"GETTING PUBLISHED—ADVICE FROM EDITORS"

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The secret to publishing…

- First, write a great paper
- Second, sit back and relax while editors vie to publish it

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- A publishable paper has to:
  - Address an interesting or important question
  - Make progress towards an answer

- "You don't have to hit a home run"
  - Aim for singles, hone your skills, build an area of expertise
  - Present your work, get to know other scholars in your area, and get feedback on your work

Make it easy for the reader to figure out the most important things about your paper

- ☐ What is your research question?
  - ☐ Don't bury it or make it too opaque to figure out

- ☐ Why is this an important/interesting paper?
  - ☐ What is the contribution to the literature?
  - ☐ What is the importance for policy?

- ☐ What do you conclude?

What to do when you get a decision

- If you get a revise and resubmit
  - Resubmit in a timely manner
  - Address every comment by the editor and referees
    - It is ok to disagree
    - Make it easy for the editor and referees to evaluate the new version
  - You can ask the editor for clarification/direction

- If your paper is rejected
  - Fight or flight?
    - Wait a day before doing anything
  - Think carefully about the referee reports & letter from the editor
    - You may get the same referees again
    - But you shouldn't treat these reports as a to-do list.
  - Submit the paper to another journal soon.

Common problems that shouldn't be

- Poor writing
  - Don't be too proud to hire an editor and have colleagues and friends read your drafts
  - Read McCloskey's *Economical Writing*
- Sloppiness
  - Multiple mistakes and typos do not inspire confidence that the empirical work was done well or that a revision would be good.
- Irrelevant tangents
  - Everything in the paper should relate in a clear way to the point of the paper.
  - Models (in an empirical paper) need to have a payoff