



IAFFE ACADEMY:

REVIEWING PROCESS

Tuesday, January 21, 2025

Elissa Braunstein & Wendy Sigle

Time: 9:00 am ET

Presentation: Peer Review Introduced and Explained

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Some slides are taken from a presentation
designed and delivered with Rebecca Sear

A RESEARCH
ARTICLE IS...

A RESEARCH ARTICLE IS...

My cocktail party metaphor....

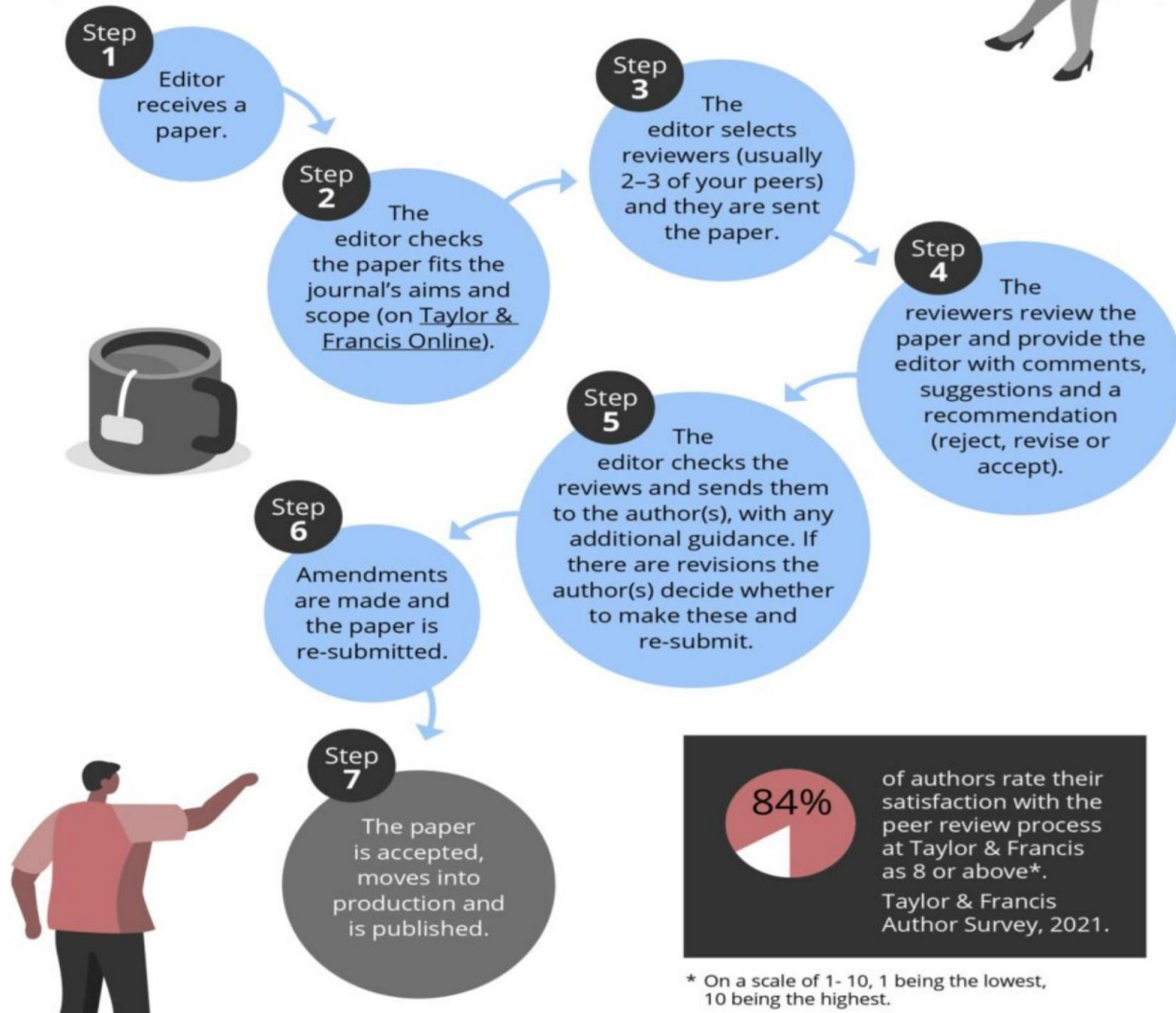


Understanding peer review



Every article published in a Taylor & Francis journal goes through rigorous peer review

The peer review process



Getting the peer review balance right

Letting bad research
through

Keeping good research
out



What is peer review for?

- What are the benefits of getting it right?
 - Ensuring good quality research gets read and put to use
 - [“Why is so much bad research published?”](https://health.spectator.co.uk/why-is-so-much-bad-sciencepublished/?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=standard)
https://health.spectator.co.uk/why-is-so-much-bad-sciencepublished/?utm_source=hootsuite&utm_medium=social&utm_campaign=standard
- What are the costs of getting it wrong?
 - Keeping new, potentially useful, ideas and evidence out of the discussion
 - Only [half of biomedical research is published](https://www.nature.com/articles/nature.2013.14286) (though this is likely partly due to incentives to publish only positive results)
<https://www.nature.com/articles/nature.2013.14286>
 - Inefficiency: increasing the burden on editors and reviewers when papers have to be submitted to multiple journals before they get published
- This prompts the question of what is ‘good’ research...

A GOOD RESEARCH ARTICLE IS...

My cocktail party metaphor....



What is peer review for?

Peer reviewers have two audiences

The author

The editor



The review needs to meet the needs of both audiences.



The reviewer is writing a report to the editor about the piece of work but knows that the report will be passed on to the author.

- For *Feminist Economics*, associate editors score each report's
 - ☐ Timeliness
 - ☐ Quality and Completeness of the Assessment
 - ☐ Tone

What does a helpful review look like?

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What does a helpful review look like?

- The authors' intended contribution, as you understand it, and the quality of the work carried out to meet the aims and objectives of the study.
 - Motivation – why is the topic important or interesting to the intended audience?
 - Aims and objectives - what does the author want the intended audience to understand or do?
 - Does the author present an analysis that allows them to meet their aims and objectives?
 - Does the author make evaluations which relate to the intended contribution and follow directly from the analysis that was carried out?
- Clarity of presentation
- Journal-specific criteria: <https://feministeconomics.org/for-authors/style-guidelines/>
- Proofreading?
 - It is not the reviewer's job to proofread papers, but do mention if the paper needs extensive proofreading/editing for language

Completeness and quality of your assessment:
What should you base your review on?

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INTRODUCTIONS

We request that authors refrain from ending their introductions with an outline (e.g., Part 1 does A, Part 2 does B, etc.) and instead rely on the logic and organization of the paper to support their arguments.

ARTICLE LENGTH

Feminist Economics asks authors to strive for tightly written submissions in which the length is appropriate to the topic. Articles over 10,000 words (including references, endnotes, tables, and figures) are strongly discouraged. Excessively long articles will not be reviewed.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

Any acknowledgments should be entered in the Acknowledgments box on Manuscript Central.

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ABSTRACT

Please include an abstract of 150 words or less.

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- ☐ Tone

What does a helpful review look like?

- Brief summary of work – set out your understanding of the author's aim(s)
- Brief overview of your opinion on the (potential) contribution of the paper – does the author meet her aims as you understand them?
- Structure your review
 - Consider dividing into: essential/non-essential recommendations, major/minor
 - Consider ordering points by importance
- Be constructive – you are “talking to” a colleague
- Be clear
 - “I think this is an issue that must be addressed because”
- Be feminist!
 - Golden rule of reviewing: “do unto others as you would have done unto you”
 - <https://shitmyreviewerssay.tumblr.com/>
 - ‘Comments to editor’ box may be a place to express stronger, though still polite, views

What does a helpful review look like?

What does a less helpful review look like?

- Unstructured stream of consciousness
- Comments are narrow in focus
- Incoherent
- Criticizes or applauds without explanation
 - “This paper does not make a strong enough contribution to merit publication in a top journal like *Feminist Economics*”
 - “This is a strong paper whose publication I enthusiastically support”
- Demands to see the paper that the reviewer would have written
- Is abusive or sarcastic in tone