



PhD Course

“How to publish in A-Journals”

Block course:

Tue 22 Apr 2025 (11h00-12h00), online via Zoom

Tue 29 Apr 2025 (10h00-16h00), MO18, r0005.1

Tue 20 May 2025 (10h00-16h00), MO18, r0005.1

Tue 24 June 2025 (10h00-16h00), MO18, r0005.1

Course Instructor: [Prof. Dr. Jan Recker](#)

Course Value: 5 credit points (2 SWS)

Course Language: English

Software: None required.

Course Objectives:

Publishing your research in so-called “A-journals” is tough. Designing and conducting an original study with a good idea is not enough, you also need to publish your findings to be successful as a researcher.

The goal of this PhD course is to develop your academic publishing skills and learn how to write good research articles such that they meet requirements of “A-journals” in terms of theoretical contributions, problematization, methodological rigor, and interestingness. Your learning objective is to develop your skills in appreciating, critiquing, and composing research articles in business and management disciplines. The course will allow you to improve your skills in publishing your current and future research findings in top-level scientific journals. Three main topics will be covered:

- How publishing works and what significant contributions are
- Building a manuscript and writing a powerful introduction
- Handling reviews and building revision strategies.

The PhD course is taught in a seminar style where we present, discuss, and critique seminal guidelines, apply what we have learned to improve and extend our own publishing skills, and work together to reach a deeper understanding of academic publishing practice.

Prerequisites/Literature:

You should have completed methodology courses relevant to your study so you can now focus on writing, not design and execution of the study. You should also have made some progress in your own research project, so you have something to write about.

Registration: Please register via STiNE.

- Registration deadline is **15 April 2025**.

- For all organizational matters please contact jan.christof.recker@uni-hamburg.de.
- Places will be allocated in order of received registrations.

Assessment/Student evaluation:

- (1) Paper presentation (20%)
- (2) Revision strategy (30%)
- (3) Term paper (50%),

Course grade will be pass/fail.

(1) Paper presentation (due in one of the sessions): You will be assigned a seminal paper that you need to review, synthesize, and present upon in class. You should be prepared to summarize the paper and to act as a provocative “conversation starter,” which interprets and inspects the assigned reading based on your own experience and personal insights. Your goal should not be to present slides but to start a lively discussion. For example, you could raise interesting questions, take a particular side in an argument, disagree with some argument(s), or otherwise spark a debate. The presentation is meant to be an opportunity to learn about publishing but also to formulate new insights and emerging ideas.

(2) Revision strategy (due prior to the last session on 24 June 2025): You will need to analyze the review reports of a paper submitted to a top tier journal and craft a revision strategy. The manuscript and review reports will be provided to you. You need to prepare 2 slides. The first slide must summarize your learnings from the reports. The second slide should outline the revision strategy you would propose if you were the author. You must be prepared to present your revision strategy in class. You need to address the following questions: - What is the tonality of the reviews? - How do you weigh the reviews relative to each other? - What are the main issues? - Are they consistent across reviewers? - What are your options for addressing the critical issues? - How would you design the revision?

(3) Term paper (due after the course): You will need to submit a draft paper about a research project of your own choice. The paper need not be complete. The draft paper should, however, at minimum (a) introduce the research problem, (b) clarify the expected theoretical contribution, and (c) position the research project relative to the existing literature. You will receive written feedback on the draft paper. The draft must adhere to the following guidelines: Minimum of 5 and maximum of 15 pages excluding title page, appendices, or references but including tables and figures; 1 inch margin on each side; 12 pt Times New Roman; double-spaced.

Course Content and Schedule:

22 April 2025, 11h00 – 12h00, Venue: via Zoom

In this brief session, we will get to know each other, discuss the organization and conduct of the course, and set out course expectations. No preparation is necessary.

Session 2: How publishing works and what significant contributions are

29 April 2025, 10h00 – 16h00, venue: Room 0005.1, Moorweidenstr. 18

Readings: will be finalized and made available in advance

Session 3: Building a manuscript and writing a powerful introduction

20 May 2025, 10h00 – 16h00, venue: Room 0005.1, Moorweidenstr. 18

Readings: will be finalized and made available in advance

Session 4: Handling reviews and building revision strategies

24 June 2025, 10h00-16h00, venue: Room 0005.1, Moorweidenstr. 18

Readings: will be finalized and made available in advance.