Publishing an Article in an Academic Journal

Professional Development Workshop
Department of History
November 7, 2014
• Share your research with scholars and contribute to the literature
• Original work, new way of viewing debates or topics
• Answer historical questions or problems

• General steps in the process
• Where to submit, what to submit, how to submit, when…

Main Points
Where to Submit?

• What are some interesting and influential articles that you’ve read, and where were they published?
• Which journals are most impactful in your area?
• Read by scholars in your field?
• What’s your audience?
• Which journals are going to clearly explain their process?
• Going to be helpful to you and for your academic career?
Where to Submit?

- West Texas Historical Review
- Southwest Historical Quarterly
- New Mexico Historical Review
- Western Historical Quarterly
- Journal of Latin American Studies
- Frontiers
- Journal of the History of Sexuality
- Hispanic American Historical Review
- Pacific Historical Review
- Atzlan
• MA Seminar Paper, after revisions
• Research Paper from seminar class
• Section or chapter from your dissertation
• Possible dissertation topic that you chose not to pursue
• Something you are comfortable with that will reflect your intellectual and research abilities
• Archival research, historiographical engagement, argument and thesis, clear and concise narrative, significant conclusions
• What makes us think differently about a topic?

What to Submit?
• Call for papers?
• Go to the website for a journal, look for the section detailing their submission process
• Submit to the editor directly?
• General email for accepting journals?
• Do they want electronic or hard copy?
• MS word or PDF version?
• What is the maximum word count?

How to Submit?
What is the Process?

- Submit the article draft
- Editor or assistant confirms receipt
- May take a week or two to confirm that the journal is interested in sending it out for review
- Journal contacts external reviewers and sends them draft
- Reviewers read, return comments, and offer suggestions
  - Publish with minimal revisions
  - Publish with major revisions
  - Revise and Resubmit
  - Do not publish
• Journal returns the comments from reviewers
• You reply and tell the journal how you will reply to the comments of the reviewers
• If the journal approves, they may officially agree to publish your article, pending your completion of revisions and resubmission of draft
• They will give you a deadline for revisions
• You revise the article per comments
• Resubmit to the Press….

What is the Process?
What is the Process?

- Respond to reviewer comments
- Formatting demands
- Citation style
- References
- Images & permissions
- Once you have a draft, resubmit to Journal
- Upload to website?
- Email attachment
- Copy editing/track changes
- Return to you
- Approve track changes
• Approve all track changes and return to journal
• They’ll return “galleys” to you for your final approval
• At this point you can only make minor changes or approve minor alterations
• Approve galleys
• Publication process will begin
• They’ll tell you what volume and number
• Wait…wait…published….celebrate!

What is the Process?
• Between 1-2 years from date of submission to publication
• Depends on multiple factors
  • Popularity of the press
  • Size of the staff
  • Backlog of submissions
  • Speed of the reviewers

How long does it take?
• Contractual obligations
• All permissions, copyrights, etc.
• Adhere to deadlines and remain professional
• Balanced tone, non-confrontational, non-accusatory
• You never know who the reviewers may be!!!
• Do not send one article to multiple journals simultaneously
• Online journals or e-journals should be approached with caution

What else?
Questions???