

# Publishing in the Early Career

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# Overview

- What are the opportunities for publishing?
- How to identify a publishable idea?
- How to craft a publishable paper?
- How to select an appropriate journal?
- How to respond to reviews?
- Co-authorship? What does co-authorship mean? 50/50; imbalanced

# What are the opportunities for publishing

- Publishing in non-academic settings  
Program evaluations; craft pieces; program development innovations; policy pieces; etc.
- Publish from the work you are doing

Sandler, I.N., Palmer, S., Holmen, M., & Wynkoop, R. (1975). Drinking characteristics of DWIs screened as problem drinkers. *Alcohol Health and Research World*, 1, 19-24.

Sandler, I.N., Duricko, A., & Grande, L. (1975). Effectiveness of an early secondary preventive program in an inner-city elementary school. *American Journal of Community Psychology*, 3, 23-32.

# Not everything is publishable

- Sandler, I. N., & Solano, J. The “Mom’s Club”: An innovative preventive intervention for inner-city mothers.  
*Manuscript that will never be published.*
- Sometimes manuscripts are just learning experiences

# How to Identify a Publishable Idea

- Advances state of the art in terms of empirical finding, methodology, new application of old idea to new problem, needs assessment, etc.
- Your judgement
- Judgement of colleagues very helpful
- Present locally first – test it out
- Publications are generally about a single idea – not too big -

# How to Craft a Publishable Paper

- Paper is like a short story: Single simple idea – not a novel with multiple complicated plots
- Introduction: Why is this idea important – Keep it focused.
- The conclusion of the introduction is....therefore this is the study that needs to be done!

# How to craft a publishable paper

- Methods – describe precisely what you did. Be concrete. Be complete. Tells them what they would need to do in order to replicate
- Results – Address the question you describe in the introduction
- Discussion – why important – why interesting - limitations

# Process of crafting a publishable paper

- Draft – just get it down on paper – doesn't have to be perfect
- Get lots of feedback
- Co-author – learn from your co-authors
- Send it out – don't hold back

# How to select an appropriate journal?

- Lots of journals publish prevention research
- Psychology, psychiatry, prevention, public health, topic specialty journals, etc.
- Choice depends in part on your career goals – audience you want to reach
- *Prevention Science; American Journal of Community Psychology; Journal of Primary Prevention; etc.*

# How to respond to reviews

- Reviews are critical – it's their job!
- It's not personal
- Bad reviews are often very good!
- Get feedback from senior colleagues
- Write out each point of criticism
- Work on each response
- Rewrite
- Get feedback
- Thanks for the criticism! Now what do you think?

# Co-authorship

- Co-authoring is a good thing
- Get your authorships where there is an opportunity
- Get some firsts – but need not be all or even most
- Different fields and different shops have different norms
- Learn the norms and decide how it fits your needs