

# The Journal Article: Publishing during your PhD

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13 April 2015

*Talk given at the NRF PhD Conferences*



# Publishing

- A career in science, academia or research requires publication
- Science is shared knowledge, it only exists when shared
- Publishing is a complicated business
  - Editors
  - Peer review
  - Impact factors
  - Citations
- The best way to start publishing is to write with your supervisor
- Learn how to write well



# Publishing during your PhD

- A PhD is not all about the Title 'Dr', it's about your research articles and paving your future in publishing (unless you don't stay in science/research)
- Competition for space in journals is fierce, excellence is paramount
- Choices:
  - Specialised versus multidisciplinary
  - High IF or moderate IF (time to publish)
- Publish your results – craft the paper with your supervisor (be sure to choose a supervisor who will support you with learning this process)



# Publishing during your PhD

- Don't expect your first paper to be world-shattering – start small
- Consider publishing your proposal or literature review as a critical review work (I did, it is my most cited paper!)
- Some universities want a thesis written as a series of papers
- Aim for at least one or two papers published before you submit your PhD
- Start early, a paper can take years (ask me about one that was re-submitted after 10 years!)



# Why publish during your PhD? or your Honours or Masters!

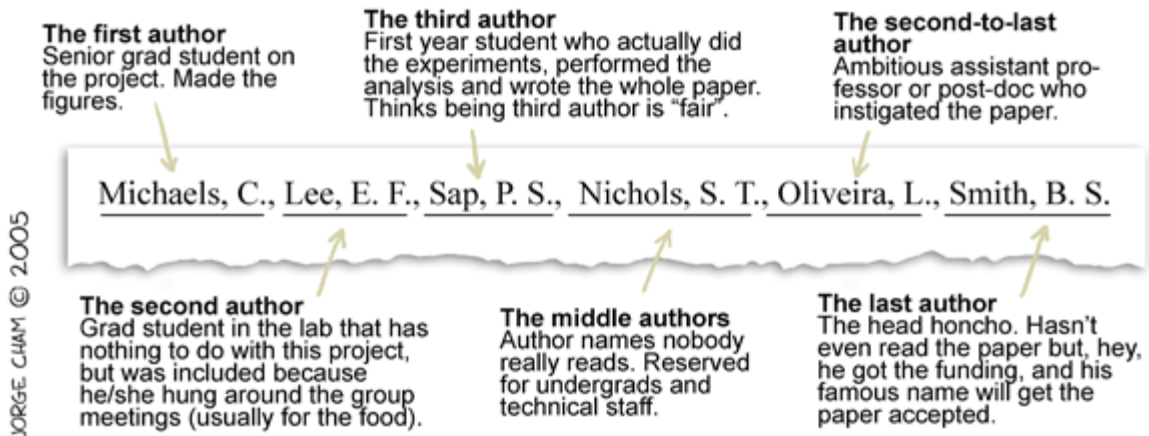
- Publishable research counts!
- Will help you secure funding, shows others your research will have impact
- Builds relationships with collaborators, your network
- Shows your PhD examiner that your work has been subjected to peer review
- Gets your feedback from reviewers beside your supervisors (sometimes a good thing)
- Teaches you many things about writing



# Authorship

- Talk with your supervisor upfront about the author list
- Often the journal wants you to list what each author contributed to the paper
- Sometimes an author needs to be added for strategic reasons

## THE AUTHOR LIST: GIVING CREDIT WHERE CREDIT IS DUE

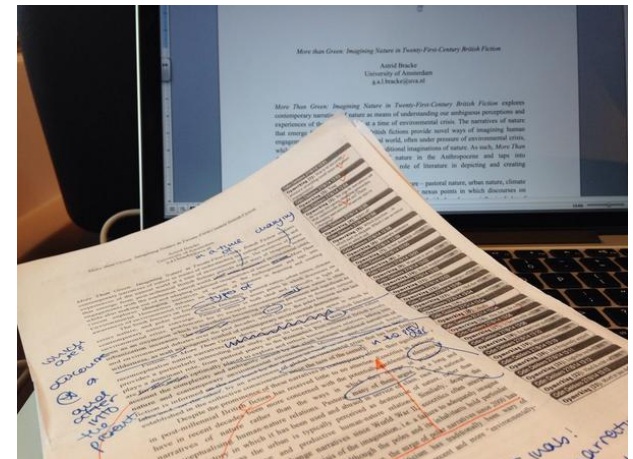


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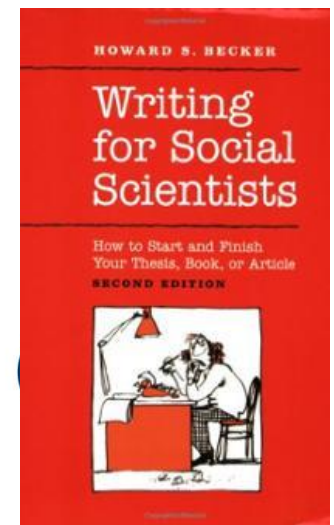
# Tips and hints

- Writing takes time and lots of re-writing
- There will be many versions (most I have had was v\_12)
- Have your paper reviewed by someone (not your supervisor) before you submit it
- Unless the paper is rejected by the Editor, if it goes for review, there will be revisions
- Learn how to respond to reviewers



# Tips and hints

- Model how you write and shape your paper after publications you read in your topic of study
  - Title, authors, affiliations, abstract etc
- Often you will get two rejections for every one acceptance (keep trying)
- Format your paper to meet (exactly) the journal's requirements
- Write a good, strong cover letter

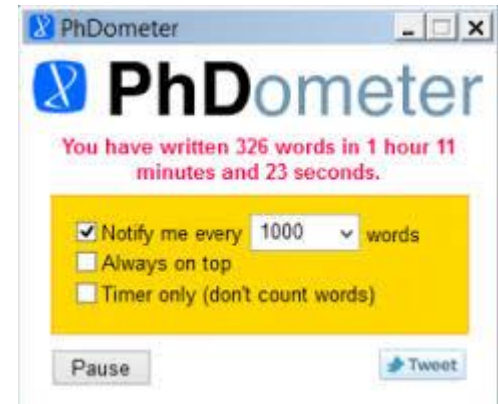




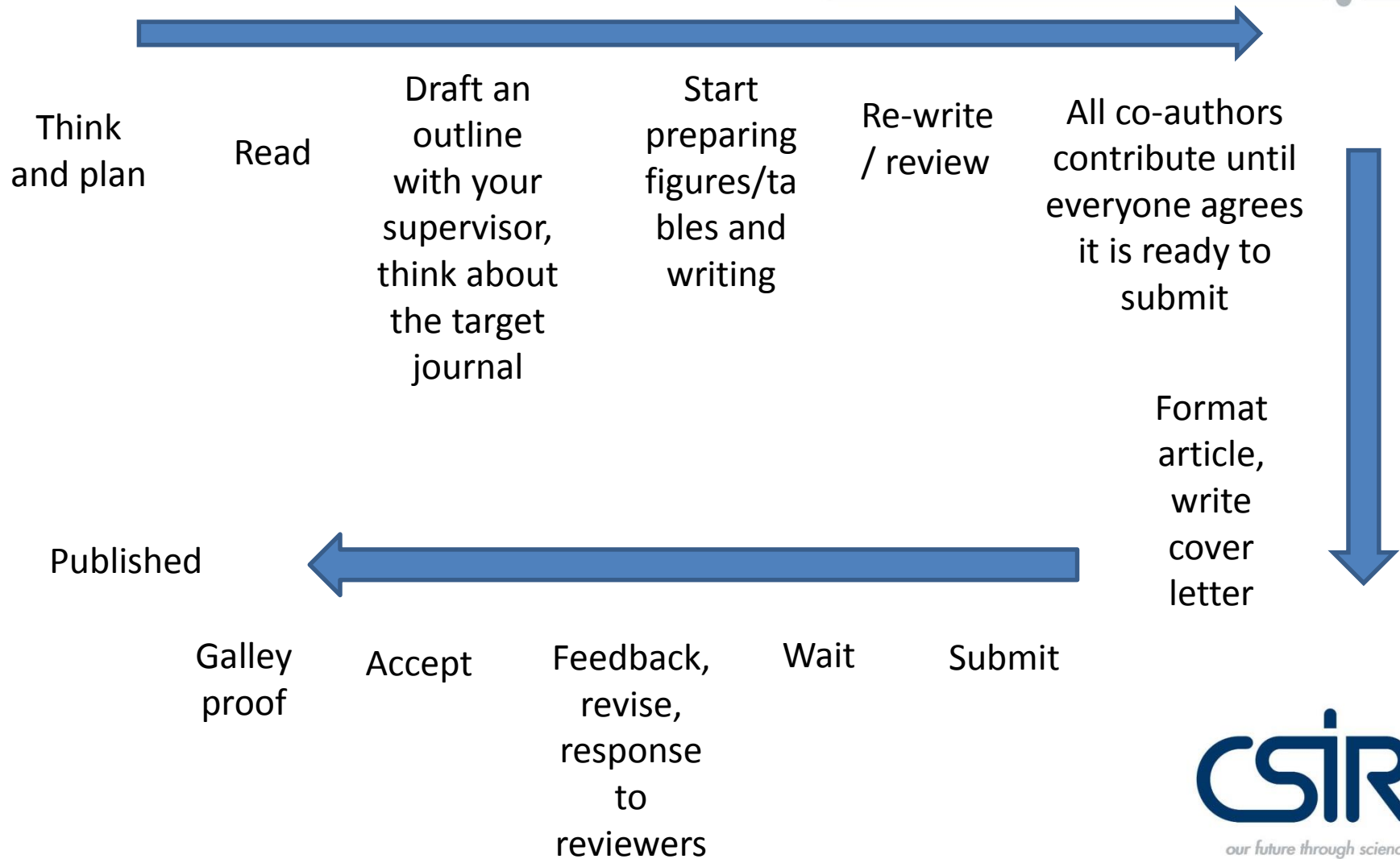
# Tips and hints

- Learn how to manage comments from multiple authors/supervisors
- Get consensus from all authors before you submit (signature form)
- One excellent paper is usually better than 3 weaker papers – plan carefully

Just for fun!

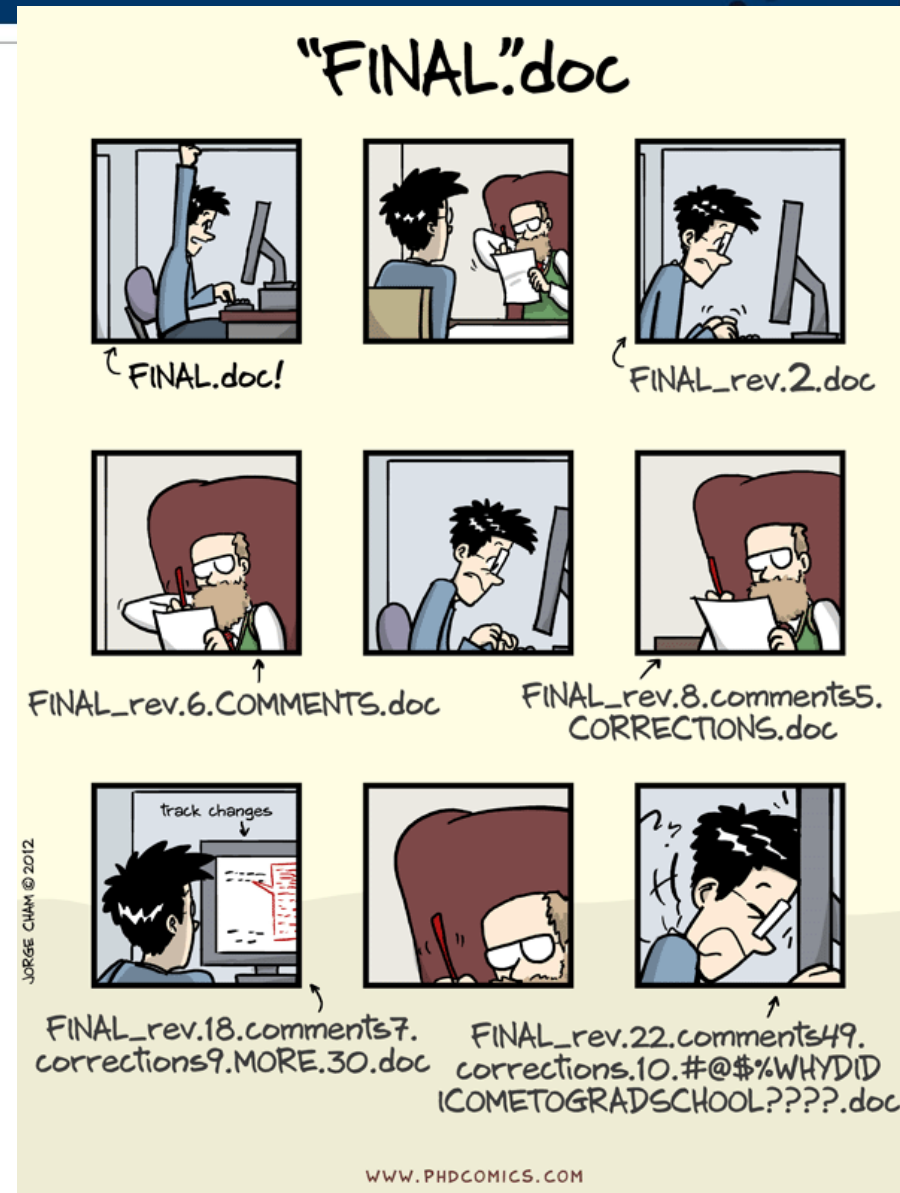


# The journey



# How will I feel while writing a paper?

- Excited, mad
- Nervous, hurt
- Worried, offended
- Frustrated (will this ever end?)
- Ethics of data analysis
- Stay:
  - Open-minded
  - Write as soon as possible
  - Focussed, don't waste time



# Post-PhD Publishing Tips

- Forge relationships with the best researchers in your field for strong, collaborative papers
- Sometimes a joint paper can be leverage for collaboration (cost of skin cancer in South Africa)
- Excellence is key!

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