

HOW TO THINK ABOUT PUBLISHING

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COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES

1. WHY PUBLISH?

2. COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES

3. PUBLISHING ADVICE

WHY PUBLISH?

WHY PUBLISH?

In job market it is increasingly difficult to get hired without publications...

... because many funding decisions are now made with direct reference to 'academic productivity'.

Also you want people to know what you are up to AND that you can complete it and are not a perfectionist.

The review process is the only time much of your work will ever get really meaningful feedback.

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WHERE TO AIM?

Tricky question. Top tier journals have acceptance rates of sub-10%. So your chances are low but the rewards are high.

You also have the dilemma that submission is a serial not parallel process - you have to wait for the review process to end at a journal before next one.

In general, you want publications at venues that top scholars would 'feel good' about publishing in, even if they are not the very best. So look at your advisor's CV!

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GENERAL JOURNALS

Journal rankings vary: ISI vs Google Scholar.
Hanretty's REF quasi-GPA.

Best general journals: APSR, AJPS, JOP, BJPS
Decent general journals: EJPR, PRQ, POP

Best IR journals: IO, WP, ISQ, EJIR

Best CP journals: CPS, CP, WP

Best PT journals: JPP, PPA, PT

Best Methods journals: PA, PSRM, QJPS

BUT WHAT ABOUT..?

Many people will argue there are journals I should have mentioned last slide. There are...

Some are regional in nature: China Quarterly, JCMS, LARR, EEPS, African Affairs.

Some are more theme specific: SER, Politics and Society, International Theory, Law and Society Review, Electoral Studies

Helpful to think of these as great 'second-tier' journals - they are good for your CV but best to have top as well.

BUT I'M A GRAD STUDENT!!!

Quite right

Publishing in top tier journals is very very difficult (sub 10% acceptance rates).

Publishing in good journals (last slide) is difficult (sub 25% acceptance rate).

That is *WHY* it is a good signal!

But you should not be disheartened if it doesn't work out

QUALITY VS. QUANTITY

Some academic systems over-emphasize quantity (Holland), others potentially over-play a 'great book' (USA?).

In an ideal world you would want both! But think of this- how many 'great' ideas can you associate with any one scholar. Rarely more than 2.

Implication: quantity may be rather pointless. But sustained very high quality is extremely difficult.

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COMPARATIVE
POLITICAL STUDIES

CPS

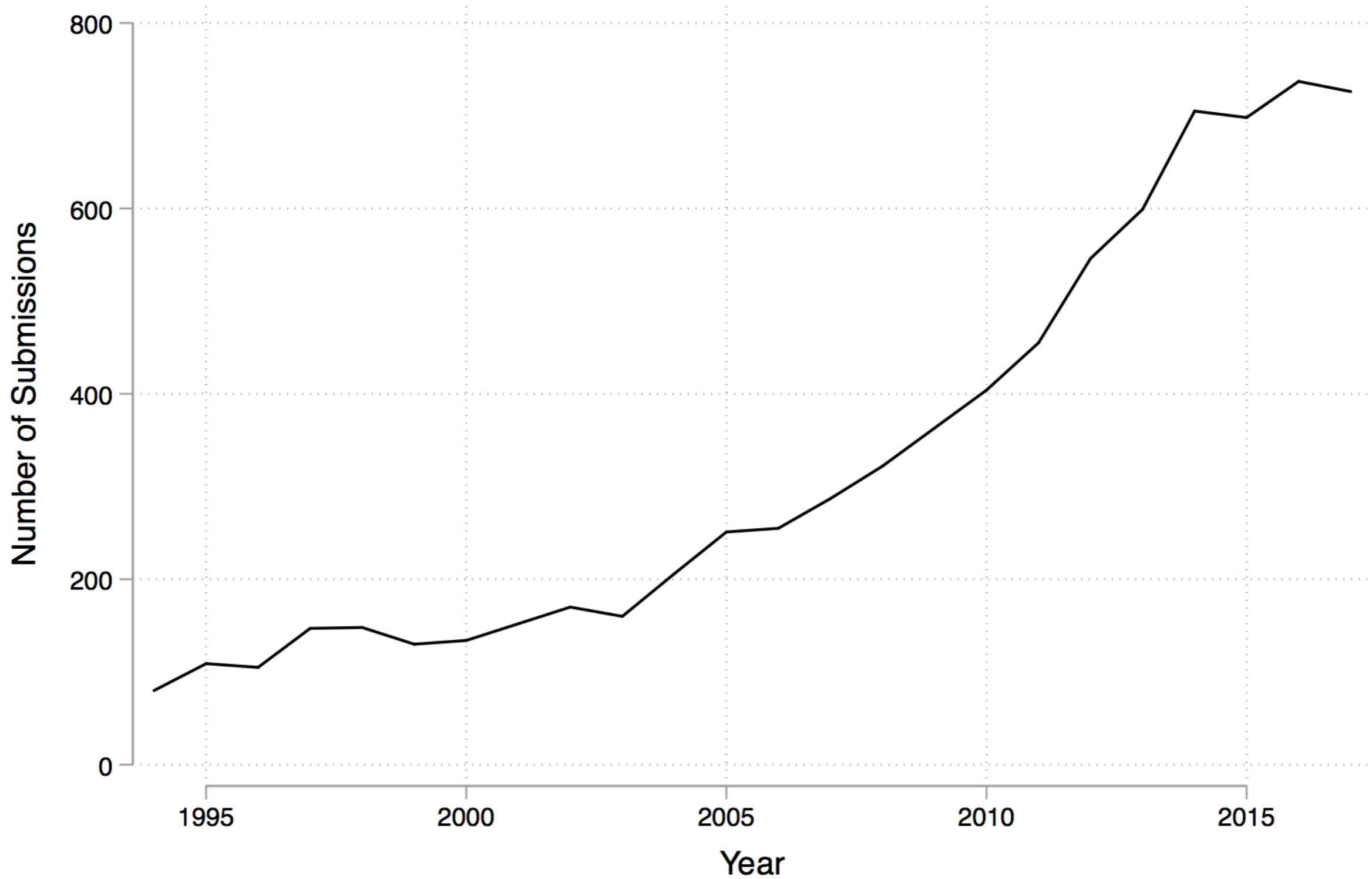
Comparative Political Studies is a major comparative politics 'subfield' journal.

Founded in the 1970s by SAGE publications - initially ran by two secretaries as side-job before Jim Caporaso took over.

Jim ran the journal for over three decades before David Samuels and I took over in 2013

(Unfair?) Reputation as 'normal science' journal

OVER TIME



Year	Total Received	Rejected		R&R / Accepted	
	#	#	%	#	%
2017	726	659	90.6	71	9.7
2016	737	672	91.2	65	8.8
2015	698	607	86.9	91	13
2014	705	638	90.5	67	9.5
2013	599	550	92.4	45	7.6
2012	546	487	89	35	6.0
2011	455	387	84	54	12
2010	404	346	86	56	14
2009	363	298	82	48	13
2008	322	247	77	68	21
2007	287	217	76	55	19
2006	255	199	78	50	20
2005	251	180	72	62	25
2004	206	164	80	38	18
2003	160	96	60	27	17
2002	170	90	53	34	20
2000	134	97	72	36	27
1999	130	100	77	30	23
1998	148	125	84	22	15
1997	147	102	69	40	27
1996	105	77	73	27	26
1995	109	83	76	25	23
1994	80	66	83	14	18

Table 1: Outcome of 2017 Submissions by Manuscript Type

Panel A. Single Country									
	Desk Reject		Review & Reject		R&R/ Accept		#	Totals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%		all submissions	all accepts
Quant	106	47.5	87	39	30	13.5	223	30.7	44.7
Qual	49	73.1	16	23.9	1	3	66	9.1	1.5
Mixed	6	30	9	45	4	25	19	2.6	6.0
Panel B. Multiple Country									
	Desk Reject		Review & Reject		R&R/ Accept		#	Totals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%		all submissions	all accepts
Quant	146	44.9	153	47.1	25	8	324	44.6	37.3
Qual	41	67.2	15	24.6	5	8.2	61	8.4	7.5
Mixed	7	31.8	12	54.6	2	13.6	21	2.9	3.0
Panel C. Other and Totals									
	Desk Reject		Review & Reject		R&R/ Accept		#	Totals	
	#	%	#	%	#	%		all submissions	all accepts
Other	5	62.5	3	37.5	0	0	8	1.1	0
Total	360	49.6	295	40.6	67	9.2	722	99.4	100

SENIORITY

	Desk Reject	Review & Reject	R&R/ Accept	Totals	
First Author	#	#	#	#	%
Grad Student	86	78	8	172	23.7
Postdoc	22	26	4	52	7.1
Assistant Prof.	74	89	23	186	25.6
Tenured Prof.	99	82	28	209	28.8
Other	79	20	4	103	14.2
Total	360	295	67	722	99.4

	Share of all Accepts	Share of all Rejects	R&R/Accept by Category
First Author	%	%	%
Grad Student	11.9	25.0	4.7
Postdoc	6.0	7.3	7.7
Assistant Prof.	34.3	25.0	12.4
Tenured Prof.	41.8	27.6	13.4
Other	6.0	15.1	3.9
Total	100	100	-

ORIGIN

Panel B. Summary of Outcomes

Country Origin	Share of all Submits %	Share of all R&R/Accepts %	R&R/Accept Rate by Country %
Canada	2.6	1.5	5.3
China	2.6	1.5	5.3
Denmark	1.9	4.5	21.4
Germany	7.0	5.9	7.8
Israel	1.7	1.5	8.3
Italy	1.9	1.5	7.1
Netherlands	1.9	1.5	7.1
Norway	1.9	1.5	7.1
Spain	2.1	0	0
Sweden	3.2	4.5	13.0
Switzerland	1.8	1.5	7.7
Turkey	1.5	3.0	18.2
UK	10.6	13.4	11.7
USA	39.5	52.2	12.2
Other	19.2	6.0	2.9
Total	99.4	100	-

GENDER

	Desk Reject	Review and Reject	R&R/Accept	Total
	(%)	(%)	(%)	(%)
Solo male	139 (56.5)	89 (36.2)	18 (7.3)	246 (100)
Solo female	58 (51.3)	42 (37.2)	13 (11.5)	113 (100)
Male only team	89 (48.1)	83 (44.9)	13 (7.0)	185 (100)
At least one female	76 (41.5)	80 (43.7)	27 (14.8)	183 (100)

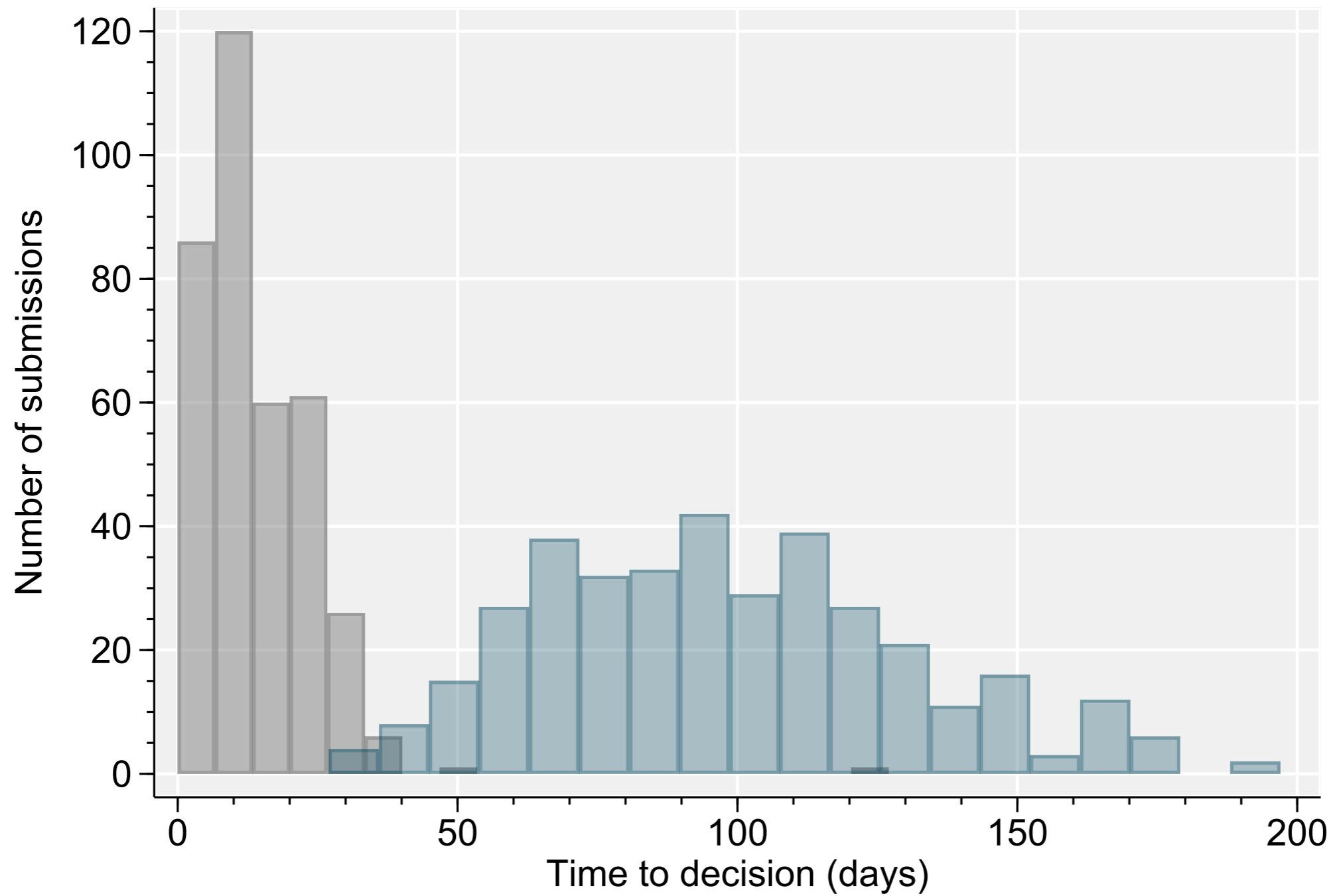
TIMINGS

Desk-reject normally occurs within ten days

Average time to decision for reviewed pieces is 82 days with a range from 26 to 168 days.

Reviewers take an average of 31 days with a standard deviation of 18 days

On average to get three reviews we need to ask six potential reviewers (max 16!).



Internal review External review

EDITORIAL PROCESS

- (a) Editors decide whether to review (desk reject)
- (b) Editors choose reviewers
- (c) Reviewers take 2 to x months to get back
- (d) Editors adjudicate among reviewers and reject...
- (e) ... or ask for 'revise and resubmit' (R&R) - you revise.
- (f) Revision goes back to reviewers for final check.
- (g) You get rejected (argh!) or conditional accept.

All done through MANUSCRIPT CENTRAL

PUBLISHING ADVICE

WHAT WORKS

Clear argument from abstract onwards.

A coherent and generalizable theory (as distinct from hypotheses)

If relevant, empirics that clearly 'test' observable implications of theory. Neatly and professionally presented and sourced. Justify what you are doing and why.

Literature review that acknowledges existing debate but does not devolve into listing.

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WHAT DOESN'T

Messiness - in writing, citing, tables, and figures.

Stuffing too much in (but on the other hand...)

Theories that are just lists of relevant variables

Empirics that do not display much original effort
(e.g. I just downloaded two datasets / read a book
on country x)

Grandiose (normative) claims.

DA-RT

A controversial but expanding new requirement is 'Data Access and Research Transparency'

What this means for quantitative work is uploading data and replication files (e.g. .dta and .do files). So make sure to keep your work clean and easy to access.

For qualitative work this is FAR less clear and most journals that publish it are not signing DA-RT since no best practice has been established. Still, keep close watch of (a) citations and page #s, (b) interview notes and info about 'sampling' of interviewees, (c) take digital images of archives if allowed.

REJECTION

Rejection is inevitable but knowing that doesn't really help. People say 'don't take it personally'. But it IS personal!!!

So you should be angry and annoyed - at both the reviewers and yourself.

But then at some point you need to calm down / cheer up and think about whether to fish or cut bait.

Very helpful to send your bad reviews to other people to look at - they can provide a friendly but dispassionate view of 'what to do next'. Do not be embarrassed by your reviews.

REVIEWERS ARE TROLLS

As an editor a big difficulty I have is with reviewers being too harsh with authors. Anonymity does not always bring out the best in people.

Reviewers also often have suggestions that are orthogonal or contradictory to other reviewers. Annoying if you are rejected. Even more if you are not!

The danger is that you develop a new 'Frankenstein's Monster' paper.

Don't be a troll.

CO-AUTHORS

Co-authoring is a good way for you to outsource decision-making to others! Force you to submit.

Advantage: specialization in some cases; fun to keep working because of social aspect. Helps create *esprit de corps* vs reviewers.

Disadvantage: get caught by weakest link; can end up souring relationships; people can't identify your unique contribution as scholar.

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CITATIONS

If you do get published, what next? People's views of your paper will begin by where it was published but ultimately asymptote to its # of citations.

To get well cited you need to network. Citations can take a long time to build up.

Also helpful to enter into a debate - people will notice and cite your work when it addresses and takes on existing important work.

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GOOGLE SCHOLAR

As you develop professionally you might wish to (should?) have a Google Scholar profile.

Here's mine.

It will give you a sense of who is citing you and when.

Look at other people's Google Scholar pages to get a sense of what has been influential and the historical pattern of citation.