



## How to publish in top journals

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## Response to my question: 9 persons answered

- > Five very clear: Journal of Economic Geography (JEG 2x), REGION, Papers in Regional Science (PIRS), Computers, Environment and Urban System (CEUS)
- > Two are in doubt about two journals:
  - Journal of Environmental Economics and Management or Journal of Applied Econometrics
  - Journal of European Real Estate Research (JERER) or International Journal of Housing Markets and Analysis
- > Two in doubt of about a list of 5-6 journals in Urban Economics and the other in Tourism
- > No answer from 14
- > Who already published in an international (top) journal?
- > Have you been a reviewer?



## Overview

- > Knowledge production
- > Publication outlets
- > Performance indicators of journals, individuals
- > Publications strategies, Open Access
- > How to get your paper published (in top journals): do's and don't's
- > Final remarks



## Editorial functions Jouke van Dijk


- **Editor-in-Chief** Papers in Regional Science, the flagship journal of RSAI from 2007-2012, Editor 2005-2006, now member of the Editorial Board
- **Associate Editor**: Journal of Economic and Social Geography (since 2002)
- **Editor bookseries** Regional Science published by Springer: "Advances in Spatial Science" (since 2012)
- **Member Editorial Board**: Journal of Geographical Systems (since 2007), Regional Science Policy & Practice, Romanian Journal of Regional Science (since 2007), Review of Regional Research and PIRS (since 2013), Investigaciones Regionales (since 2016)



## Knowledge production


- Knowledge **production** is important for society
- But for the use of knowledge **dissimination and valorisation** is maybe even more important (outreach)
- Several ways to do this → among these are various classic types of scientific outlets, articles, books, presenting papers and interaction at conferences, workshops etc.
- But also: interviews on TV, Newspapers, social media

→ Strategies for knowledge production and dissimination



## Publication strategies: who's strategy?

- Society → public knowledge is a key asset for innovation, economic growth and well-being
- Individuals → making a career
- Publishers → making money
- Departments → good assesment, reputation
- Editors → making a 'good' journal
- Organisations (like ERSA, RSAI): flagship journal(s)
  - What is good / excellent / top? High impact on science and/or policy? Flagship of an organisation? Many readers? Many downloads? Many citations? ISI-rated with High Impact Factor? Open Access?




**Open Access:** results free to read for everyone

- Advantage for readers and for society: scientific knowledge is available for free for everyone
- Often for the research is already paid by tax-payers; more and more funding organizations require Open Access → EU Horizon 2020, national science foundations, etc.
- Advantage for the authors: more readers and a higher chance of being cited; **however:** until now the reputation of most OA journals is lower in terms of ISI-rating
- But: who pays for producing the journal, editorial office, website, printing? No free lunch!




European Commission promotes Open Access:

*The European Commission objective is to optimise the impact of publicly-funded scientific research, both at European level (FP7, Horizon 2020) and at Member State level. **One way to get there is Open Access.** Results of publicly-funded research can therefore be disseminated more broadly and faster, to the benefit of researchers, innovative industry and citizens. Open access can also boost the visibility of European research, and in particular offer small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) access to the latest research for utilisation.*



**Open access models:**

- ◆ **Green open access self-archiving.** Authors pay no fees, but there is no guarantee of the material having been peer reviewed. Authors also have to self-archive their work to allow public access.
- ◆ **Gold open access publishing.** Authors pay to have their manuscript open access immediately upon publication in a journal after peer review, making it a sustainable process for publishers. The difficulty with this is that the costs for the author are often very high, which may limit those without access to sufficient funds. **Universities may pay twice: for publication an article OA and for subscription to a journal for the non-open access articles**
- Some Universities have deal with publisher for free Open Access
- ◆ **Diamond open access.** Involves no paywall for access and no fee for the author, is inclusive of peer review, and hosts the final version of the article → a combination of the best features of both green and gold access. However, the problem is who pays!



**Goals and Strategies and Services of Publishers**

- Provide assistance (and sometimes payments) to Editors in the publishing and review process: software for handling manuscript submissions and the peer review process (like Scholar One), marketing, exhibitions at conferences, sponsoring of conferences, prizes, journal webpages, quick publishing, paying for Editorial Office, generating revenues for associations in terms of money, services (membership administration), access to other journals for members, discount for members on books, etc.
- Collection of related journals in a field: good for selling packages, price policy for packages not for each journal




**Who pays for Open Access?**

- Scholarly society with free Open Access journal: REGION published by ERSA
- Authors or funding body pay submission/publication fee
- Mixed journals: authors pay a fee to the publisher to make their article Open Access, prices per article e.g.:
  - Springer Annals of Regional Science, Wiley Blackwell (PIRS/JRS): US\$ 3000/EUR 2.200 (excl. VAT)
  - Taylor and Francis Regional Studies, Spatial Economic Analysis, USD\$2,950 (€1,788 / € 2,150)
  - Elsevier \$500USD to \$5000USD Regional Science and Urban Economics: \$USD 1800, excluding taxes.
  - Oxford University Press £1000-£2500



**What is the drive for your research?**


- Curiosity?
- Making the world better?
- **Making money, making a career?**
  - University Career Policies: teaching / research
  - Sticks and carrots
  - Choice of research environment, co-authors, access to data, etc.
  - Role of conferences, workshops for knowledge exchange, networking, etc.
  - Type and quality of publications



### Publications and your career

- Internal career: which type of publications are valued by your boss, your department, your university?
- External career: and which by your next employer?
- Several departments / universities / disciplines / countries have their own selection of 'good' and 'excellent' journals and book publishers and this may thus differ per university, country and for e.g. economists and geographers
- Publishers and journals have a strategy how journals and books(series) will be positioned

> → you need to have a strategy about where to publish!




### Where to get your paper published?

- > Journal?
  - National? International?
  - Open Access?
  - ISI rated Journal? Highest Impact Factor?
  - Reputation Publisher?
  - Related content? Special Issues?
  - High acceptance rate?
  - Speed of decision making and final publication online or in print?
- > Chapter in a book?
  - Which Publisher?




### Regional Science Journals

- RSAI Flagship journal: **Papers in Regional Science**
- Since 2008 also: **Regional Science Policy & Practice**
- Other international regional science journals: **Journal of Regional Science**, **Regional Studies**, **Annals of Regional Science**, **Regional Science & Urban Economics**, **International Regional Science Review**, **Spatial Economics Analysis, Growth and Change**, etc. etc.
- Also (Journal of) **Economic Geography**, **Environment and Planning A-D**, **Geographical Analysis**, **European Planning Studies**, **Urban Studies**, **Cities**, **Journal of Geographical Systems**, **Economic Systems**
- Section journals: **Investigaciones Regionales**, **Review of Regional Research (Jahrbuch für Regionalwissenschaft)**, **Romanian Journal of Regional Science**, etc.
- ERSA initiative: **Open Access journal REGION**




### Reputation of Journals

- Scientific results should be trusted and be true
  - Peer review system: single and double blind
  - **Science is only an opinion? Trump → Climate change**
- Check on quality and newness, detect fraud, plagiarism
- ISI Thomson, Web of Science, Scopus: Impact Factor
  - Impact factors can be manipulated, citation cultures differ by discipline and even within disciplines
- Open Access journals: still lower reputation
- Why do some journals not have an Impact Factor?
  - Publisher have to apply for an Impact Factor
- The ERSA journal **REGION** and the RSAI Journal **Regional Science Policy and Practice** have no Impact Factor



### Goals and strategies of Journal Editors

- Best journal in a broad field or in a specific area
- Best journal for policy relevance
- Best journal for new methods
- Best journal for applied research or theoretical papers
- Best journal for review articles
- Specialize in short papers, with/without bookreviews, short turnaround time?
- **What is best? Citations? Impact factor 2 or 5 year? Other citations metrics? Readers, Downloads?**
- Is becoming a journal editor good for your career?
- And member of an Editorial Board?
- How to become a member of an EB? **Make good reviews!**



### Journal Performance: Journal Citation Reports (JCR) by ISI Web of Science

Performance indicators:

- **Impact Factor:** Provides a way to evaluate or compare a journal's relative importance to others in the same field
- **Immediacy Index:** Measures how quickly an article is cited during year published
- **Cited Half-Life:** Benchmarks the age of cited articles; tells you how long are published articles valuable knowledge

**Calculation of a Journal Impact factor**

- Two year Impact Factor of 2016 (published in June 2017):
  - Number of times articles published in 2014 and 2015 are cited in ISI rated journals in 2016
- Five year Impact Factor of 2016 (published in June 2017):
  - Number of times articles published in 2011-2015 are cited in ISI rated journals in 2016

Sensitive too: self-citations, citation habits in the field, ageing of knowledge (or articles of five or ten years old still cited?)

**Calculation of the PIRS Impact Factor 2 and 5-year 2012**

**Journal Impact Factor**

Cites in 2012 to items published in: 2011 = 38, 2010 = 93, Sum = 131

Number of items published in: 2011 = 42, 2010 = 43, Sum = 85

Calculation:  $\frac{131}{85} = 1.541$  **25 more citations increases IF to 1.835!**

**5-Year Journal Impact Factor**

Cites in {2012} to items published in: 2011 = 38, 2010 = 93, 2009 = 58, 2008 = 66, 2007 = 67, Sum = 322

Number of items published in: 2011 = 42, 2010 = 43, 2009 = 43, 2008 = 29, 2007 = 29, Sum = 186

Calculation:  $\frac{322}{186} = 1.731$

**Journal Citation Reports**

**PIRS Impact Factor 2001-2016**

Year	Total Cites	Journal Impact Factor	5 Year Journal Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Cite Half-Life	Cite Life	Citing Life	Eigenfactor Score	Article Influence Score	% of Cites in PIRS	Normalized %	Average Percentile
2016	1,567	1.567	1.567	0.361	52	9.9	+10.0	0.00234	0.710	100.00	0.20021	46.028
2015	1,296	1.144	1.113	0.180	50	9.5	+10.0	0.00275	0.620	100.00	0.17040	47.389
2014	1,144	1.012	0.876	0.228	53	+10.0	+10.0	0.00230	0.683	98.11	0.20751	43.723
2013	1,041	1.103	1.001	0.205	44	9.9	+10.0	0.00291	0.698	100.00	0.22040	56.246
2012	861	1.144	1.103	0.220	40	9.9	9.8	0.00223	0.688	97.00	0.18120	68.120
2011	420	1.436	1.023	0.168	42	9.2	+10.0	0.00220	0.626	100.00	0.18140	68.349
2010	600	1.226	0.763	0.148	43	8.3	7.6	0.00196	0.613	100.00	0.18140	12.257
2009	648	1.267	0.768	0.167	43	8.4	+10.0	0.00188	0.601	97.47	0.18140	65.567
2008	572	1.259	0.388	0.180	29	8.7	9.1	0.00185	0.501	100.00	0.18140	62.610
2007	487	0.576	0.448	0.104	28	8.9	+10.0	0.00191	0.290	100.00	0.18140	22.840
2006	302	0.524	0.412	0.103	29	9.2	9.2	0.00181	0.261	100.00	0.18140	18.750
2005	304	0.475	0.409	0.107	30	+10.0	9.4	0.00181	0.267	100.00	0.18140	18.311
2004	215	0.401	0.442	0.142	33	9.1	+10.0	0.00181	0.261	100.00	0.18140	23.214
2003	206	0.405	0.405	0.119	28	+10.0	7.7	0.00181	0.261	100.00	0.18140	23.214
2002	254	0.439	0.437	0.142	24	9.7	8.5	0.00181	0.261	100.00	0.18140	32.449
2001	186	0.457	0.347	0.107	26	7.9	8.5	0.00181	0.261	100.00	0.18140	29.025

**Journal Profile**

**PAPERS IN REGIONAL SCIENCE** IF 1,567 in 2016

WILEY-BLACKWELL  
111 RIVER ST, HOBOKEN 07030-5774, NJ, ENGLAND

Categories: **ECONOMICS - SSC, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES - SSC, GEOGRAPHY - SSC**

Key Indicators Table (partial):

Year	Total Cites	Journal Impact Factor	5 Year Journal Impact Factor	Immediacy Index	Cite Half-Life	Cite Life	Citing Life	Eigenfactor Score	Article Influence Score	% of Cites in PIRS	Normalized %	Average Percentile
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2015	1,296	1.144	1.113	0.180	50	9.5	+10.0	0.00275	0.620	100.00	0.17040	47.389
2014	1,144	1.012	0.876	0.228	53	+10.0	+10.0	0.00230	0.683	98.11	0.20751	43.723
2013	1,041	1.103	1.001	0.205	44	9.9	+10.0	0.00291	0.698	100.00	0.22040	56.246

**Ranking of PIRS based on Impact Factor is also used to rank PIRS in three ISI categories:**

- Geography, Environmental Studies and Economics since 2011
- No ranking in: Urban Studies, Planning and Development
- Choosing a category is not on the Editors or the Publisher. The Publisher has to apply and citations to and from other Economics journals were a strong argument to obtain a listing in Economics for PIRS
- Citation information:
  - Which journals cite articles published in PIRS
  - Which journals are cited in PIRS



**Most relevant ISI Categories:**

- Geography: 79 journals, highest IF: 6.327 low 0.167
- Economics: 347 journals, high: 6.662 low 0.041
- Planning and Development: 55, high 4.495 low 0.259
- Urban Studies: 38 high 4.563 low 0.095
- Transportation: 33 high 3.769 low 0.024
- Environmental Studies: 105 high 19.304 low 0,95

**Journal Citation Ranks in Geography 2016**

1. Global Environmental Change
2. Progress in Human Geography
3. Economic Geography

Total 79 journals

**Journal Citation Ranks in Economics 2016**

1. QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS
2. JOURNAL OF FINANCE
3. JOURNAL OF ECONOMIC PERSPECTIVES
4. ECONOMIC GEOGRAPHY

Total 347 journals, only 50 IF > 1

**Citation Impact Factor regional science journals: PIRS, JRS, RSUE, IRSR, ARS and RS**

**Fig. 4. Citation Impact Factor for various regional science journals, 2002–2015**

**2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014 AND 2015 5-YEAR IMPACT FACTOR**

**Fig. 5. Citation 5-year Impact Factor for various regional science journals in 2008-2015**

**Journals 1 - 20 (of 122) Citing PIRS**

Impact	Citing Journal	All Yrs
961	All Journals	
155	ALL OTHERS (155)	
76	PAP REG SCI	
69	ANN REGIONAL SCI	
37	REG STUD	
35	J REGIONAL SCI	
31	J TRANSP GEOGR	
24	EUR PLAN STUD	
20	REG SCI URBAN ECON	
19	APPL GEOGR	
17	ENVIRON PLANN A	
17	INT J GEOGR INF SCI	

**Journals 1 - 20 (of 181) Journals cited by PIRS**

Impact	Cited Journal	All Yrs	2012	2011	2010	2009
1781	All Journals		4	58	109	123
615	ALL OTHERS (615)		4	32	38	39
76	PAP REG SCI		0	8	29	1
49	REG STUD		0	1	4	0
45	J URBAN ECON		0	0	4	3
42	J REGIONAL SCI		0	1	3	3
39	J POLIT ECON		0	0	0	0
39	AM ECON REV		0	0	1	2
35	REG SCI URBAN ECON		0	1	0	6
30	REV ECON STAT		0	0	0	0
30	ANN REGIONAL SCI		0	1	2	5
24	J ECON GEOGR		0	1	0	3

**PIRS is cited mainly in other Regional Science, Geography and Planning journals, where the articles published in PIRS cite very often major economic journals**



**Individual performance indicators**

- > Number of citations: all citations or only in ISI-journals?
- > H-factor = X: a person published X articles that are cited at least X times (controls for outliers cf. a person who has (only) one paper with many citations)
- > Information about citations, H-factor etc.: Scopus, Google Scholar, Harzing's Publish or Perish
- > Register for RePEc, Research Gate, Google Scholar etc. to show papers
- > Other ways to boost your career: networking via summerschools, workshops, conferences, research visits + seminar presentations, co-authors, reviews, becoming Editor, member Editorial Boards, etc.

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- > Two are in doubt about two journals:
  - Journal of Environmental Economics and Management or Journal of Applied Econometrics → **two quite different journals**
  - Journal of European Real Estate Research (JERER) or International Journal of Housing Markets and Analysis → **two related field journals**
- > Two in doubt of about a list of 5-6 journals in Urban Economics and the other in Tourism
- > No answer from 14
- > **No easy answer!** You have to know the journals (and the editors) and you should ask your supervisor or others help and advise

**Which papers will be published?**


- **FIRST:** after submission you have to pass the editors and avoid a direct- or desk-reject without getting feedback
- Make in the first page clear **what is new in your paper** and why it is interesting to read more than the first page
- **Choice of the journal:** choose an ISI-rated journal with an **Impact Factor**, but also look at the journal and see if you do similar things in your paper with regard to the **theoretical framework, methodology and topics as already published articles. Cite the journal if possible.**
- Your paper must be very well embedded in the literature, clearly written and methodologically sound
- The paper must be of general interest to the world-wide audience reading this journal

**Which papers will be published in top journals?**

- **There must be something new!!!!**
- Use up-to-date methodology, but don't forget the interpretation and (policy) message! **Make your point clear!**
- Try to interpret spatial econometrics results, fixed effects, etc. (although several journals ignore this)
- Use good (not perfect!) English
- Papers should not be too long or too short: check the journals instructions for authors
- Do not pay too much attention to the formatting of references, tables, figures etc. when you submit, but the paper must be complete and clear
- Formatting requested by the journal can be done when the paper is accepted for publication

**Review process Papers in Regional Science**

- Start: Paper submission by author(s)
- Editorial Office: is paper complete? (1-3 weeks)
- Task Editor: check if paper fits in journal policy: if not: direct (or desk) reject without review feedback, if OK: (1-3)
- Double blind (anonymous) refereeing: two/three reviewers
- Decision letter to author(s) with review reports (8 - 20?)
- Judgement: **accept - minor/major revision - reject**
- Submit revised version with detailed answers to questions referees by the authors in separate document + trackchange document, but do NOT change all kind of other things! (???)
- Revised version again to referees, second (third round) (1-8)
- Again decision letter to author(s) with review report
- **→ Publication print/early view? PIRS e.g.: rejects 75% (year)**



## Publication strategy...

- A PhD is only a means to an end - 'satisfy the examiners'. The 'end' is peer reviewed publication - collectively these are what constitute the 'body of scientific knowledge'
- Aim for publication in refereed journals, with high impactfactors **but also high rejection rates. Seek rejections! Do not be disappointed!**
- Have a publication strategy: Need a 'pipeline'
- All publications take a significant and variable amount of time going through the process: (1 year is quick, 1-2 normal)  
Working paper - conference paper - submission - revision - acceptance .... proofs .... citation
- Go to conferences, seminars etc; present you papers: you learn from feedback and it gives discipline



## Final remarks

- Advice: **DO High quality research, find new topics, use up-to-date methodology, co-authors → be ambitious**
- Go abroad to workshops, summerschools, conferences (ERSA!), research visits, give lunch seminars
- Apply for research grants, prizes etc.
- Publication strategy: ISI-rated journals, but also (chapters in) books, national journals, policy documents, interviews for TV, Radio, newspapers, etc.
- Presentations for policy makers: talk to them!
- Future: Open Access will win in the end
- **Enjoy science and life: WRSA always goes to nice resorts (Hawaii!) → The way academic life should be!**



Thank you for your attention!