

Getting Published in *SSQ* 2.0¹

The first and most important step in getting an articles published in *SSQ* or any journal is having a good idea, researching it well and writing it up clearly. The *SSQ* Editor cannot be of much help here. This short, plain English guide to "Getting Published in *SSQ*" is where the Editor can help.

The second step is picking the "right" journal to try. "Getting Published in *SSQ*" is a brief guide to our journal for authors at any stage of the process. Because this is short and to the point, there are details that are not covered here. We have found, though, that about 95 percent of questions authors are likely to ask are answered here.

Social Science Quarterly is an interdisciplinary journal that publishes high quality, empirical social science research that is of interest to a broad audience of readers across several social science disciplines or which has broad appeal within one discipline. Manuscripts with social and public policy implications and those with comparative or international focus are especially welcome, as are articles that advance the methodological diversity of the social sciences in an accessible and interesting fashion. Most *SSQ* articles are based on the analysis of empirical data, although this is not a requirement. "Think pieces" and advocacy papers are discouraged. All articles besides invited comments are refereed in a double-blind peer review.

Submitting a Manuscript

Submitting a paper that is not only appropriate for the journal's readership but in its preferred style is a time saver for the author and the journal.

1. Submitted manuscripts should be no longer than twenty-five pages **total, double-spaced throughout** (including indented material, tables, references and notes), with 1" margins and 10 CPI font.* Research notes should not exceed eighteen pages total. First-time authors sometimes wonder if they should send in a paper they know is too long, hoping that the readers and editor will tell them where to cut. Seasoned authors know that readers almost never suggest places to cut but bring up new issues that should have been treated in the first place.
2. To ensure prompt evaluation, **electronic submissions are requested**. Articles can be submitted via the Editorial Express manuscript management system (preferred) at <http://editorialexpress.com/ssq> or via email to SSQ@ou.edu. Instructions for how to upload your manuscript into Editorial Express can also be found on their main page. Articles should be submitted with two files. The first file is the actual manuscript, with the author name(s) removed and any identifying references removed. The second file is the cover page with the author names included on the page. Files can be submitted in pdf or Word format (pdf preferred).
3. Manuscripts are evaluated using a double-blind process. Therefore, the author should be identified only on the separate cover page. References to the author's work can be included in the references, but clues to the author's identity should be avoided (e.g., "as we showed in our previous work [1991]").
4. Place an asterisk at the end of the title on the cover page and note at the bottom of the page: "Direct all correspondence to" followed by the complete name, address, and email address for the corresponding author. Any additional information or acknowledgments can follow as a part of the same note.
5. An abstract of 100-150 words should follow the cover page. *SSQ* uses the 'OMRC'

¹ This primer was originally crafted by former *SSQ* editor Robert L. Lineberry. Updated July 27 2010 by current editors Keith Gaddie and Kelly Damphousse.

abstracting technique: *objective, methods, results and conclusion*. We will not send out a manuscript unless it is accompanied by an OMRC abstract.

6. Footnotes, references, and tables should each begin on a separate page and be placed after the last manuscript page. In the text, indicate a guideline to the placement of tables (e.g., "Table 2 about here") at the appropriate place in the text.

7. Footnotes should be numbered sequentially. Use footnotes only for substantive observations. Authors should organize their article so as to minimize the need for footnotes. Technical appendices should be avoided, although we are able to accommodate such appendices via electronic publishing of the journal.

8. All references to books, monographs, articles, and statistical sources should be identified at the appropriate point in the text by the last name of the author, year of publication and page numbers where appropriate, all within parentheses, e.g., (Smith *et al.*, 1999) or (Brown, 1997:363). A useful guide to Internet citations is Melvin E. Page, "A Brief Citation Guide for Internet Sources in History and the Humanities (Version 2.0)," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, March 1996, pp. 83-84.

9. The paper should not be submitted to another journal while under consideration at *SSQ*.

10. Journals provide "value added" to the scholarly process. Although journals' policies in this area are evolving, papers already "published" through electronic means *whose publications in SSQ would substantially reduce the value of the copyright*, should not be submitted and cannot be published.

11. Reviewer selection: The review process is double-blind; only the *SSQ* editors know who the authors and reviewers are for a particular submission. The editors do accept, from authors, indications of potential reviewers with potential conflicts of interest or whom might be especially well-qualified to objectively review the submission.

Revisions

Very few manuscripts are accepted on the first round. The Editor's letter to the corresponding author will indicate one of three decisions: 'accept' for publication; a 'reject' decision; or an invitation for revision. Revisions are invited for about a third of all papers submitted, and are typically accompanied by editorial guidance to keep the author from shooting in the dark as they revise. Papers are considered "active" for one year after the Editor's letter is written. Thus, a revision is as important to eventual publication as the original submission. The author should first satisfy himself or herself that the length and the style requirements of the journal are met (see above). Second, the author should attend to the most important (though not necessarily all) of the reader comments. A revision should be accompanied by a substantive letter to the Editor reviewing the responses to the readers. Although some revisions will be treated *de novo*, most will be sent to a combination of previous and new readers.

The Publication Process

Once an article is accepted, provisionally or finally, an article needs to be readied for publication. The *SSQ* staff will work with each author to avoid any problems that can be headed off before we submit the paper to the publisher, Wiley-Blackwell. All production and copy-editing is handled by Wiley-Blackwell.

Replication Policy

It is the policy of *SSQ* to publish papers only if the empirical data used in the analysis are clearly and precisely documented and are readily available to other researchers for purpose of replication. Details of the computations sufficient to permit replication must be provided to other scholars on request.

The Editor should be informed upon submission if, for some reason, this requirement cannot be met. Our policy does not mean that the data *could* be reconstructed from some source (e.g., the Census or the ICPSR) but rather that the author agrees to make the *data set* available to other interested scholars.

Where to Send Manuscripts

Manuscripts should be submitted electronically to the Editors at SSQ@ou.edu or via the Editorial Express form:

Ronald Keith Gaddie & Kelly R. Damphousse, coeditors

Social Science Quarterly

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Inquiries about manuscript status should be directed only to the SSQ@ou.edu email address.