

How to write a scientific paper ?

A personal perspective

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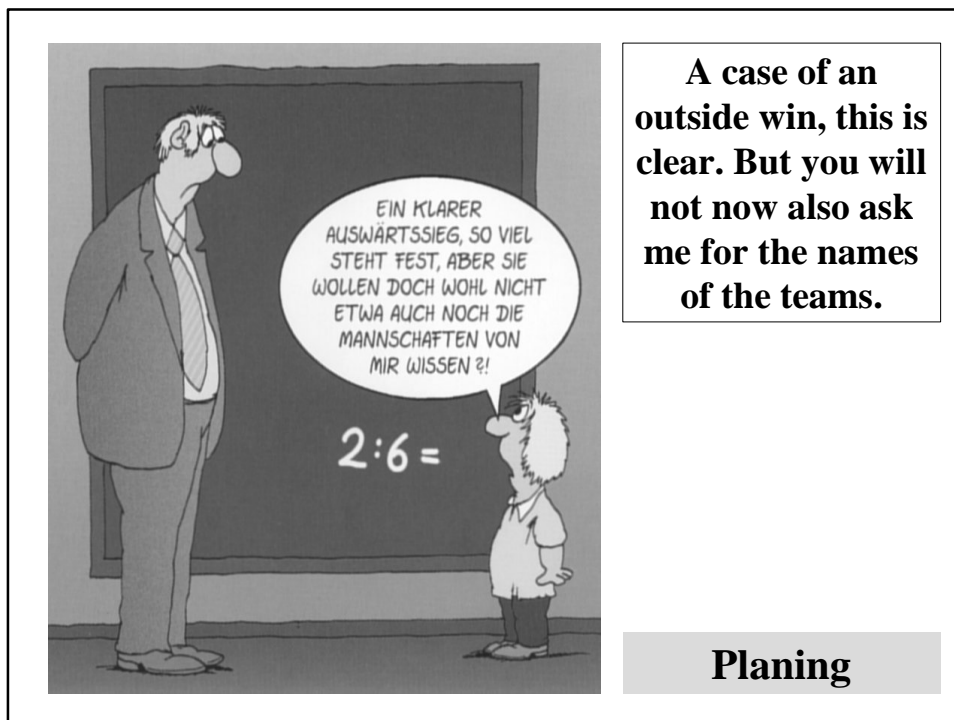


Nürnberg



Is it true ?

Publish or perish



Planing of the study - 1

- What is my hypothesis ?
- What does it mean, when it is
 - Confirmed
 - Not confirmed
 - Indifferent

Planing of the study - 2

- In what context does the hypothesis fits in ?
- This helps me to decide about the readership – Choice of the journal

Structure of the manuscript - 1

- **Abstract**
- **Introduction**
- **Material and Methods**
- **Results**
- **Discussion**

Structure of the manuscript - 2

- **References**
- **Tables**
- **Figures**
- **...**
- **Cover letter, Reviewers**

Abstract

- **The shorter, the better**
- **The last two sentences (Summary and Conclusion) are essential**
- **Not more than 250 words**
- **Reread and reread it again**

Introduction

- **A few sentences why this study is needed - rationale**
- **What is already known**
- **Where do you want to fill the „holes“**
- **How you are going to do it**



**Should I make 4
or 8 pieces?**



**Only make four;
eight are too
much for me !**

Structure

Materials and Methods

- **Subjects - collective**
- **Study design (describe it very clearly – flow-chart...)**
- **Methodology - techniques**
- **Statistics**

Results

- **Structure clearly**
- **Describe everything – only refer to Tables and Figures**
- **Number, Confidential intervals (CI)... both in text and in Table/Figure legends**

Discussion - 1

- **Repeat shortly topic and rationale**
- **Compare your (new) findings concisely with those in the literature**
- **For each finding, outline what is added newly due to your study**

Discussion - 2

- A paragraph with auto-criticism („limitations of the study“) (design, open questions...)
- Summary und Conclusions: I prefer to make it quite broadly
 - E.g. with „bullet points“

References

- „Hot shots“ – probably also cite the journal you submit (narcism of the editor and reviewer)
- Cite yourself, but only the relevant papers
- As few review articles as possible
- 1-2 articles of the actual year
- Not more than 25 references

Tables

- **Not too much on it - no „my god“ Tables !**
- **Put legend separately**
- **Must always be self-explanatory**

Figures

- **Is crucial for acceptance !**
- **They are scanned and shown on meetings by readers**
- **Choose x- and y-axis carefully**
- **THMs must be seen in seconds**
- **Legend – see for Tables**

Writing of the paper

- **How I do it myself ?**
 - Abstract (helps me to set priorities)
 - Introduction (stream-lining)
 - Materials and Methods
 - Discussion and results back and forth (writing „results“ is boring)

Selection of journal

- **Select readership**
 - Scientific community
 - „Politics“ (local, international)
 - Language (German, English...)
- **Impact factors (IF) are not everything, but important for your academic career...**

Choice of journal - 1

- **JAGS**
- **Age & Ageing**
- **Aging Clin Exp Res**
- **Exp Gerontol**
- **Gerontology**

Choice of journal - 2

- **Am J Geriatr Psych**
- **Dement Geriatr Cogn**
- **Int J Geriatr Psych**
- **J Gerontol – Biol**
- **...**

Choice of journal - 3

- **Z Gerontol Geriatr (ZGG)**
- **Eur J Geriatrics (EJG)**
- **Geriatric Journal**
- **Geriatric Praxis**
- **.. Also important „politically“**



„How to deal with reviewers comments...” - 1

- **Accepted**
 - Be happy
- **Accepted with minor revisions**
 - Just do them
- **Accepted with major revisions**
 - ...
- **Rejected**
 - Ask for reviews

„How to deal with reviewers comments...” - 2

- **Accepted with major revisions**
 - How fast should the paper be published ?
 - What do the coauthors mean ?
 - Is the reviewer o.k. or a pain in the ... ?

„How to deal with reviewers comments...“ - 3

- Does the reviewer adds new perspectives ?
- If yes, probably rewrite the whole paper; sometimes even split it and send it to two journals

„How to deal with reviewers comments...“ - 4

- How do I recognize the „nasty“ reviewer ?
 - Challenges the whole statistics
 - Wants to increase N
 - Criticizes „lay-out“ (... Refine English)

Never do !!

- „Modulate“ statistics
- Copy (paragraphs...)
- One time ist everytimes

**Look – a dead
bird**

KUCK
MAL - EIN TOTES
VOGEL!

Where ?

WO?



THM

Keep focused