

Preparing to Publish (GSIC panel)  
Sharada S. Price (University of Iowa), organiser

For several years the Graduate Student Issues Committee (GSIC) has organized a professional interest panel for the annual CAMWS meeting and this year's proposed topic is "preparing to publish." We have chosen to revisit this issue which was addressed at the St. Louis meeting with a new set of speakers so that a new group of graduate students and recent PhD graduates can benefit from the knowledge and experience both of the scholars who write articles and books and the editors who review them.

Many students have heard the phrase "publish or perish" but have no idea where to start. Our panel will deal with questions which may arise in the course of publishing, but it will also attempt to prepare students at any stage for what will be expected of them in the course of their careers. Examples of the questions addressed in our panel include, why publish as a graduate student? What is the current state of scholarly work in the field of Classics? What sorts of publications should one consider? How does one turn a seminar paper or CAMWS lecture into an article? What happens after one submits a piece to a journal? How does one take a dissertation and make it publishable? Where does one go after the dissertation has been published as a book or a series of articles? What can one do now to prepare for the future (getting a job, getting tenure, etc.)? Our panelists will deal with these and other questions from both the scholar's and the editor's point of view, sharing their own experiences and tricks of the trade

Publishing Journal Articles in Classics: An Editor's Practical Perspective  
S. Douglas Olson (University of Minnesota)

Very few academic careers in Classics begin with the appearance of a book. Instead, most of us publish first—and many of us continue to publish primarily—in refereed journals. Having manuscripts rejected is a normal part of the journal-publication process, even for senior scholars, and is often a good thing (although it rarely seems so at the time). There are nonetheless ways of improving the odds that the material one submits to a journal will be accepted, and of making the process of academic publication generally as painless and productive as possible. This paper will offer hard-headed, practical advice, from the perspective of the editor of a major Classics journal and oriented primarily toward individuals near the beginning of their careers, on topics such as:

- What sort of manuscripts should you submit to a journal, and at what stage in your career?
- What does it take to transform (e.g.) a successful seminar paper or CAMWS presentation into a publishable note or article?
- How should a manuscript be prepared and the submission process itself be handled?
- What actually happens to your manuscript after it is submitted?
- How can you respond most effectively to referees' reports and editors' comments?
- What comes next after acceptance—or rejection?

Publication and You: Thinking Strategically about Publishing  
Samuel J. Huskey (University of Oklahoma)

Thinking strategically about publishing ought to begin in graduate school, not on your first day as an assistant professor when the tenure clock is already ticking. Of course, taking exams, writing seminar papers, teaching, and the other charms of life as a graduate student leave little time for developing a publication strategy, but it would be time well spent, especially for those who want to find a tenure-track job at a research institution. Thinking beyond the seminar paper or thesis will help graduate students begin to make the transition to being professional scholars, and that will pay off when search committees notice how confidently a candidate answers questions about plans for publication. This paper will guide graduate students to think about developing a strategy for publishing their work.

The development of a strategic plan for publication begins with exploring the outlets for scholarship, so part of this paper will survey the kinds of publications that exist (e.g., monographs, edited volumes, journals, etc.). It will also provide some pointers on identifying an appropriate venue for a particular project. Finally, it will devote the most time to the *sine qua non* of strategic thinking on this topic: synchronizing the timeline for publication with the timeline for tenure.

Beyond the handout that will accompany this paper, no special technology will be required.

Turning a Seminar Paper or CAMWS Talk into a Publishable Paper.

Barbara Weiden Boyd (Bowdoin College)

*Scenario 1: You think your seminar paper is pretty good, and you've just received an A on it; in fact, your professor—a well-known scholar in the field—has just encouraged you to publish it as is.*

*Scenario 2: You've just given a 15-minute talk at CAMWS on a small but interesting detail of a larger project you're working on. You've received many compliments on your paper, and the editor of CJ or Helios has encouraged you to submit it after you've had a chance to revise it.*

Chances are good that each of you has experienced at least one of these scenarios if you've been in graduate school recently. The encouragement is great after all that hard work, and of course it is well-deserved. But what does it mean, exactly? Should you really submit something “as is,” as your distinguished professor suggests? If you know you should revise—or if the *CJ* editor has used that word in his recommendation to you—what exactly does that mean?

In this talk, I will try to guide you through the Scylla and Charybdis of not revising at all vs. revising endlessly, drawing on my own experience as both hopeful submitter of my own articles and judicious referee of many others' work. I will also address what is perhaps the most challenging part of the entire process, i.e., reading readers' reports without abandoning ship entirely. It can be done, and you can even learn a lot in the process, as long as you know what to expect.

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Dissertation to Book: Entering a Conversation  
Basil J. Dufallo (University of Michigan)

This paper will offer a series of suggestions for transforming a dissertation into a book, together with some anecdotes from my own, necessarily idiosyncratic, experience of the process. I'll begin by discussing the differences between the two forms, then turn to specific tips for making a book attractive to a wider audience, and conclude with practical advice about selecting and contacting publishers, responding to readers' reports, and the various stages of production. I will stress the following general points: 1) Dissertation and book are different genres; dissertations, for example, often have a relatively narrow focus and establish credentials through survey while books must be more reader-friendly, appealing to an audience much larger than your doctoral committee. 2) Giving papers drawn from the dissertation can be a very good idea, as can publishing sections in article form. Use these venues strategically to help you through the project. 3) Be savvy and self-supportive as you contact publishers. Aim high, have material ready to go, and, depending on your circumstances, don't be afraid to inquire about multiple readings. 4) Great readers' reports are great, but try to look upon critical readings as part of your entry into a larger intellectual conversation rather than rebukes. In most cases, they are genuine efforts to help you say what you want to say better. 5) Balance your idealism for the project with the realities of your situation. Stick to publication schedules and take your editor's advice. The professional and personal benefits of a published book are considerable: think of your first book as a stepping-stone to future research.

After your dissertation: Your five-year publication plan  
Craig A. Gibson (University of Iowa)

In this paper I will present some tips and strategies for the new Ph.D. with the shortest publication clock: the one who has landed a tenure-track position right out of graduate school. My main points are these: (1) It is possible to get something done every day on your research. (2) Writing groups, even virtual ones, can be a great way to get work done and maintain your enthusiasm for it. (3) Now is the time to publish your best graduate seminar papers. (4) Have at least two research projects actively underway at all times. (5) Publish, but only in peer-reviewed venues. (6) Now is the time to cultivate a network of referees.

I will close with some additional pointers specific to scholars in other employment situations.