

## **Advice on Structuring Articles for Publication**

**Christine E. Bose (SUNY-Albany, Past-Editor Gender & Society)**

### **[1] What are the elements that make a paper publishable in a top-tier feminist journal?**

-Most important is to advance theory in the area--although our research reports are intended to be primarily empirical advances, the major articles should advance theory via their research.

### **[2] How can an author be sure that the journal is a good fit for her/his paper?**

--By looking at previously published work in the journal--if you are following similar themes, and especially if the articles you are citing also come from G&S.

--This is not the only way, but it is one good way.

### **[3] How can an author be sure the paper is ready to be submitted to a journal?**

[a] Have friends/colleagues read it: If they need clarification on some points, or don't understand your primary points--fix it!

[b] If you think the paper has weaknesses that you hope no one notices--readers will notice them too. Be sure to fix those weaknesses, or if not fixable, explain why your approach is still the best.

### **[4] How should the paper be organized? What kind of frameworks or approaches are most successful? Here is a set of paragraphs I used to send to people on this subject----**

#### **The Structure of a Good Research Article:**

Published research in Gender & Society follows a U.S.-based journal model, rather than the more narrative approach commonly found in European journals. Our manuscripts are 30 pages, including double-spaced texts, quotes, endnotes, references, and tables (in that order).

#### **Research Article Format**

Christine E. Bose, Past-Editor Gender & Society (2000-2003)

A paper should be organized so that it begins with a 1.5 to two-page introduction that outlines your research question, its importance, and how your work extends or fills a gap in feminist research. Next is a 3 to 5 page literature review that addresses previous relevant theoretical and empirical work on your topic. Describe how your work will extend this literature, theorize your concepts, and develop any relevant hypotheses.

An optional next section could be on context, which is useful if the paper is based on analysis of a particular setting or country that readers might not be familiar with.

Next is the data and methods section, which ought to start between pages 7 and 10. This section describes how and when you collected your data, the sample and any key measures, and how the data was analyzed. For qualitative data, it reports what themes emerged from the analytic process and how those themes will

organize the subsequent sections. For quantitative data, it reports how the analysis will unfold (e.g., descriptive statistics and more complex analyses addressing your research questions). In presenting and analyzing the findings, be sure to divide this main heading into thematic subsections. Be sure to use quotes or other data to support your arguments. Finally, create a conclusions section that returns to the literature and elaborates on how your findings/analyses have extended, filled a gap, or contradicted previous research and theory.

**[5] How should an author respond to a request for a "revise and resubmit"?**

Don't respond immediately. Put it away and think about it, before you freak out.

If you think the editor has incorrect comments--show the article and comments to trusted colleagues.

In general, reviewers usually see the same problems in an article. So, you should try to address those problems and resubmit within 3 months if you can.

If you think another journal might be better for this article, still address reviewer concerns in one way or another. Chances are you will get some of the same reviewers at another journal.

**[6] What should an author do with a paper that is rejected?**

**Depends on why it's rejected.**

[a] Consider if this journal is the wrong venue for your article, and find another journal that might fit better.

[b] Take the reviewer comments to heart; make revisions; send it out to another journal.

If the journal says your paper is very underdeveloped, talk to colleagues about the type of development it might need.

**[7] What are the basic timelines for publishing a piece?**

Depends on the journal, and Dana can give you the current ones. I would say, you should get a response in 3 months for G&S, but no more than 6 months at any journal. If not, write the journal office and inquire if there is a delay.

The revise and resubmit, or revise and submit elsewhere--allow another 3 months for this process.

Once article is accepted, time to publication will vary with journal. This is usually published info.