

Writing Your First Academic Publications: Strategies and Considerations

Frederik Frank Sterkenburgh

Department of History and Art History

Academic Publication Strategies

- Consider your post-PhD career: inside or outside academia
- Build your publication profile accordingly
- Orient towards the country you want to have your professional career but do not lose sight of an international publication profile

Academic Publication Strategies

- Consider your post-PhD career: inside or outside academia
- Build your publication profile accordingly
- Orient towards the country you want to have your professional career but do not lose sight of an international publication profile

Academic Publication Strategies

- During your PhD
 - Consider categories of academic publications: book reviews, review essays, chapters in edited volumes, journal articles

Academic Publication Strategies

- During your PhD: book reviews
 - Pros: allow for careful discussion of a contribution to the field, based in part on your own expertise and how field is, or should be, advanced
 - Cons: time-consuming, carry little weight for academic CV, little to no room for input of own research

Academic Publication Strategies

- During your PhD: review essays
 - Pros: allow for careful discussion of series of publications, done in greater depth, place within wider context of state of scholarship, and structured around own assessment
 - Cons: very time-consuming, carries more weight than book review, but less than other academic publications based on own research, little room for own input, require considerable knowledge of the field

Academic Publication Strategies

- During your PhD: chapters in edited volumes
 - Pros: discussion of own research within a thematic collection of papers, peer review from volume editors
 - Cons: need to be geared toward theme of the volume, less room for individual research than journal article, carry less weight than journal article, pay attention to publisher

Academic Publication Strategies

- During your PhD: journal article
 - Pros: discussion of own research in full-length article, carries considerable weight for CV, especially for high-ranking journals, blind peer review
 - Cons: many journals have low acceptance rate, can be time-consuming, considerable (and often unjust) difference in ranking of journals, blind peer review

Academic Publication Strategies

- During your PhD
 - Consider your portfolio of publications
 - Consider time-investment in major academic publications
 - Consider their relevance: gathering feedback, discuss a particular case study, set out new direction of research, 'dump' material that cannot be incorporated in the thesis
 - Consider single-authored or multi-authored
 - Consider language and accessibility

Academic Publication Strategies

- After your PhD: thesis into monograph
 - Consider publishing instantly after PhD defence or after period of time
 - Consider publishing as academic monograph or aimed at non-academic audience
 - Consider writing as two books: academic monograph AND for non-academic audience
 - Consider publisher: academic reputation, quality of publishing process, copy-editing, costs involved (if applicable), PR

Academic Publication Strategies

- Bear in mind:
 - PhD is unique chance to write series of publications, especially a book; chance might not come again
 - Use publications to develop research, expertise and (international) academic profile
 - Academic publications are not the sole requirement on a good academic CV, but do constitute the nucleus



**Utrecht
University**

Sharing science,
shaping tomorrow