal?
- How does an author find the most appropriate journal for a particular article?
- What are the chances that an article will be accepted by a given journal? Which journals have the greatest impact on the field?
- How does an author know whether a journal will reach the intended audience for a specific article?
- How do I differential between “real” versus “predatory” journals?

## Two General Approaches to Selecting a Journal

- 1. Go big or go home (but actually work your way down).
- 2. Publish to reach your core audience.

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 1. Decide whether the article is primarily of interest to a **national** or **international** audience.
  - Depends on the article's information content, presentation, and appeal
  - Is the topic of local or national interest?
- If appeals to scientists and professionals in many countries and speaks to broad audience, can consider international journal
- Consider the journal's mission statement and name.



# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 2. Consider the **language** of publication
  - Native tongue, country where study conducted, potential audience, availability of journals
  - English
    - 2/3 of journals are in English
    - Main language for international scientific communication
  - French
    - Valuable service to national and regional audiences that have a special interest in your area of research

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 3. Consider whether to publish in a broader **disciplinary** or **specialty** journal.
- Consider audience and interest, writing style.
- Consider familiarity of editors and reviewers with topic
- Multidisciplinary: *Nature, Science*
- General disciplines: medicine, psychology, public health
- Specialty: addictions, mood disorders, developmental psychopathology
- Narrow specialty: gambling, depression, autism

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 4. Determine whether the **content** of the manuscript fits the journal's mission statement.
- Review the homepage of the journal, mission statements, review various issues of the journal, to understand its culture, the professional society it serves
- Understand the goals, focus, preferences and audience of the journal.
- \*Even if an article is scientifically sound and is relevant to the field, it may be rejected by a journal editor if it does not meet the journal's current priorities and/or stated mission

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 5. Gauge your **exposure** by reviewing the journal's circulation and abstracting services.
- Circulation: print (professionals, university libraries) and online (webpage visits, downloads)
- Abstracting/Indexing: access through electronic databases (e.g. Medline, PubMed, PsychINFO)
  - Consider whether the journal belongs to various indexing and abstracting services.

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 6. Evaluate your chances of **acceptance**.
- Journal's frequency of publication, issues per year, 'special issues'
- Acceptance rate (available for some)
- Importance of findings, originality of ideas, sophistication of research methods, appropriateness of data analysis and implications of results
- + Stylistic factors

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 7. Consider, but don't be fooled by, **impact factors**.
- **JIF**: Average citation frequency of the articles published in the two preceding years are cited in a given year.
- **Limitations**: 1) different fields have different coverage in databases reported by JIF, 2) bias towards English and U.S. journals, 3) fields differ in citation frequency
- **For students**: do not become preoccupied by the IF of a journal. Rather, give more consideration to speed and efficiency of the editorial handling of manuscripts and to the quality and timeliness of the peer review.

# Steps to Selecting a Journal

- 8. Consider **time** to publication and other **practical matters**.
  - Rapid turn-around? (possibility of desk reject?)
  - Rapid peer-review?
  - Rapid publication? (time between acceptance and final publication)
  - Online first?
  - Cost & open access journals

# Interactive Activity

Selecting a journal based on a  
research topic



# Research Topic

- Adverse childhood experiences (ACEs)
- Addictive behaviors
- Mental health symptoms
  
- The goal of the present study is:
  - 1) Investigate the relationship ACEs and addictive behaviors (e.g. gambling, cigarette use, alcohol use, marijuana use and painkiller use) in an adolescent sample while controlling for age, gender.
  - 2) Investigate the moderating role of mental health symptoms in the relationship between ACEs and addictive behaviors.

# Selecting a Journal

- 1. National vs. **International** audience
- 2. Language of publication: **English**
- 3. **Inter/Multidisciplinary**, general discipline, specialty
  
- Begin identifying journals:
  - *JAMA Psychiatry* (IF: 16.64) – International, English, Inter.
  - *Child Welfare* (IF: 0.23) – International, English, Inter.
  - *Addiction* (IF: 5.79) – International, English, Specialty
  - *Child Abuse and Neglect* (IF: 2.90) – International, English, Inter.
  - *Pediatrics* (IF: 5.71) – International, English, Gen. Disc.
  - *Journal of Adolescent Health* (IF: 3.61) – International, English, Inter.
  - *Addictive Behaviors* (IF: 2.69) – International, English, Inter.
  - *Journal of Child and Adolescent Trauma* (IF: 1.08) – International, English, Multi.

*JAMA Psychiatry* is an international peer-reviewed journal for clinicians, scholars, and research scientists in psychiatry, mental health, behavioral science, and allied fields. The *Archives of Neurology & Psychiatry* began publication in 1919 and, in 1959, became 2 separate journals: *Archives of Neurology* and *Archives of General Psychiatry*. In 2013, their names changed to *JAMA Neurology* and *JAMA Psychiatry*, respectively. *JAMA Psychiatry* is a member of the JAMA Network family of journals, which includes JAMA, 11 JAMA Network specialty journals, and *JAMA Network Open*.

**Journal Frequency and Access.** *JAMA Psychiatry* is published online weekly, every Wednesday, and in 12 print/online issues a year. The journal receives over 3.5 million online visits annually, and more than 4.7 million article views and downloads. Without any author fees, all research articles are made free access online 12 months after publication on the website. In addition, the online version is freely available or nearly so to institutions in developing countries through the World Health Organization's HINARI program.

**Editorial Information.** The journal's acceptance rate is 13%. The median time to first decision is 1 day, and 32 days with review. The journal's Impact Factor is 16.6, ranking among the highest of psychiatry journals. All articles are published online first. Additional information on the types of articles published and editorial policies is available in the journal's [Instructions for Authors](#).

**Editorial Team.** Dost Öngür, MD, PhD, Harvard Medical School, McLean Hospital, Belmont, Massachusetts, is the editor in chief. For a complete listing of the journal's Editors and Editorial Board, see [Editors and Publishers](#).

**Mission Statement:** *JAMA Psychiatry* strives to publish original, state-of-the-art studies and commentaries of general interest to clinicians, scholars, and research scientists in psychiatry, mental health, behavioral science, and allied fields. The journal seeks to inform and to educate its readers as well as to stimulate debate and further exploration into the nature, causes, treatment, and public health importance of mental illness.

<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamapsychiatry/pages/for-authors#fa-about>



ISSN: 0145-2134

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Abstracting/ Indexing

# Child Abuse & Neglect

The International Journal

Editor-in-Chief: Christine Wekerle

> View Editorial Board

Official Publication of the International Society for Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect

*Child Abuse & Neglect* is an international and interdisciplinary journal publishing articles on child welfare, health, humanitarian aid, justice, mental health, public health and social service systems. The journal recognizes that child protection is a global concern that continues to evolve. Accordingly, the journal is intended to be useful to scholars, policymakers, concerned citizens, advocates, and professional practitioners in countries that are diverse in wealth, culture, and the nature of their formal child protection system. *Child Abuse & Neglect* welcomes contributions grounded in the traditions of particular cultures and settings, as well as global perspectives. Article formats include empirical reports, theoretical and methodological reports and invited reviews.

<https://www.journals.elsevier.com/child-abuse-and-neglect/>

## Abstracting and Indexing

- MEDLINE®
- EMBASE
- Research Alert
- Caredata
- PsycLIT
- Adolescent Mental Health Abstracts
- ASSIA
- Current Contents/Social & Behavioral Sciences
- Child Development Abstracts and Bibliography
- Criminal Justice Abstracts
- Current Index to Journals in Education
- ERIC
- Except Child Educ Abstr
- PASCAL/CNRS
- PsycINFO
- Social Work Research & Abstracts
- Sociological Abstracts
- ERA (Educational Research Abstracts Online)
- Scopus

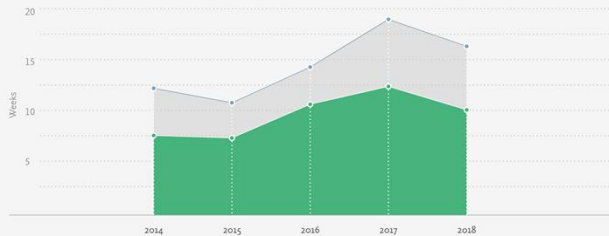
### Length and Style of Manuscripts

Full-length manuscripts should not exceed 35 pages total (including abstract, text, references, tables, and figures), double spaced with margins of at least 1 inch on all sides and a standard font (e.g., Times New Roman) of 12 points (no smaller).

Instructions on preparing tables, figures, references, metrics, and abstracts appear in the [Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association](#) (6th edition).

<https://www.elsevier.com/journals/child-abuse-and-neglect/0145-2134/abstracting-indexing>

## Review Speed



<https://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/0145-2134/oapt>

[https://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/0145-2134/review\\_speed](https://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/0145-2134/review_speed)

## Online Article Publication Time





<https://journalinsights.elsevier.com/journals/0145-2134>

# Publication and Peer-Review



# History of Peer Review

- First record of an editorial pre-publication review dates to 1665 by Henry Oldenburg, the founding editor of *Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society*
- The first peer-reviewed publication might have been the *Medical Essays and Observations* published by the Royal Society of Edinburgh in 1731 (Committee on Science, Engineering, and Public Policy, National Academy of Sciences, National Academy of Engineering, and Institute of Medicine, 1995)
- The present-day peer-review system evolved from this 18th-century and became commonplace until the mid-20th-century (Benos, 2007)

# The Purpose of Peer Review

- Reviewers act as “consultant” to the editor to help them make an informed decision
- Improve the quality of submissions to disseminate high quality science
- Provide feedback to the authors to improve their submission
- Prevent fraud
- Considered to be part of the self-regulatory nature of the world of science and research (Schmitz, 2018)

# Ethical Principles of Peer Review

- Confidentiality of the data and in most cases the authorship
- Avoidance of conflicts of interest
- Reviewers competency to review a manuscript
- Respect the editor's deadlines

# Peer-Review Models in Academic Publishing

- Different types of peer review
  - Single-blind peer review: the name of the reviewer is hidden from the author
  - Double-blind peer review: both the reviewer and the author remain anonymous to each other
  - Open peer review: crowd sourced peer review in which the assessment and evaluation process is left to the scientific community with the purpose of encouraging transparency and accountability in reviews
- Other considerations: anti-plagiarism software, separate reviews of methods and statistics, illustration examination for manipulation, journals which focus on specific scientific software or research datasets
- Peer review is also used by conference organisers and funding agencies (Schmitz, 2018)

# Introduction to the Peer Review Process

- What happens to your paper or abstract once you click “submit”?
  - Desk review
    - Preliminary check in which the editor decides if the manuscript should be sent for peer review or be immediately rejected
    - Decision based on 1) The journal's scope, 2) The clear formulation of the research topic, 3) The suitability of the methodology selected to address the research topic
    - 30-50% of the articles submitted to Elsevier journals are rejected at this stage top reasons: 1) Poor language, 2) Unclear message, 3) Inconsistency, 4) Unsuitability, 5) Unclear impact/novelty (Elsevier, 2015)
    - If assessed to be peer reviewed, experts from the same field who are qualified and able to review the work impartially are contacted and selected (Schmitz, 2018)

# Introduction to the Peer Review Process

- What happens to your paper or abstract once you click “submit”?
  - Review
    - Evaluation of the methodology, “reproduct-ability” of the results, novelty and originality of the research findings, ethical aspects (for studies on humans and animals), readability (logic of the argument, soundness of the conclusions)
    - Assessment provided to the editor with questions, comments, and advice on how to improve the manuscript for the author and recommendations to the editor on the decision to accept, consider acceptable with revisions, or reject
    - Reviewers are not normally paid, some publishers provide free access to their archives for limited periods of time (Schmitz, 2018)

# Introduction to the Peer Review Process

- What happens to your paper or abstract once you click “submit”?
  - Revisions/resubmitting
    - Manuscripts requiring revisions are to be resubmitted once all comments have been thoroughly revised and revisions are reviewed
      - If deemed acceptable the manuscript is accepted
      - Further revisions may be required
    - Rejected manuscripts may be resubmitted if comments can be addressed, if not a new journal should be considered (Schmitz, 2018)

# Manuscript Decisions



# RE: Decision on Your Submission

Dear XX,

We have received the reports from our advisors on your manuscript, "TITLE", which you submitted to JOURNAL.

Based on the advice received. I feel that your manuscript **could be reconsidered for publication should you be prepared to incorporate major revisions**. When preparing your revised manuscript, you are asked to carefully consider the reviewer comments which can be found below, and submit a list of responses to the comments. You are kindly requested to also check the website for possible reviewer attachment(s).

In order to submit your revised manuscript, please access the following web site: URL

We look forward to receiving your revised manuscript before Jan 10, 2017.

Please make sure to submit your editable source files (i. e. Word, TeX). If it is uploaded as a PDF file, it will be sent back.

With kind regards,  
EDITOR

# Process and Timeline

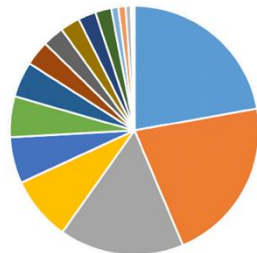
- Reviewers provide their reviews and recommend if manuscript should be accepted, editor makes final decision
  - Time to receive decision depends on the journal and the editor
  - Reviewers are typically given 3-4 weeks to provide reviews
- Journal determines how long you have to make modifications or resubmit
- This process may repeat itself several times

# Editorial Decisions

- Possible initial decisions:
  - Accept without changes (rare)
  - Accept with minor revisions
  - Accept after major revisions (conditional acceptance)
  - Major revisions and resubmit (conditional rejection)
  - Reject
- Subsequent decisions (based on your revisions)
  - Accept
  - Accept with further revisions
  - Reject
- What do I do next?

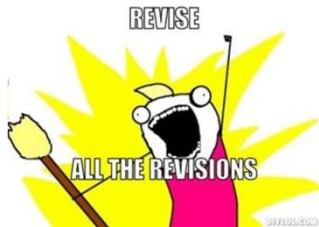
# Scenario 1: Rejection of Article

- Give yourself some time to regroup
  - Remember that rejection is the norm
- Determine why your paper was rejected
  - Ask the editor for clarification (when necessary)
- Decide on your next strategy
  - Consider reviewer comments carefully (Even rejected manuscripts will hav/e reviews)
  - Decide whether more major changes are necessary to improve article
  - Decide whether to resubmit elsewhere, and which journal
  - Consult co-authors, advisors
- Be patient and persistent
  - Each rejection is helping your paper become a better product



[\[Figure source\]](#)

## Scenario 2: Revisions



- Reviews will be at bottom of email
  - Some journals will allow reviewers to add in-text revisions directly into manuscript
  - Put everything in a word document so it's all in one place
- Stay tuned for how to address the revisions....

# Scenario 3: Acceptance of Article

- Some journals will publish unformatted version online shortly after acceptance
  - “ePub Ahead of Print”
- Production of article:
  - Journal will send you “proofs” of your formatted article (copy editors)
  - Review everything carefully – cannot change things after you have sent in the final versions of the proofs
- Update your CV, ResearchGate, etc. 😊
  - DOI available shortly after acceptance
  - Volume/issue/page numbers available after final publication



# RE: Acceptance of Your Article

Dear XX,

We are pleased to inform you that your above mentioned manuscript has been accepted for publication in JOURNAL.

The manuscript will now be forwarded to the publisher, from whom you will shortly receive information regarding the correction of proofs and fast online publication.

Should you have any questions regarding publication of your paper, please contact the responsible production editor, Ms. XX.

With best regards,  
EDITOR

# Responding to Reviewers

A close-up, low-angle shot of a person's hands typing on a laptop keyboard. The scene is dimly lit, with the primary light source coming from the laptop screen, which is partially visible on the left. The person is wearing a light-colored, long-sleeved shirt. The background is blurred, showing what appears to be a desk with other items. The overall mood is focused and professional.



# Before Starting...

- Remember that your job is to convey information clearly to your reader
  - Reviews help you see if you have been successful
  - Help your reader understand the work as well as you understand it

# Processing the Feedback

- Warning: you will experience strong (negative and mixed) emotions
- Read the review approx. three times
- Set aside
  - You want to write a well thought out review—not an emotionally driven review
- Later, return and categorize
  - Easy
  - Clarification/reviewer misunderstood
  - Actual work
  - Unclear

# Revisions

- Start with the easy ones (get them out of the way!)
  - APA style
  - Language, grammar, and typos
- Then work on clarifications
  - Adding to the main text vs. rewriting the segment
- Actual changes
  - Rethinking/rewriting
  - Adding a section (e.g., limitation)
  - New analyses
  - For most issues, adding a few sentences is enough

# Revisions (Cont'd)

- Use the feedback and implement changes even if you are submitting to a different journal!
  - It will necessarily improve your manuscript
  - You could even get the same reviewers

# Drafting Responses

- Throughout your letter, you are trying to make a good impression
  - You may not agree with the reviewers
- Opportunity to show that you took the time to reflect on and implement the editor's and reviewers' recommendations
- The '3R' Approach
  - Be Respectful
  - Be Rational
  - Be Reflective

# Drafting Responses (Cont'd)

- Start by thanking the editor and reviewers
- Comment that their feedback has helped improve the manuscript
  - Add the editor/reviewers to your acknowledgements
- Strategically address/reiterate the positive feedback
- Go over, point by point, how you addressed each issue, and give page numbers in revised manuscript
  - Shows you took the feedback seriously
  - Makes job of reviewing revised manuscript easier for editor and reviewers

# Drafting Responses (Cont'd)

- If you cannot make a change, explain why and include it in the discussion as a limitation
- If you do not want to make a change, clearly defend your point with a detailed explanation
  - Provide a strong rationale and try to include citations
- If contradictory feedback from reviewers, explain how you addressed this
- If feedback was unclear, indicate how you understood the point and how you addressed it

# Example

## Response to Comments from the Editor and Reviewers

It is with great pleasure that we submit our revised manuscript entitled “X” (SBEH-2018-0099) to *Journal*. We are grateful for the insightful comments provided by the anonymous reviewers as they have helped us improve the manuscript significantly. We carefully considered all comments provided and our revisions are outlined point by point below. The manuscript has been modified accordingly. A version with track changes and a clean version are attached.

## Comments from the Editor

Your manuscript entitled “X” which you submitted to *Journal*, has been reviewed. The reviewer comments are included at the bottom of this letter. The reviews are in general favourable and suggest that, subject to revisions, your paper could be suitable for publication. Please consider these suggestions, and I look forward to receiving your revision.

Thank you very much for this comment. We have considered all comments from the reviewers (outlined below) and we are happy to read that our manuscript could be considered to be suitable for publication.



### Comments from Reviewer 1

The aim of the current study was to develop and validate a new self-report measure pertaining to fears of losing control around thoughts within a cognitive-behavioral framework of OCD. There are numerous strengths to the study and manuscript: There is a clear and compelling rationale for the need to assess beliefs about losing control over thoughts in OCD as separate from other existing measures of OCD cognition; there is adequate item generation and sampling; careful attention has been made to the reliable and valid use of EFA in the examination of the scale structure; there is testing of the convergent and discriminant validity of the new scale in relation to other OCD symptom and cognition scales; it is a large and sufficiently powered non-clinical sample to examine scale properties; and there is a cross-sectional predictive model of symptom functioning of the new scale factors while controlling for other measures. Finally, the manuscript is very well-written.

We wish to thank Reviewer 1 for highlighting the strengths of our manuscript. We are happy to read that Reviewer 1 thinks favourably of our methodology and of the psychometric analyses in this study. We also strongly believe that assessing beliefs about and fears of losing control in OCD is very important and we are happy to see that the rationale for creating this self-report measure is clear and compelling.

There appear to be two significant issues for the author(s) to consider: First, the entire literature on metacognition in OCD (Wells et al.) spanning two decades has been ignored and there are already existing measures that aim to measure beliefs about losing control over thoughts (Meta-Cognitions Questionnaire; Cartwright-Hatton & Wells, 1997; Wells & Cartwright-Hatton, 2004) that have been examined in normative and OCD samples and shown to be associated with OCD symptoms? One of the subfactors of the MCQ is titled: Negative Beliefs about the Uncontrollability of Cognition (Danger Beliefs about Cognition). It would seem to this reviewer that ideally the author(s) would have addressed the convergent/divergent validity issue with the MCQ by addressing this literature in the introduction and then including the MCQ for examination in the study to demonstrate that the BALCI is significantly different from factors of the MCQ and offers incremental predictive validity above and beyond the MCQ. Minimally, can the author(s) address the conceptual differences in the model and items of the MCQ versus the BALCI to clarify this issue and substantiate the rationale for a new measure beyond the MCQ?

Reviewer 1 rightly points out that (experimental) work pertaining to metacognition and associated self-report measures of beliefs about control over thoughts (e.g., MCQ, OBQ-44) play a significant role in the understanding and assessment of OCD-related phenomena.

As such, in the section on psychometric and experimental evidence supporting the relationship between beliefs about control and OCD symptoms (p. 5), we added a sentence on experiments showing that manipulating metacognitive beliefs (i.e., the belief that controlling one's thoughts is necessary to prevent negative outcomes) leads to increased OCD symptoms. We provided examples of such work by citing Myers & Wells (2013).

Moreover, we agree with Reviewer 1 that the MCQ should be explicitly discussed in the manuscript, as it captures negative beliefs about the controllability of thoughts and corresponding danger. Of note, this specific MCQ factor is similar to the ICT subscale of the OBQ-44 (although the MCQ focuses more specifically on worrying). In the introduction, when discussing other measures related to control, we elaborated on the specific aspects that the OBQ-44-ICT assesses and we introduced the MCQ as well (pp. 5-6). We highlighted that both of these measures target the importance and perceived necessity of controlling one's thoughts but added that they unfortunately do not expand on the experience and consequences of *losing* control. These measures are also restricted to beliefs about intrusive thoughts and worries and do not capture beliefs about losing control over one's thoughts *and* over one's behaviour, emotions, body, and bodily functions. We attempted to make these explanations as parsimonious as possible given the word limit of the journal. We believe that these limitations of the OBQ-44 and MCQ further support the need for a novel measure of beliefs about losing control over one's thoughts, behaviour, emotions, and body/bodily functions. We thank Reviewer 1 for helping us strengthen our rationale.

It is unfortunate that the MCQ was not included in the questionnaire package that participants completed. Accordingly, we cannot assess the degree to which the BALCI is positively associated with the MCQ (i.e., convergent validity) and/or that the BALCI predicts OCD symptoms above and beyond the MCQ. Nonetheless, we believe that the OBQ-44-ICT overlaps at least somewhat with the MCQ and that the OBQ-44 is perhaps more strongly related to OCD (given the MCQ's emphasis on beliefs about *worrying*). The BALCI was found to predict OCD symptoms while controlling for the OBQ-44 (as mentioned in the manuscript).

A second issue to consider is the development of an OCD-related measure that has not been developed or validated in a clinical sample of OCD participants. Given that there is already an existing literature on control related beliefs in OCD, and the examination of related measures in OCD samples, it is the view of this reviewer that the threshold for publication should include the validation of the scale in patient participants diagnosed with OCD. The author(s) probably have this study underway but I think the psychometric validation of the measure, and the impact of this study, would be much greater if there were a second sample with OCD participants with a replication of the EFA or perhaps a CFA to re-test the three-factor solution observed in non-clinical participants.

We agree with Reviewer 1 that not validating the BALCI in a clinical sample is an important limitation of this study. Indeed, we had highlighted this limitation in the discussion section (p. 16-17). Although there are some self-report measures assessing beliefs about control (as outlined in the introduction), the absence of a measure of the several domains of beliefs about *losing* control makes the current work more exploratory in nature. As mentioned in the discussion, we believe that further refinement of the BALCI (perhaps with another undergraduate sample) may be necessary before conducting a CFA with a clinical sample. This is mainly because the ISC subscale lacked predictive power above and beyond the OBQ-44-ICT. In this way, assessing the validity of a BALCI without the ISC subscale (and perhaps with novel TBE and BBF items) may be the next priority. This also shows that, although we have a good understanding of control-related beliefs in OCD, data related to the concept of *losing* control are preliminary. Hence, this manuscript will hopefully motivate researchers (including us) to further examine beliefs about losing control and refine the BALCI so that it can be thoroughly validated in a clinical sample afterwards.

Less concerning issues: The ASI was developed to measure beliefs about the fear of anxious arousal including the fear of losing cognitive control (ASI-Cognitive Dyscontrol) items. The correlation between the BALCI total and the ASI total is .69 suggesting a concerningly high degree of overlap. I wondered whether the BALCI would predict VOCI scores while controlling for ASI at Step 1?

Thank you for this comment. It is true that the zero-order correlation between the BALCI and the ASI is strong and could potentially indicate that both measures are redundant. A hierarchical regression analysis was conducted and BALCI scores were found to predict VOCI scores above and beyond ASI scores. The results of this regression are included in the section on convergent validity as a footnote (p. 13), given that readers could have the same concern as Reviewer 1.

The page numbers are inaccurate.

The page numbers have been fixed.

# Getting Your Work Published: A Few Tips

Martin Drapeau, McGill University

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# Getting Your Paper Published

- Don't just write an introduction. Convince.
- Be thorough
- Be precise
- Be concise (and consider supplemental material)
- **Take your reader by the hand**
- Don't overstate your findings. Stick to the data.
- Be thoughtful
- Don't look for excuses
- Pick the right journal
- **Be patient**
- **Don't get discouraged**

# Choosing the Right Journal

- Look at journal descriptions
- Look at board members (areas of expertise)
- Look at impact factors
- Look at indexing
- **Don't get discouraged**
- **Avoid predatory journals and publishers**

# The Predator (Journals, Publishers, & Conferences)

...actively solicit manuscripts and charge publication fees without providing robust peer review and editorial services...

# Resources

<https://thinkchecksubmit.org/>

**Think. Check. Submit.** *helps researchers identify trusted journals for their research.*

*Through a range of tools and practical resources, this international, cross-sector initiative aims to educate researchers, promote integrity, and build trust in credible research and publications.*



## CHECK

- **Do you or your colleagues and supervisor know the journal?** – Have you read any articles in the journal before? Is it easy to discover the latest papers in the journal?
- **Can you easily identify and contact the publisher?** – Is the publisher name clearly displayed on the journal website? Can you contact the publisher by telephone, email, and post? Is s-he published? Review the editor's academic home page and CV.
- **Is the journal clear about the type of peer review it uses?**
- **Are articles indexed in services that you use?**
- **Is it clear what fees will be charged?**
- **Do you recognize the editorial board?** – Have you heard of the editorial board members? Do the editorial board mention the journal on their own websites?

# Is the publisher a member of a recognized industry initiative?

- Do they belong to the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#) ?
- If the journal is open access, is it listed in the [Directory of Open Access Journals \(DOAJ\)](#) ?
- If the journal is open access, does the publisher belong to the [Open Access Scholarly Publishers' Association \(OASPA\)](#) ?

## A.K.A. How not to publish in an undesirable journal

### Key Things to Consider When Assessing a Journal\*

\*It's up to you to weigh these factors in order to make your decision.



#### Don't trust unsolicited emails

- If a call for submission does not come from a trusted source, treat it as spam.



Be similarly wary of unsolicited offers to join editorial boards or conference invitations.



#### Review several issues of the journal

- Check for writing and research quality, relevance to discipline and adequate copy editing.

#### While you're at it...



If your research grant or institution requires that your article be openly available, make sure the journal's policy allows this.



#### Review the journal website. It should contain:

- a clear and appropriate scope;
- an editorial board with recognized experts and current contact information for them;
- a description of the peer review process;
- transparent information about whether article processing charges (APCs) or other fees are charged.



Two journals can have similar names but different reputations; don't mistake one journal for another.



#### Check that any impact metrics listed by the journal are recognized and reputable

e.g. Journal Impact Factor, H-index, Eigenfactor



Beware: there are a number of made-up metrics on the Internet.

OPEN  ACCESS

Check to see if OA journals are listed at **doaj.org**

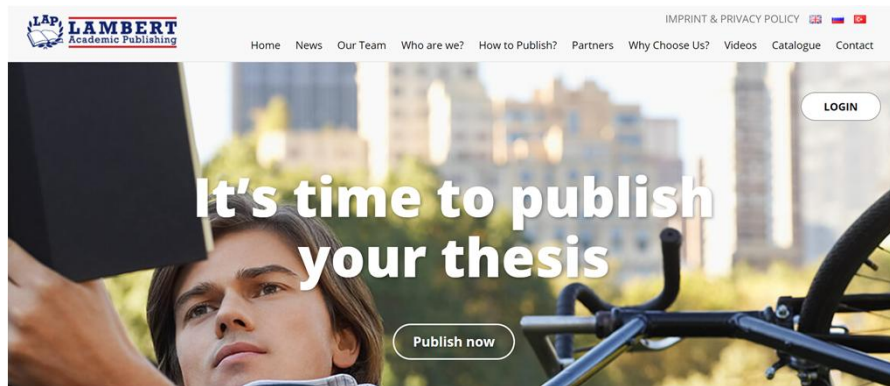
Note: Very new journals will not be listed.

# Predator with a Spin

- Some journals are not trying to get you to dig into your pocket to pay for open access pubs. What they want is perhaps more precious: intellectual property & copyright.
- They often target students & recent graduates



Example: LAP Lambert (<https://www.lap-publishing.com/>)



The screenshot shows the homepage of LAP Lambert Academic Publishing. The header includes the company logo on the left and a navigation menu with links for Home, News, Our Team, Who are we?, How to Publish?, Partners, Why Choose Us?, Videos, Catalogue, and Contact. On the right side of the header, there is a link for 'IMPRINT & PRIVACY POLICY' and three small flags representing the United Kingdom, France, and Turkey. The main content area features a large background image of a young man looking up, with a bicycle handlebar in the foreground. Overlaid on this image is the text 'It's time to publish your thesis' in a large, white, sans-serif font. Below this text is a white button with the text 'Publish now'. In the top right corner of the main content area, there is a white button with the text 'LOGIN'.

**Do your homework – research the publisher.**

# Submitting Your Paper

- Pick the right journal
- The cover letter is a great place to explain how/why your study is important
- Suggest reviewers
- **Don't get discouraged**

# Dealing with Reviews (and Rejection)

- Rejection is part of the game. Suck it up.
- Take reviews seriously. A review is the best way to make your paper better. It is not a personal attack. If you become very defensive, get therapy before you work on a revision.
- Be diplomatic.
- Don't suck up. You do not have to agree with the reviewers. But always be polite and make your case clearly.
- Don't put your credibility on the line – no lying and no hiding info.
- No excuses.
- Address **every** reviewer comment (ideally in a table).
- Revise and resubmit fast.

# Become a Reviewer

- Talk to your supervisor/professor
- Register with *Translational Issues in Psychological Science*. They provide online training for reviewers:

<https://www.apa.org/pubs/journals/tps/call-for-reviewers>

# Resources

- Beal's list (controversial): <https://web.archive.org/web/20170112125427/https://scholarlyoa.com/publishers/>
- <https://web.archive.org/web/20170111172309/https://scholarlyoa.com/individual-journals/>
- Cabell's list:
  - Info: <https://www2.cabells.com/blacklist-criteria>
  - List: <https://www2.cabells.com/about-blacklist>
- Yale: <https://guides.library.yale.edu/c.php?g=296124&p=1973764>
- Directory of Open Access Journals (over 13,000 journals): <https://doaj.org/>
- Open Access Scholarly Publishers Association: <https://oaspa.org/>
- Journal Evaluation Tool : [https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1041&context=librarian\\_pubs](https://digitalcommons.lmu.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?referer=&httpsredir=1&article=1041&context=librarian_pubs)

# Resources

- Journal impact:  
[http://www.eigenfactor.org/projects/journalRank/journals\\_earch.php](http://www.eigenfactor.org/projects/journalRank/journals_earch.php)
- Journal ranking:  
<https://www.scimagojr.com/journalsearch.php?q=psychology>
- Predatory journals:  
<https://predatoryjournals.com/journals/>

Thank you

Questions?

## Additional Activity

“The authors stated “sample size” as one of the study limitation. Their sample size is quite extensive for a qualitative study. We recommend they focus on the convenience sample and participation rate (as opposed to purposeful/purposive sampling) as well as the homogeneity of their sample when discussing the study limitations.”