

Reviewing and Revising

This version: (First official draft)

Course instructors

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Application procedure

Goal and target audience

Doctoral students need to publish their work eventually. In management research, the publication procedure is quite structured with a peer-review process. Experts read and comment on submitted papers during this review process and may demand specific improvements. The editors may invite the submitting authors to revise and resubmit their work. This sequence repeats until a paper eventually converges and is accepted for publication (or rejected). At the end of this course, students will be familiar with the different paths an article can take until submission. The focus of this course is on publishing in journals in the UT Dallas list, essentially a subset of the best Financial Times 50 listed journals. We will also use examples of non-FT-50 listed journals to discuss differences in the process. This course is open to all Ph.D. students from all management disciplines. We provide examples mostly from journals in supply chain management and operations management. Still, the process and logic apply to a broader range of journals. Students can be on any stage of their Ph.D.

Application process

There is a limit of 15 students maximum for this course. Please use the official procedure for the TUM SoM Ph.D. Summer School. **The application deadline is July 1.**

Course aims

What this course is

The course is an introduction to mastering the review process. Besides some basic explanations, we spend the most time reviewing strategies, revising strategies, communication, and interpretation. This course is a hands-on course, where students have to actually review papers and deal with feedback.

What this course is not

This course does not provide a pure description of the process. It is not a how-to guide for revising papers for lower-tier journals where presumably less effort would be sufficient. In addition, it is not a classical lecture. In other words, if you are looking for a course where you can just sit, listen, and consume, while I click through a nicely prepared slide deck, you will be utterly disappointed.

Course objectives

Knowledge Objectives

Students will understand the review process, key steps, and critical challenges. They learn about examples of reviewer responses and (possible) replies.

Skills Objectives

Students learn how to review, pinpoint critical issues, provide constructive, actionable feedback, and make a recommendation. Besides taking the perspective of reviewers, they will also take the role of researchers and learn how to respond to reviews. They will develop a sense for reviewer comments that they may try to rebuttal and those that they must fully implement.

Learning Objectives

Students will learn by taking a new perspective, the one of the reviewer. They will learn by doing, by arguing and defending their view. They will learn that authors eventually need to do all they are requested to if they want to publish and that the easy way out is usually also the way out of the journal.

Preliminary schedule

The course takes place in the first week of the **TUM SoM Ph.D. Summer School** from September 12 to September 16, 2022. We will meet in person each morning/noon. Students will review key concepts in the afternoon sessions, read papers and reviews, and prepare for the next day's session.

Day 1: The review process and submission strategies

- What happens with your paper after submission?
- How blind is a blind peer-review?
- How much do you need to know before your first submission?

Day 2: Reviewing (the basics)

- What is a review?
- What is your role as a reviewer and what is it not?
- How do you decide for a recommendation?
- How do you communicate through reviews?
- How do you phrase issues constructively?
- How do you get the message across while being polite?
- Why do minor issues even matter if you recommend a rejection?

Day 3: Reviewing

- method-specific aspects
- theoretical contribution
- the usual suspects

Day 4: Revising and responding

- Psychological process
- Rebuttal
- Do it all or do nothing at all?

Day 5: Evaluating revisions, final presentations

Core readings

I will announce and share literature during the course. Mostly, students will deal with unpublished work and examples for papers during the review process.

Course procedures

There is no requirement for preparation. Students should be familiar with high-quality research outlets (e.g., the UT Dallas Journal List and the FT 50 journal list).

Active participation is a must, and so is attending each session. While sessions usually take place in the morning/launch time, students are expected to work independently in the afternoon to prepare for the next day.

Assessment

Students have to present a task in small groups on the last day. The group size depends on the number of participants. They will be evaluated based on their performance and pass or fail (no detailed grading).