

5 FAQ

5.1 What are the key issues to consider in planning publications as part of academic career development?

There are a number of issues to consider, including: the number, focus and timing of different publications that you would like to write from your PhD or a postdoctoral research project; whether your research would be best published in a series of journal articles and/or as a book; which journals or publishers you would ideally want to publish your research; whether there is scope to publish your research in other forms too, including reports, articles for the media or more participatory and collaborative accounts; whether you would like to develop a proposal for a themed or special issue or section of a journal, or a proposal for an edited book; and whether your publications will be single- or co-authored, or a combination of both.

It is important to think about who you want to read your research (e.g. within and/or beyond geography; within and/or beyond specialist fields of research; within and/or beyond the academy); and where you should submit articles and other publications to reach as wide a range of potential readers as possible. See Sections 2.1 and 3 for more on factors to consider when selecting a journal or book publisher. You should also discuss your publication plans with other people, including your PhD supervisor, examiners, mentors, colleagues and research collaborators. Often there is scope to discuss your publication plans at the end of a PhD viva or defence, and this can provide very helpful guidance in terms of identifying articles to write and the best journals to submit them to; or whether your thesis has the potential to be revised as a book.

When writing your CV, it is important not only to include a list of publications (whether published, forthcoming, or under review, and to be clear about the differences), but also to include a realistic plan of future publications, and where you aim to submit articles and/or book proposals. If you are applying for postdoctoral fellowships or research grants, you will need to outline your dissemination strategy and planned research outputs.

As you begin presenting your research at conferences and submitting your work for publication, you are likely to be asked to act as a referee. As Rosemary L Sherriff explains in Box 1, acting as a referee provides invaluable experience in understanding what makes a successful journal article, and what different journals are looking for. You should welcome this opportunity and attempt to write full and constructive reports with a clear recommendation for the editor (Alison Blunt).

5.2 Is it acceptable to publish an article that is more or less the same as a paper presented at a conference? How different does it need to be?

Presenting a paper at a conference is often a very important step in developing an article to submit for publication. As explained in Section 2.1, the skills you require to present a

successful conference paper are similar to those that you need in writing a successful journal article. Presenting your research at conferences provides the opportunity to receive feedback from an informed audience, which should be very helpful in developing an article for publication, or revising an article that you have already submitted. Because conference papers are usually no longer than 20 minutes in length, they are necessarily more concise versions of the article that you are likely to submit for publication. Although the content and argument might be broadly similar, a conference paper and a written article will be different. However, if the paper you present is published in the proceedings of the conference, and this is edited or peer reviewed or available to more than just the attendees at the event, then the paper is considered to have been published. If in any doubt, check with the publisher. Presenting your research in departmental seminars often involves longer presentations (often 45-50 minutes), so the written and spoken versions of the paper might be very similar. This is fine – the paper isn't published and subject to copyright until it appears in a journal. If your work is published, (in hard copy or online) you can then still present it at conferences or seminars, but it is best – and in your own interests – to say that it has already been published, so that people in the audience can read the full written version (Alison Blunt).

5.3 If you are hoping to write a book, should you avoid publishing parts of the material in journal articles beforehand? What are the copyright implications?

Many academic monographs include material that has been revised from other publications such as journal articles (see Section 3 and Box 6 for more on this). There are two important issues to consider: first, the monograph will need to be sufficiently different from a collection of revised journal articles to merit publication; and, second, it is your responsibility to discuss with the publisher of your book whether it is possible to include previously published (albeit usually revised) material, and also to secure the right to reproduce material from the publishers of the original journal article(s). If the publisher of your book, and the publishers of the original journal article(s), agree that you can include this revised material, you will need to provide full acknowledgement to the original publishers and publication details for each article. Also note that you cannot revise material from a monograph into subsequent journal articles. As explained in Section 2.1, journals require articles to be original and unpublished work (Alison Blunt).

5.4 How is it possible to disseminate research findings to a wide audience (e.g. via websites, working papers and newspapers) whilst protecting the copyright of both these and future academic publications?

It is a legal requirement for publishers to receive a signed copyright assignment form before an article can be published. Under European copyright law the publisher must

have explicit authority to post an article online. However, this policy also has the following advantages: it facilitates international protection against infringement, libel or plagiarism; it enables the most efficient processing of licensing and permissions in order that the article can be made available to the fullest extent both directly and through intermediaries, and in both print and electronic form; it enables the publisher to maintain the integrity of an article once refereed and accepted for publication, by facilitating centralised management of all media forms including linking, reference validation and distribution.

Terms of contributor agreement differ according to the publisher, but many allow the submitted article pre-peer review to be made available widely – i.e. sharing print or electronic copies with colleagues and posting an electronic version on your personal website, employer’s website/repository and on free public servers. Others allow for the accepted article to be placed in a repository after an embargo period (Emma Smith).

5.5 I’d like to reproduce a copyright image in an article and/or book. How do I go about securing permission to reproduce it?

It is usually the author’s responsibility to secure permission to reproduce copyright images (or other material) and to pay any necessary fees. Fees vary, and can be quite expensive. If you would like to reproduce an image from another article or book, you need to contact the publisher to ask for permission and to pay a fee. If the image is in an archive or collection, there is usually a form for you to complete, which provides details about charges. You also need to secure permission from the copyright holder to reproduce an image if it is available on-line. In all cases, you will need to provide full information about your forthcoming publication, including its likely circulation and whether you are applying for English-language or world-rights to reproduce the image. Before your article or book is published, you will need to send your publisher the agreement to reproduce the image, as well as full details as specified by the copyright holder for acknowledging its source. If you are writing a book, your publisher might be able to provide an advance to cover the costs of reproduction fees against any future royalties, as discussed in Section 3 (Alison Blunt).

5.6 What is the best way to approach magazines and newspapers to publish freelance articles?

See Section 4.2 for advice on writing for the media. As Klaus Dodds explains, university press offices and learned societies such as the RGS-IBG provide expert advice on drafting a press release or briefing, and often have extensive media contacts. International academic conferences also have press officers, who liaise between journalists and academics and identify the best strategy for publishing research findings in magazines and newspapers. In addition to seeking this expert

advice, it is also possible to send letters, opinion pieces or articles directly to magazines or newspapers. Bear in mind Klaus' advice about the style of writing, the topicality of the piece, and whether there is a compelling reason for submitting it at a particular time (Alison Blunt).

5.7 As a PhD has to represent original work, are there any problems with publishing material from it before submitting the thesis?

As discussed in Section 2.6 and Boxes 3 and 4, some PhD theses are written by publication, and usually include articles that have been published alongside those under review and those ready to submit. Other PhD theses are written as a monograph, and are then subsequently revised into a series of articles and/or a book. In the latter case, sometimes one or more articles will have been published – or at least submitted for publication – before the final thesis has been submitted or examined. In both cases, full acknowledgement and citations should be given to the published versions of material that appear in the PhD thesis. If you have co-authored articles that subsequently appear as part of the PhD, it is likely that you will have to document the extent of your contribution to the article (Alison Blunt).

5.8 How does co-authorship work, both in terms of academic publications and writing a PhD by publication?

Co-authorship is important in certain fields of geography – particularly in physical geography – and/or if your research forms part of a larger research project, working with a team of collaborators. Co-authorship can take a number of different forms. Sometimes each of the co-authors writes different sections of an article or book and works together to develop the argument as a whole. If different authors contribute equally to the final article, it is usual practice for their names to appear in alphabetical order. At other times, a lead author (who should be named first in the list of co-authors) drafts the article, and then circulates it to the other co-authors for comment. It is important to be clear about your responsibilities as co-author, whether in terms of drafting the article or responding promptly to a draft that another co-author has circulated (see Box 2). It is also important to be clear about the different contributions of different authors. You will often need to document the nature and extent of your contribution as co-author, whether you are writing a PhD by publication, or applying for jobs, tenure or promotion (Alison Blunt).

5.9 Can you make money from writing academic books?

Generally not much, although there are exceptions (e.g. key textbooks that are regularly reprinted). And wanting to make money is definitely not the reason for writing an academic book, as you would probably be very disappointed! As Kevin and Jo explain in Section 3, you might well be able to secure advances on future royalty payments to pay

for permission fees and/or to employ someone to compile the index. Whilst these payments are often essential in ensuring that the book can go into production, they also mean that it will take quite a while for any royalty payments to come through to you. Royalties are also paid proportionately to co-authors and editors, so are smaller if you have written or edited a book with other people. But receiving a cheque every six months or once a year – no matter how small – is always welcome. There are also other ways of being paid for your published work. In the UK, for example, the Authors Licensing and Collecting Society (www.alcs.co.uk) secures payments for authors when their work has been copied, broadcast or recorded. For academic authors, this is usually most relevant in terms of fees paid when publications are xeroxed. Your contract will also specify how many copies of the book you will be sent upon publication (and check whether this includes hardback as well as paperback copies), and provides details about the author discount for purchasing further copies of your book, and others published by the same publisher (Alison Blunt).

5.10 When publishing collaborative and participatory research, what is the best way of balancing commitments to collaborators with intellectual property rights and the need to protect our own work?

Arguably, participatory action research and intellectual property rights are epistemological opposites and are therefore difficult to 'balance'. A participatory approach emphasises knowledge *sharing* rather than proprietary control, and recognises that *all* participants have rights to the data/knowledge produced by projects. But this is complicated because of our multiple commitments to various stakeholders (e.g. grant awarding bodies and our academic communities) and the need to produce certain outputs in certain ways. So when commencing participatory research it makes sense, along with other ethical protocols explaining the research, to establish a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or Standards of Engagement agreement. Such agreements can help to establish ownership of the research and its various products, and the particular publishing plans of researchers and others involved. Focusing on this issue can establish a much stronger foundation for collaboration. The MoU should clearly identify what labour, resources and other support each party is contributing to the research, what will happen to data generated throughout the research process, who will have access to it and how it will be stored. It is also worthwhile identifying the anticipated published outputs (e.g. videos, artwork, reports, journal articles) and how intellectual property rights will be attributed based on resource inputs – ideas, labour, equipment etc. This is particularly important to clarify if there is any chance that profits will be made from any work disseminated (mrs c. kinpaisby-hill).