

Call for Participation

First International Spring School for Doctoral Students in Human and Social Sciences on Writing & Publication Strategies in International Peer-Reviewed Journals

12th, 13th, 14th-15th April 2023, Rabat – Morocco

Context

Publishing academic research and outputs is a mark of excellence as it contributes not only to the researcher's academic and career paths, but also to the knowledge of a discipline and the reputation of academic institutions. Higher education institutions and research centers, worldwide as well as in the Arab region, are heavily focused on advancing research activity despite the constraints that hinder the development of a scientific research culture. In Africa, in general, and Morocco, in particular, the number of quality-publications of Doctoral students remains relatively low in comparison with those in other regions worldwide, especially in the fields of Social and Human Sciences.

Doctoral students of Social and Human Sciences in Morocco and within the region often struggle to compete on this stage due to several factors, as listed below:

- **Finding the right journal:** students often struggle to find the right journal or conference to submit to: With so many journals and conferences available, it can be difficult for Doctoral students to determine which ones are the best fit for their research.
- **Writing a strong submission:** many Doctoral students struggle with effectively communicating the significance and novelty of their research in a clear and compelling way.
- **Navigating the peer review process:** the peer review process can be challenging to navigate, especially for students who are new to the process. Understanding how to respond to the reviewer comments and revisions can be difficult.
- **Dealing with rejection:** Rejection is a common experience in the publishing process, and it can be difficult for Doctoral students to handle.
- **Staying up-to-date with the latest trends and developments in their field:** Keeping up with the latest research and trends in their field can be a challenge for Doctoral students, especially those who are also juggling other responsibilities.
- **Balancing the demands of publishing with other responsibilities, such as teaching and mentoring:** Publishing can be time-consuming, and it can be difficult for Doctoral students to balance the demands of publishing with their other responsibilities.
- **Ethical considerations:** plagiarism and data sharing are ethical considerations that Doctoral students need to be aware of and adhere to when publishing their work.
- **Measuring the impact of the publication:** It can be difficult for Doctoral students to measure the impact of their publications and use this information to advance their career.
- **Cultural barriers:** Social science research often involves understanding and

interpreting cultural phenomena, and this can be challenging for Doctoral students from Arab countries who may not be familiar with the cultural norms and expectations of Western journals.

- **Linguistic barriers:** Social and human sciences research in Morocco and the Arab world is often in the Arabic language, which can be a challenge for Doctoral students from Arab countries to access indexed journals, which are for the most part in English.
- **Limited international networking opportunities:** Many Arab countries, Morocco included, have fewer international networking opportunities, which can make it difficult for doctoral students to build relationships with other researchers and increase the visibility of their work.
- **Limited understanding of the academic publishing process:** Some doctoral students may not be familiar with the academic publishing process, which can make it difficult for them to navigate the peer review process and understand the expectations of journals and conferences.
- **Limited representation:** Social science fields in Arab countries may not be well represented in international journals, which can make it more difficult for doctoral students in these fields to get published.

Objective of the Spring School

To bridge the gap in both knowledge and skill development to doctoral students, Mohammed V University in Rabat (UM5R) and the Moroccan Institute for Advanced Studies (IMEA) are organizing the *1st Spring School on Writing and Publication Strategies of Academic Papers in International Peer-Reviewed Journals*. A structured approach to publishing can save time and improve the likelihood of being published in the preferred scientific journals. Therefore, when planning to publish, it is important to think strategically about when and where to publish, and take into consideration a number of important points which will be the main focus of this capacity building seminars and workshops.

Learning Outcomes

The capacity building seminars and workshops will address the above-mentioned challenges and provide guidance, support, and resources for the participating students in order to help them overcome these challenges and increase their chances of getting published in peer-reviewed journals. More specifically, by the end of the workshop, the participants will have:

- Learned from experienced researchers and editors who have a wealth of knowledge and experience in the publishing process.
- Networked with other doctoral students and researchers who are in their research field and at a similar stage in their careers.
- Got personalized feedback and guidance on their own research, as well as strategies for improving it.
- Learned about the latest trends and developments in their field, as well as the best practices for publishing and promoting their work.
- Developed a better understanding of the different types of publications and how to choose the right venue for their research.
- Learned how to communicate their research effectively to a non-specialist audience.
- Got tips and advice on how to navigate the peer review process and deal with rejection.
- Learned how to increase the visibility and impact of their publications.
- Understood how to balance the demands of publishing with other responsibilities, such as teaching and mentoring.

In summary, these seminars and workshops are an excellent opportunity for doctoral students to gain the knowledge and skills they need to navigate the publishing process and increase the impact of their research. It offers practical advice, personalized feedback, and an opportunity to connect with other researchers in their field. By attending the seminars and workshops, participants will be better equipped to publish their work successfully and advance their careers.

Workshop Point of Focus

These seminars and workshops will cover a variety of topics including:

- Identifying the right journals and conferences to submit your work to;
- Tips for writing a strong submission;
- Navigating the peer review process;
- Strategies for increasing the visibility and impact of your publications;
- Understanding the different types of publications (e.g. journal articles, conference papers, books, etc.) and their relative merits;
- Strategies for collaborating with other researchers and building a network of co-authors;
- Ethical considerations in publishing, such as plagiarism and data sharing;
- Tips for effectively communicating your research to a non-specialist audience;
- Tools and resources for tracking and measuring the impact of your publications;
- Dealing with rejection and using feedback to improve your work;
- Strategies for staying up-to-date with the latest trends and developments in your field;
- Advice on how to prepare for a career in academia or industry post-doctoral;
- How to write effective abstracts and titles that capture the attention of potential readers;
- How to format and structure your papers for maximum readability and impact;
- Techniques for effectively citing previous work and avoiding plagiarism;
- Strategies for addressing reviewer comments and revisions;
- How to navigate the Open Access publishing landscape and make your work widely available;
- How to use social media and other online platforms to promote your research;
- How to measure the impact of your publications, such as through citation counts and altmetrics;
- How to use bibliographic management software (such as Mendeley, Zotero, or Endnote) to organize your references and streamline the submission process;
- Tips on how to present your work at conferences and other public events;
- How to balance the demands of publishing with other responsibilities, such as teaching and mentoring.

The seminars and workshops will be led by experienced professors who will share their knowledge and provide guidance on how to successfully navigate the publishing process.

Areas of Study

- Humanities,
- Education Sciences,
- Business Studies (Finance, Management, Marketing ...),
- Law,
- Public Administration,
- Economics,
- Political Science,
- International Relations,
- Sustainable Development,
- Environmental Studies,
- Information Sciences,
- ...

Eligibility

We invite all 2nd year (and beyond) Doctoral students, currently enrolled in any disciplines within the fields of **Social and Human Sciences** to submit their application on the online platform by **March 20th, 2023 before 18:00**. **The abstract should be about an advanced draft of an original research paper which is not simultaneously submitted to another journal or conference**. Selected papers will be considered for publications in international peer-reviewed journals relevant to the paper's theme.

Application Process

Eligible candidates are kindly requested to submit their application in along with an abstract of a paper they wish to improve and submit to publication (note facilitating the publication of advanced research papers will be provided by the seminars and workshops organizers at a later stage after a successful participation in the workshop.

When submitting the abstract of the draft of the paper, the applicant should ensure that the body of the abstract is an explicit summary of the research objectives, research questions, research problem statement, the methods used, and the major results and conclusions. Do not include scientific symbols, acronyms, numbers, bullets or lists in the abstract. It should be single-spaced in 12-point Times New Roman. The first part of the abstract should state the problem set out to be solved or explored and explain the rationales for pursuing the project. The problem or issue might be a research question, a gap in critical attention to a text, a societal concern, etc. The abstract should also describe the research methods; this section should include a concise description of the process by which you conducted your research. Next, the abstract should list the results or outcomes of the work you have done so far. If the project is not yet complete, preliminary results or hypotheses about what those results will be could be provided. The content of the abstract will be the basis for the selection process. The abstracts will be peer reviewed and candidates will be informed about acceptance for the capacity building workshop via email. Be sure to adhere to the word limitation for the abstract (**300 words**).

Important Dates

- **20th February 2023:** Call for application is opened
- **20th March 2023:** Deadline for application submission
- **30th March 2023:** Selected applicants will be informed
- **4th April 2023:** Deadline for selected applicants to complete the workshop enrolment process
- **12th, 13th, 14th- 15th,** April 2023: Workshop dates

Submission Link

<https://urlz.fr/kS0q>

Language of Workshop

The abstract submission and the workshop languages are **English & French**

Workshop Venue

Mohammed V University in Rabat – Rabat, Morocco

Contact

All enquiries regarding submissions and participation should be directed to the workshop organizing committee at this address **doctoralschoolshs@um5.ac.ma**