

# **A quick introduction to *Regional Studies* and publishing**

## **Roundtable on Publishing**

### **David Bailey**

*16th HRSA Conference,  
John von Neumann University,  
Kecskemét, October 2018*



# Today

- 1 Regional Studies
- 2 Starting publishing
- 3 Impact in publishing
- 4 Blogging
- 5 Social media – e.g. using twitter

# 1. Regional Studies

2017 2-Yr Impact Factor:

**3.147**

2017 5-Yr Impact Factor:

**3.504**

Ranking:

- A/A\* in several national rankings
- Strong 3\* ABS ranking
- 13/84 (Geography)
- 26/108 (Env Studies)
- 36/355 (Economics)

Very high level of  
downloads



- *Regional Studies* covers the development of theories and concepts, empirical analysis and policy debate in the field of regional studies.
- Papers must make a substantive contribution to scholarly debates, be **sub-national** in focus, conceptually well-informed, empirically grounded and methodologically sound.

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- Main Papers
- Policy Debates
- Urban and Regional Horizons
- Book Reviews
- Special Issues

# RS: Main Papers

- Original research spanning economic, business, social, geographical, political and environmental dimensions of urban and regional (subnational) change.
- Distinctive purpose: to connect insights across intellectual disciplines in a systematic and grounded way to understand how and why regions and cities evolve.
- Publishes research that distils how economic and political processes and outcomes are contingent upon regional and local circumstances.
- Pluralist forum, showcasing diverse perspectives and analytical techniques.

# Essential Criteria

- Papers *make a substantive contribution* to scholarly debates, are sub-national in focus, conceptually well-informed, empirically grounded and methodologically sound.
- Submissions are also *expected to engage with wider debates* that advance the field of regional studies and are of interest to readers of the journal.

# RS: Policy Debates

- Fully refereed. Interdisciplinary forum for analysis of policy and practice issues in regional, local and urban development.
- Engages academic and practitioner communities by exploring the interface between academic debates and policy design, implementation and results.
- Case studies of 'successful' policies & critiques of less successful ones welcome, as are broader analyses of major strands of contemporary policy thinking.
- *BUT authors should draw out the wider significance of their contribution to policy debates and development.*



# RS: Policy Debates

- Aimed at international audience & given interdisciplinary nature (business, economics, public policy, economic geography, planning...) authors should write in a *clear accessible style that is analytical, but not overly theoretical*.
- Contributors are invited to discuss their ideas with Policy Debates section editor, Lisa De Propriis [l.depropris@bham.ac.uk](mailto:l.depropris@bham.ac.uk)

# RS: Urban and Regional Horizons

*Agenda-setting papers* - seek to stimulate new thinking and develop novel approaches to address issues of profound significance to our changing world.

Papers reflect past theoretical and empirical research before identifying fruitful new fields of enquiry and conceptual/methodological approaches.

Papers are expected to be ambitious and challenging while being accessible to a broad audience.

Potential contributors are encouraged to discuss their ideas with Urban and Regional Horizons section editor, John Harrison: [j.harrison4@lboro.ac.uk](mailto:j.harrison4@lboro.ac.uk)

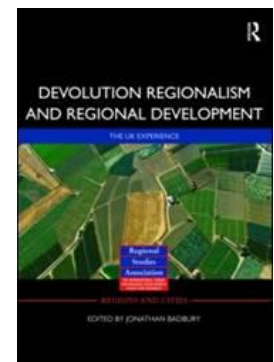
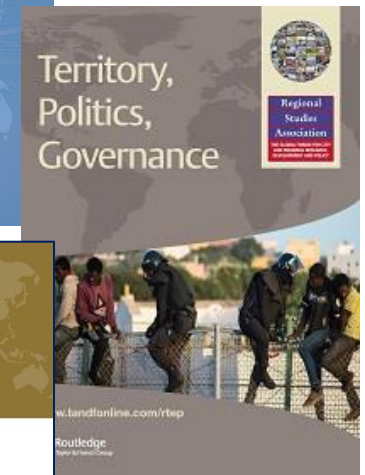
# Regional Studies



# Recent Special Issues

- Working Regions – June 2018
- Knowledge Flows, Externalities and Innovation Networks - August 2017 Vol 51 Issue 8
- Universities, Knowledge and Regional Development - July 2017 Vol 51 Issue 7
- Theme issue: European Cohesion Policy in context - June 2017 Vol 51 Issue 6
- Leadership in City and Regional Development - February 2017 Vol 51 Issue 2
- 50th Anniversary Special Issue - January 2017 Vol 51 Issue 1

# *Regional Studies Association journals*



## **2. Starting Publishing**

# Writing your paper

**30% of authors write for a specific journal  
70% write then ask, where shall I publish?**

**Think about being in the 30%**



# Which journal to submit to?

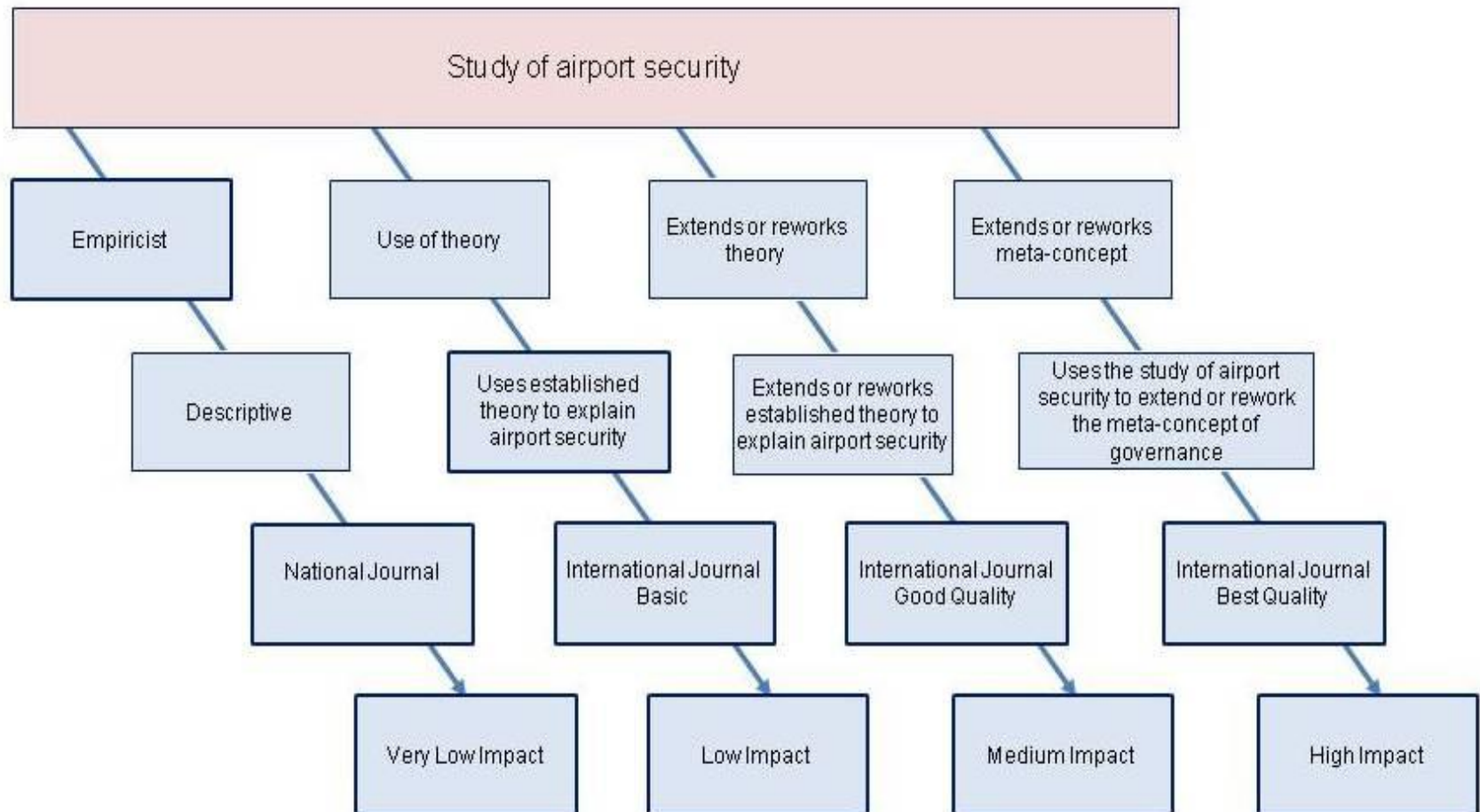
- Does your research fit the journal's aims and scope?
- What type of submission is it? Empirical research, review paper, brief report, thought piece, book review, policy paper. Does the journal publish these kinds of papers?
- Does the journal have a good reputation in the field? Are the Editor and Editorial Board high profile?
- Check the references to see in which journals the research you are citing mainly falls.
- Is it ISI ranked or ranked highly with other metrics, eg h-index, ABS...
- Does your institution have any restrictions on where you can submit articles?

# Starting Publishing

- <https://www.timeshighereducation.com/blog/how-get-your-first-academic-paper-published> Kevin O’Gorman:
- It’s too long...
- Don’t be offended
- Other people know more than you (about publishing)
- Agree the order of authorship
- Clearly articulate your contribution
- Be disciplined and clear in your method
- Know the journal
- Consider the reviewers
- Watch the deadlines
- A rejection is often the first step to an acceptance



# What makes a high impact article? (Rob Kitchen)



Academic Quality, Wider Readership and Impact runs from left to right

# Outputs: Appreciating originality, significance and rigour

## Originality

- Innovative?
- New and/or complex problems?
- Innovative research methods, methods?
- New empirical evidence?
- Advances theory, policy or practice?

**A primary, essential point of reference in field ?**

## Significance

- Develops the intellectual agenda?
- Theoretical, methodological and/or substantive?
- Actual significance?

**A major influence on the intellectual agenda ?**

## Rigour

- Robust, appropriate concepts, analysis, theories and methodologies?
- Coherence, integrity, consistent arguments, ethical issues?

**Exceptionally rigorous in design, techniques of investigation and intellectual precision ?**

# 3 Helping your article gain visibility: some 'quick wins'

## BE DISCOVERABLE

- TITLE
- ABSTRACT
- KEYWORDS
- AUTHOR E-PRINTS (usually 50 copies)
- EMAIL SIGNATURE
- VIDEO ABSTRACT (Video or Vanish?)

A black and white cartoon illustration of a man with a large, bulbous nose and a receding hairline, sitting at a desk. He is looking at a computer monitor with a questioning expression. A thought bubble above him contains the text "To blog or not to blog THAT IS THE QUESTION." The man is wearing a patterned shirt and has a mug on the desk in front of him. The background is a simple white arc against a black background.

To blog or not to blog  
THAT IS THE QUESTION.

## 4 Blogging made easy ([Patrick Dunleavy](#)) 1

1. Journal article: 8,000-10,000 words long. Blog: 1000 words.
2. Cut the methodology section. Sum up in intuitive terms then link to the article, using an open access version if possible.
3. Get rid of the literature review.
4. Write a heading that gives your essential message. Try to tell readers very clearly and simply what you found out.
5. Include a 'trailer' paragraph that spells out in no more than 3 or 4 lines, why the post is interesting and gives another take on what the key message is.
6. Take the key findings and arguments out of your journal article so as to form the main (or body) text of the blog post. 'Cut to the chase'.

## 4 Blogging made easy (Patrick Dunleavy) 2

7. 'Exhibits'. Good to include ; no more than 2 or 3. Key test: What do readers really need to know?

8. Level, style and tone. Don't assume that readers know what you mean without explanation. Write shorter paragraphs than in a journal — say 150 words. Put references in hyperlinks.

9. Try to finish in a decisive and interesting fashion: leave a good lasting impression with readers.

Below the post, give the title of your long article and a clear link to it, ideally a hyperlink to an open access, full text version.

11. Lastly, include a few (4–5) lines about yourself.

# 5 Some tips on using twitter

- 1. Brand yourself
  - 2. Find others in your field and see who they follow
  - 3. start discussions with the people you connect with
  - 4. use hashtags, e.g. at conferences
  - 5. Use twitter for 'real' networking as well
  - 6. Think about how to use twitter in interactions with colleagues – keep the conversation going
- (for more on this see this RSA [blog](#)).

Thanks for listening.  
Over to the Roundtable...  
[d.bailey@aston.ac.uk](mailto:d.bailey@aston.ac.uk)