

## **Short-self evaluation of the PhD course on International Publishing. SV9107 – Spring 2021**

This PhD course was held for the third time in the spring 2021. In all three years (2019-2021), the course has received on the whole a very good feedback from the PhD students, which assess that the course was useful and improved their knowledge of the process of international publishing.

The course seeks to provide a combination of information and practical suggestions on how to publish internationally, as well as a critical discussion of the peer-review publication system and some other ethical and practical challenges that PhD students can meet when they seek to publish their work internationally. On the whole, it seems that the course participants appreciate this mix of practically-oriented suggestions and more general critical discussions of the Norwegian and international publication system.

For the exam, the participants are asked to write a short essay that maps and discusses relevant publication outlets (journals and books) for their own PhD project. The exercise is supposedly useful for the PhD students, and it does not require a very extensive work for the participants. The results of the exams have so far shown that the PhD students have provided a good mapping and discussion of publication outlets that are relevant for their project.

From the point of view of the three lecturers (Fulvio Castellacci, Nils Lange Landrø, Jo Thori Lind), this PhD course is engaging and fun to teach. The themes of the lectures are interesting and relevant, and the course participants are highly motivated and eager to learn, and they actively contribute to discussions during the lectures and roundtables. There are usually nice and useful discussions during the course.

Thinking about possible improvements for the next editions of this course, there are two relevant aspects to consider.

One aspect is that the three lecturers of this course come from three different Departments and thematic areas (psychology, economics, innovation studies), and it is therefore natural for us to present relevant examples that are closer to publication practices in our own fields. The course would benefit from having a broader representation of lecturers from other disciplines as well (e.g. political science, sociology, human geography, anthropology). At the same time, though, this is only a two-day course, in which there is not enough time to have several sessions. One possibility would be to have one or two sessions during the course in which the participants will divide in different groups based on their thematic interests and Department affiliation, and work on a concrete case together with lecturers from different Departments. This change would seem feasible and not too difficult to implement, and I would like to introduce it starting from the next course if possible.

The second aspect that needs some attention is that some of the participants have already substantial experience with international publishing before they begin this course, and they thus consider that the course is “too basic” for them, and that they would like to have a more advanced and challenging course. However, this course is explicitly thought as an \*introduction\* to international publishing which addresses PhD students at an early stage of their doctoral work. This is clearly stated in the course description, and I point this out clearly and explicitly at the very beginning of this course. Therefore, it seems to me that there is a mismatch between the course’s objectives and learning goals (which aims at delivering an

introductory course meant for young researchers with limited experience in international publishing) and some of the PhD students' expectations (which would like to have a more advanced course because they already have already prior experience in international publishing). This aspect is not easy to address, given the heterogeneity of the participants to this course. I am not sure that it will be appropriate to present more advanced topics during this course. A two-day course does not make this possible; and it is not obvious to think of more advanced topics related to international publishing that would be of common interest for such a broad and heterogenous audience of PhD students.