

Workshop: Navigating the World of Journal Publishing for Human Rights Researchers

9 March 2023, 9:30-17:45, Oude Abdij Kortenberg

Content

Early career researchers who undertake research in human rights often find it difficult to understand the interdisciplinary publishing landscape, prepare manuscripts for publication with diverging audiences in mind, select an appropriate journal for their specific research, and develop a future-regarding researcher profile.

This full-day workshop, co-organized by Hasselt University, Ghent University, University of Antwerp and VUB, aims to provide researchers in human rights with the knowledge and skills needed to make the right choices in the face of these challenges, as they develop their knowledge dissemination competences in the multi- and interdisciplinary field of human rights.

The workshop is open to PhD candidates and postdoctoral researchers in human rights, at all stages of their academic career. The interactive workshop will be guided by an expert trainer, prof. dr. John Harrington (Cardiff University; bio below). Peer learning will play an important role during the workshop. Participation therefore presupposes active preparation in advance of the workshop as well as active sharing of insights and experiences during the workshop.

During the hands-on session of the workshop (see programme below), in particular, participants will work with their own papers to apply knowledge and skills acquired during the workshop. Participants are thus required to share a piece of their own work prior to the workshop. The chosen piece can correspond to the stage of the participant's academic career. It can be a published journal article, a draft paper, a PhD chapter that may later be published as a journal article or a published blog post (maximum length is 10,000 words, incl. footnotes). Submitted pieces of work will form the basis of small-group discussions during the hands-on session. Each participant will also be required to read the work of at least two other participants in advance and give feedback in discussion circles during the workshop.

Expert trainer

The workshop will be guided by prof. dr. John Harrington, Professor of Global Health Law at Cardiff University, Chair of the Socio-Legal Studies Association UK, Director of the ESRC Wales Doctoral Training Partnership, Founding Director of Cardiff Law and Global Justice Research Centre, and a member of the Editorial Committee of the *Journal of Law and Society*. He has extensive experience publishing (as author, editor and reviewer) in legal, socio-legal and other journals (e.g., in anthropology, public health, African studies, and political science), as well as giving workshops to early career researchers on how to navigate various publication venues for research output, on writing tips and on

publication strategies. He co-organizes and delivers the British Academy-funded Global South Writing Workshops series, supported by the *Journal of Law and Society, Social and Legal Studies*, the *Modern Law Review*, and the *American Journal of Legal History* with events in Accra, Nairobi, Delhi and Rio de Janeiro.

Preliminary programme

Time and Title	Details
9:00-9:30	Welcome and introductions
9.30-11:00 Understanding the Publishing Process: Before Publication	How do academic journals function? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Editorial policies • Preparing a manuscript • Dealing effectively with peer review • Editing - Proofreading - Publication
<i>Break</i>	
11:15 - 12:15 Understanding the Publishing Process: After Publication	How to disseminate, once a journal article has been accepted for publication? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equal access to information • Dissemination and marketing of the research • Open Access (Green and Gold Open Access) • Institutional and commercial repositories
<i>Lunch</i>	
13:30 - 15:00 Publishing Strategies	Building an Independent and Future-Proof Researcher Profile in Human Rights <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Finding and selecting the right journals for you • Publishing interdisciplinarily: how to speak to different academic audiences. • Differences in journal articles aimed at legal vs social science journals • Critical evaluation of journal indexes and impact scores • How do journal articles fit in with evolutions in (expected) researcher profiles? Dissemination to lay audiences; ensuring practical impact; DORA; narrative CVs; etc.
<i>Break</i>	
15:15 - 17:15 Hands-on Workshop: Applying Skills Learned	Participants give and receive feedback on work in progress in small discussion circles. These discussion circles are facilitated by the trainer and by the PIs of an interuniversity research project on human rights.
17.15 - 17:45 Closing Plenary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Debate on main findings from discussion circles. • Final tips from the trainer. • Wrap up.

Learning outcomes

After participation in this workshop, you will...

- Have a better understanding of the process of journal publishing in human rights, including challenges and how to best manage them
- Be more skillful at navigating the challenges of interdisciplinary publishing in human rights
- Be able to critically consider questions of dissemination of and access to knowledge
- Be able to create and reassess your own research profile in human rights
- Be more skillful at tailoring your research output in human rights to different (disciplinary) audiences

Competences

An important part of preparing for any further professional step is becoming (more) aware of the competences you have developed and/or want to develop. In the current workshop, the following competences are further developed:

- Academic research competences: publication skills
- Personal effectiveness: autonomy
- Interpersonal competencies: persuasion and oral communication

How to apply

To ensure meaningful interaction during the workshop, the maximum number of participants is very limited. Participants will be selected following a selection procedure.

To be eligible to apply for participation in this workshop, you must:

- be a PhD candidate or postdoctoral researcher, based at a Flemish university;
- undertake research in the field of human rights (preferably in the disciplines of law and/or social sciences);
- not have participated in a similar workshop before.

If you meet the above eligibility criteria, you are welcome to apply by sending your CV and a motivation letter to prof. dr. Stijn Smet (stijn.smet@uhasselt.be) and Marion Sandner (marion.sandner@uhasselt.be) by **6 February 2023**.

In the CV, you should indicate the stage of your academic career (ie. number of years into PhD trajectory or number of years of postdoctoral experience) as well as the amount of experience you have with publishing in the broad sense (overview of journal articles, book chapters, conference papers, blog posts, etc).

In the motivation letter, you are requested to answer four questions in a maximum of 150 words each:

1. Why would you like to participate in this workshop?

2. Which piece of work (published article, draft paper, PhD chapter, published blog post, etc.) do you intend to work with during the hands-on session and why have you chosen this piece of work?
3. What is the theme and focus of your chosen piece of work?
4. What do you hope to gain from attending the workshop?

Selection process

Candidates will be selected for participation on the basis of their compliance with the eligibility criteria and an assessment of their CV and motivation statement. We aim for a diverse workshop composition, in terms of among others disciplines and stages of academic career.

In case of equally meritorious applications, preference will be given to applicants with a background from the Global South.

Timeline for application

- Deadline to submit application: **6 February 2023**.
- Applicants are notified of results by 10 February 2023.
- Deadline to submit own piece of work prior to the workshop (only for successful applicants): 20 February 2023.

Costs and expenses

Successful applicants can participate in the workshop free of charge. Lunch and refreshments during the day will be provided. Travel costs to the venue are not covered by the workshop conveners.

Please cancel your registration at least one week in advance in case you cannot make it (cf. [cancellation & no-show policy](#)).

Practicalities

For whom?

The target group consists of PhD students and postdoctoral researchers in human rights, regardless of stage of academic career. We particularly welcome participants with a background from the Global South. Participants who self-identify as belonging to a minority group and consider this relevant to their participation in this specific workshop, are also strongly encouraged to apply (please indicate as much in your motivation letter under questions 1 or 4).

When?

9 March 2023 - 9:30-17:45.

Where?

[Oude Abdij Kortenberg, Abdijdreef 22](#), 3070 Kortenberg, Belgium.

Participation is in-person only. Online participation is not possible.

Acknowledged as?

DS BSH: category 'research management & communication skills' - course/workshop aimed at developing research (management) skills