

# Writing for journals

Jim Ogg

Senior Researcher, Caisse nationale d'assurance vieillesse, Paris, France

Deputy Editor, *Ageing & Society*

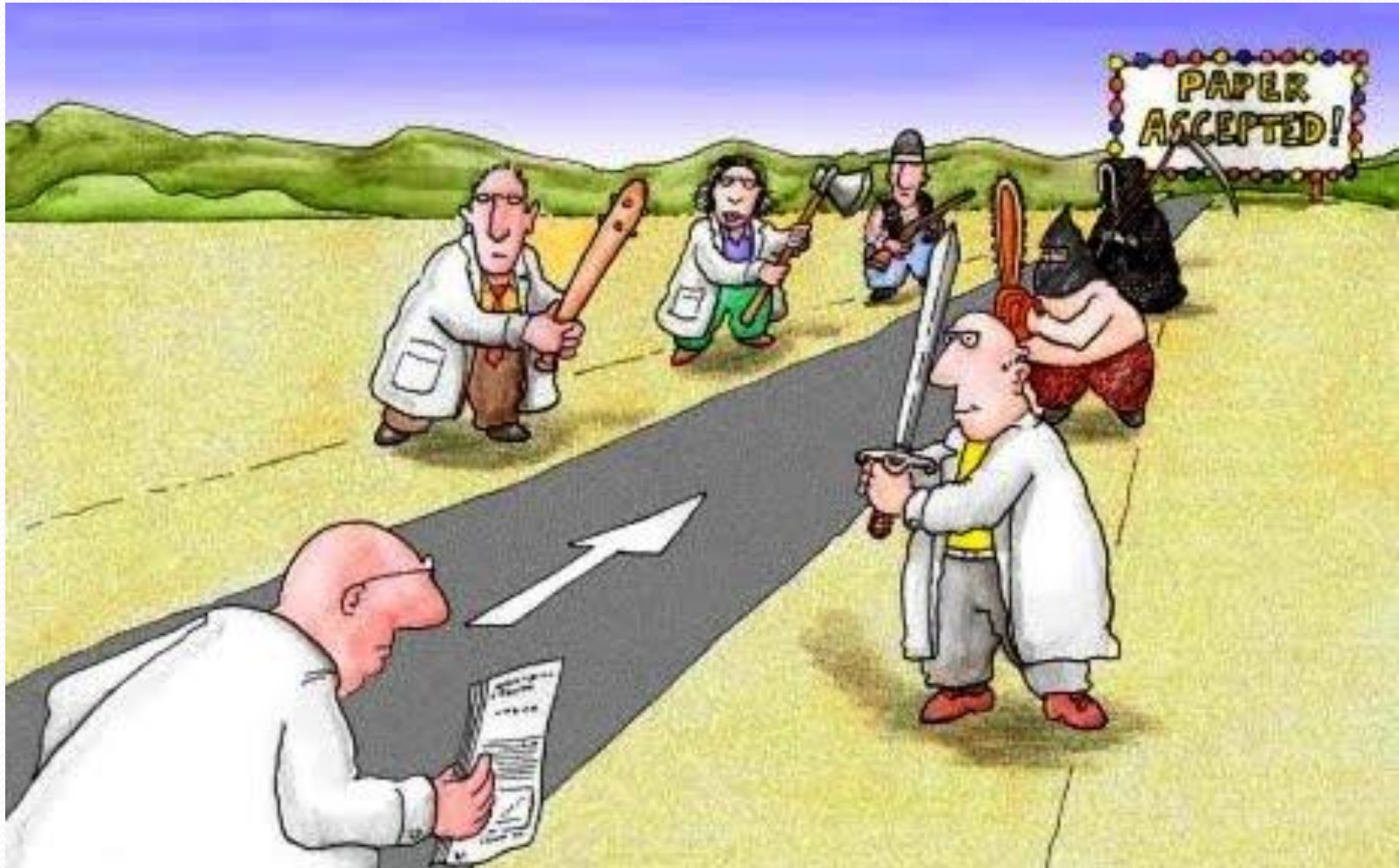
*jim.ogg@cnav.fr*

**MICRA: PhD Student Conference**

**European Ageing Research: Current Trends and Developing Research Careers**

*20<sup>th</sup> March, 2014*

# The perilous road to 'paper accepted'



# Impact factors

Theory: the more influential a paper, the more it will be cited.

$$\frac{\text{Number of citations during 2012 to papers published in 2010 and 2011}}{\text{Number of citable papers published in 2010 and 2011}}$$

$$\frac{\text{Cites to recent papers}}{\text{Number of recent papers}} = \frac{97 + 70}{66 + 69} = \frac{167}{135} = \mathbf{1.237}$$

The number of citations is related to the size and the pace of the field.

One highly cited article can swing the impact factor.

Systematic reviews are cited more often.

# Impact factors for ageing research journals

Rank	Journal	Total Cites	Articles	Impact Factor
1	JOURNALS OF GERONTOLOGY SERIES A- BIOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND MEDICAL SCIENCES	10,520	162	4.314
2	AMERICAN JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY	4,663	107	4.131
3	JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN GERIATRICS SOCIETY	21,435	293	3.978
4	PSYCHOLOGY AND AGING	7,045	117	3.089
5	JOURNALS OF GERONTOLOGY SERIES B- PSYCHOLOGICAL SCIENCES AND SOCIAL SCIENCES	5,637	77	3.006
6	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF GERIATRIC PSYCHIATRY	6,417	148	2.977
7	GERONTOLOGIST	5,814	74	2.283
8	INTERNATIONAL PSYCHOGERIATRICS	3,044	212	2.188
9	GERIATRICS & GERONTOLOGY INTERNATIONAL	665	103	2.167
10	BMC GERIATRICS	1,012	76	1.967
11	JOURNAL OF AGING AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY	784	30	1.852
12	AGING & MENTAL HEALTH	2,028	113	1.677
13	JOURNAL OF AGING AND HEALTH	1,384	68	1.659
14	RESEARCH ON AGING	985	34	1.298

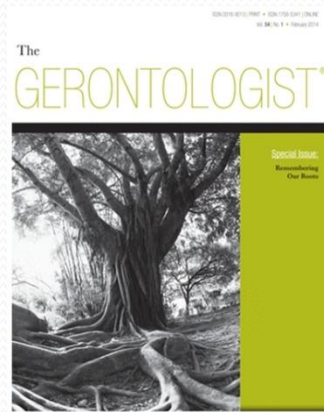
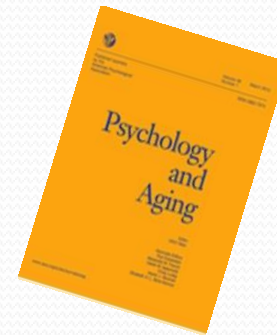
# Impact factors for ageing research journals

15	AGEING & SOCIETY	1,355	64	1.237
16	JOURNAL OF AGING STUDIES	775	52	1.139
17	AUSTRALASIAN JOURNAL ON AGEING	287	43	0.940
18	GERIATRIC NURSING	496	31	0.881
19	EUROPEAN JOURNAL OF AGEING	347	34	0.833
20	JOURNAL OF GERONTOLOGICAL NURSING	1,018	58	0.806
21	ZEITSCHRIFT FUR GERONTOLOGIE UND GERIATRIE	491	77	0.736
22	INTERNATIONAL JOURNAL OF AGING & HUMAN DEVELOPMENT	947	33	0.725
23	JOURNAL OF APPLIED GERONTOLOGY	568	37	0.700
24	CANADIAN JOURNAL ON AGING-REVUE CANADIENNE DU VIEILLISSEMENT	458	38	0.674
24	JOURNAL OF AGING & SOCIAL POLICY	199	22	0.674
26	JOURNAL OF WOMEN & AGING	279	20	0.581
27	CLINICAL GERONTOLOGIST	445	24	0.464
28	EDUCATIONAL GERONTOLOGY	603	91	0.349
29	TOPICS IN GERIATRIC REHABILITATION	205	37	0.227

# Open access publishing

- unrestricted online access to peer-reviewed research
- benefits of greater access to papers within and without the research community
- financial costs of publishing are transferred from the reader to the authors
  - ‘Green’ open access (self-archive in a repository)
  - ‘Gold’ open access in OA journals

# Choosing a journal: ageing (gerontology) journals



# Choosing a journal: social science and humanities journals

Interactional perspectives on the mistreatment of older and vulnerable people in long-term care settings. *The British Journal of Sociology*

Volume 64, Issue 2, June 2013, Pages: 267–286, Martin Stevens, Simon Biggs, Josie Dixon, Anthea Tinker and Jill Manthorpe

Ageing, skills and participation in work-related training in Britain: assessing the position of older workers. Jesus Canduela, Matthew Dutton, Steve Johnson, Colin Lindsay, Ronald W McQuaid, and Robert Raeside

*Work, Employment & Society*, February 2012; vol. 26, 1: pp. 42-60.

Intergenerational Transfers to Adult Children in Europe: Do Social Policies Matter? *Journal of Marriage and Family*

Volume 75, Issue 1, February 2013, Pages: 235–251, Martina Brandt and Christian Deindl



# Choosing a journal: key points

- Fit based decision:
  - How well does the research fit the aims of the journal?
  - What are the methodological preferences of the journal?
- Prestige-based decision:
  - Who reads the journal?
  - Is the impact factor important?



Write to the editor to ask advice about the suitability of your paper

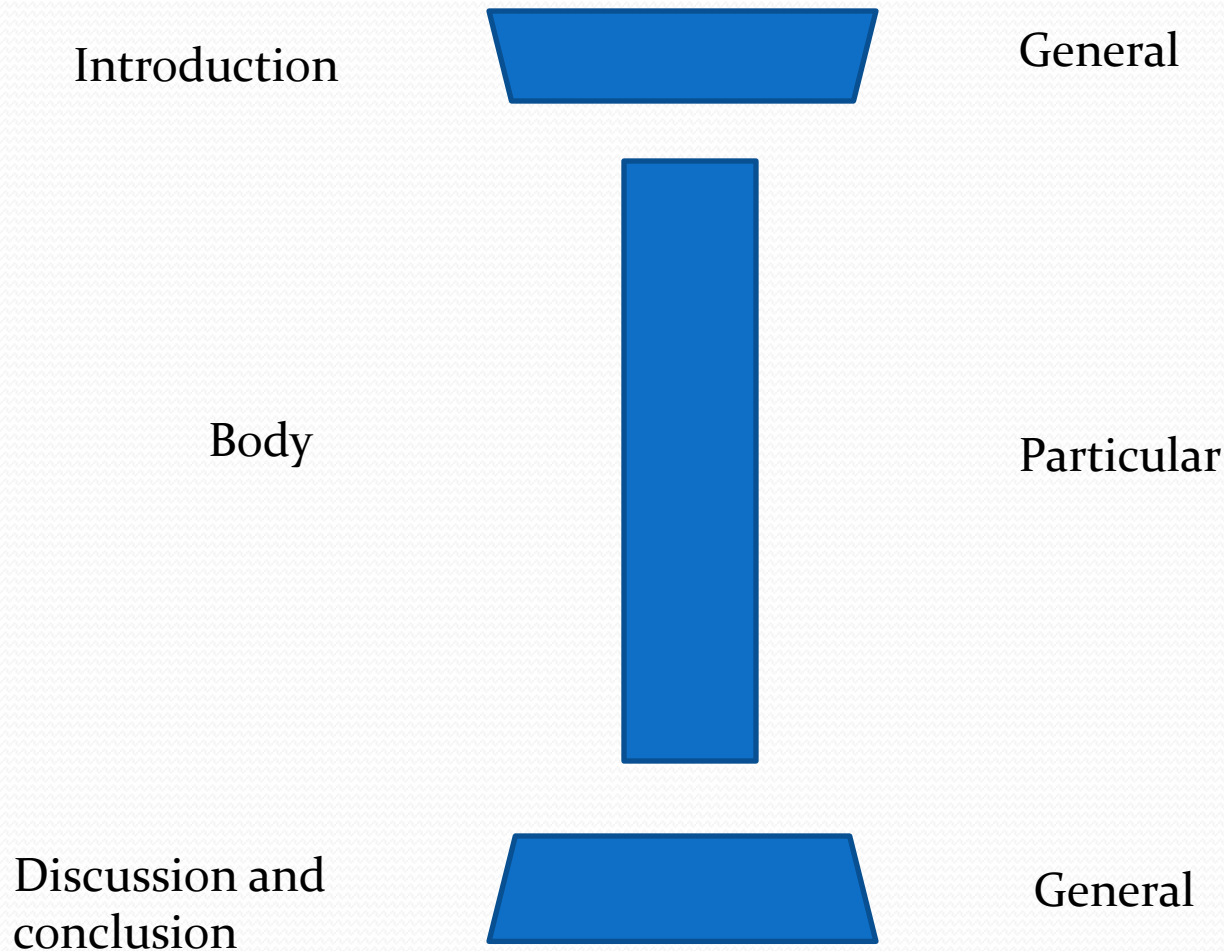
# Writing

- Write clearly and concisely
- Present logical arguments, with a smooth flow
- Pay attention to structure
- Don't do too much
- Keep very closely to the journal guidelines and requirements

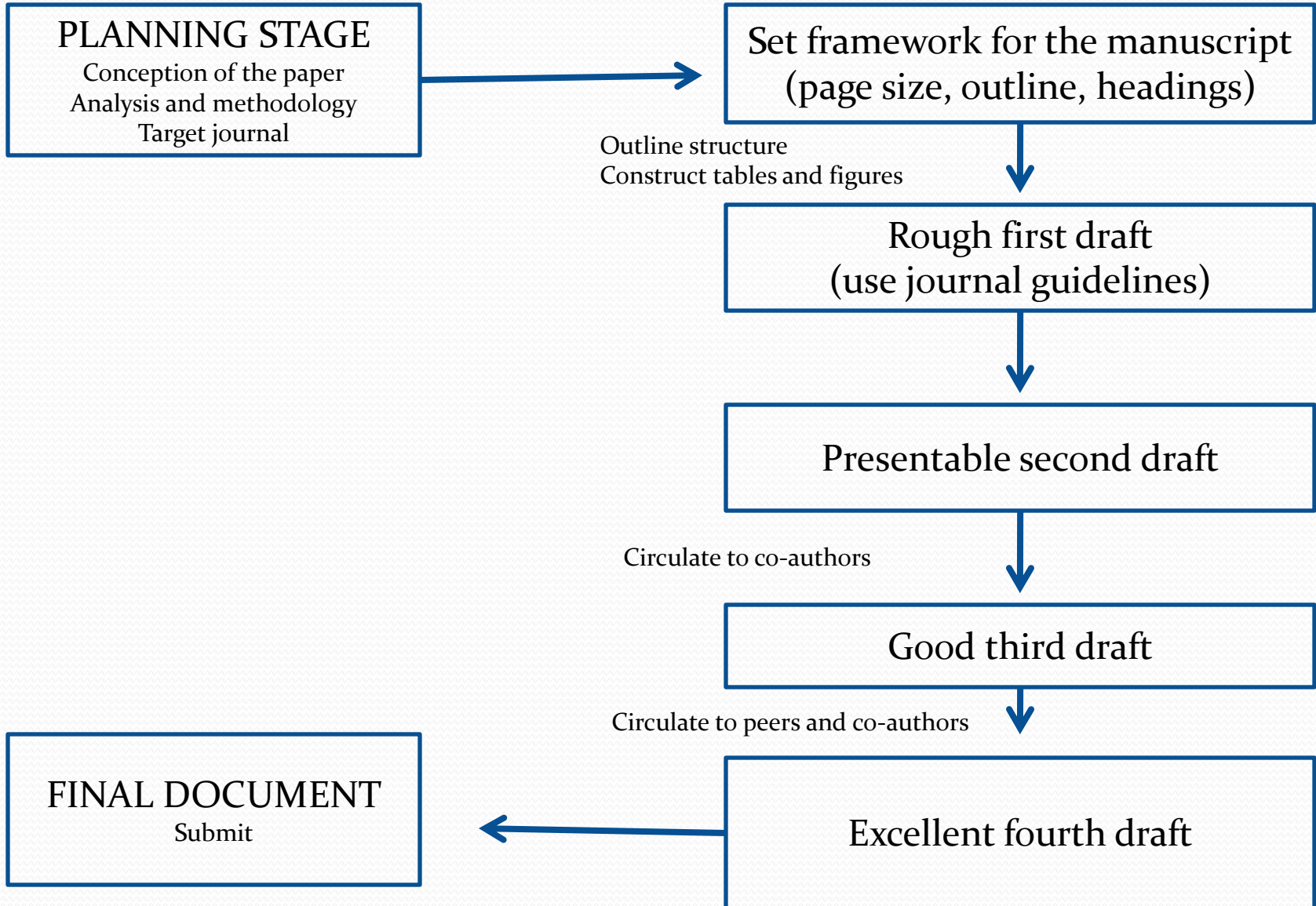


Abstracts and titles are **very** important  
Cite papers from the journal you submit to

# Writing – the hourglass model



# Writing – preparing the manuscript



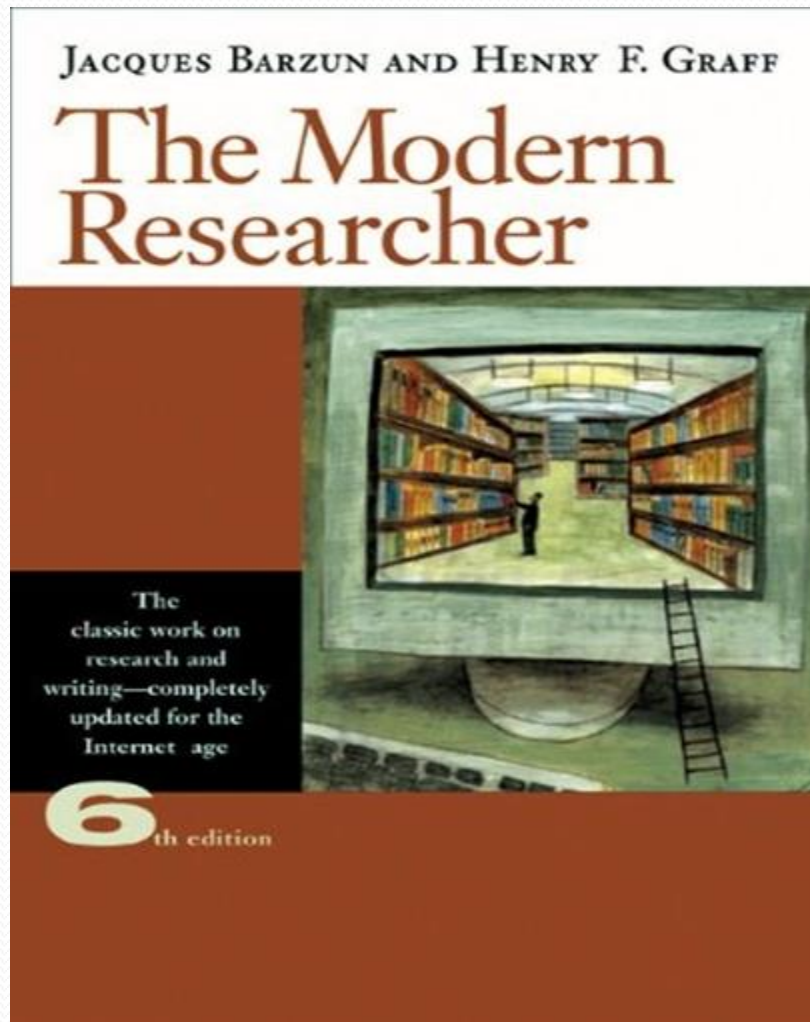
# Rejection and major revisions

- Poor fit to journal
- No case made for the aim of the paper
- No research questions or hypotheses
- Poor or no use of theory
- Replication
- Data not adequate for the task
- Paper does too much
- Alternative explanations not given
- Discussion and conclusion repeat findings
- Language and grammatical errors

# Responding to reviewer criticism

- Stay calm!
- A revision request is not a rejection
- Decipher the editor's letter
- Don't argue with the reviewer
- Respond to the major points
- Send a cover letter indicating changes
- Revisions should be proportionally to the comments made
- Express gratitude but don't overdo it

# Recommended reading



Thank you for your attention....

And hopefully you will avoid this.....

