



PIE Collective

Academic Writing Series II

Publishing an Article in a Journal

with Ron Kim
April 10th, 2026





Publishing an Article in a Journal

Welcome!

- Introducing the PIE Collective and the Academic Writing Series (ca. 5 min.)
- Ron Kim: What to know about publishing a journal article in IE Studies and related fields (ca. 20 min.)
- Q&A

You will be able to interact throughout the Webinar by using the **chat function**

About the Collective and the Academic Writing Series





Introducing the Collective

Our Goals

- The **PIE Collective** is the first organization to promote gender equity in IE studies
- We started in March 2024 with nine founding members
- Our goals are to **create community** for women and other members of underrepresented groups in our field
- and to **create and share useful resources** for anybody interested



Introducing the Collective

Our Offerings

- On top of organizing **in-person events**
- We have a full calendar of **online offerings**:
- **Monthly Hang-Outs** for graduate students in IE Studies
- **Academic Writing Series**
- **Progressive Pedagogy Series** (achieving fluency in a dead language, communicative approaches to teaching, etc.)
- more to come!



If you aren't already
subscribed to our mailing
list, please consider
doing so!



Introducing the Collective

The Academic Writing Series

- This series is designed to **help graduate students and early-career researchers** develop the writing skills they need to succeed in their career.
- This first meeting: Abstract Writing Workshop (with Julia Sturm)
- This meeting: **Publishing an Article in a Journal (with Ron Kim)**
- And next up: **another Abstract Writing Workshop** and more (Introduction to Grant-writing, Paper Writing Workshop, etc).



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Introducing our Speaker

Ronald Kim

- Ron Kim is a **Professor of Linguistics** in the Department of Older Germanic Languages in the Faculty of English at **Adam Mickiewicz University (AMU) in Poznań, Poland**.
- He obtained his **PhD from University of Pennsylvania in 2002** and worked in Northamerica (Cornell, UPenn Temple, Swarthmore) before moving to Poland, where **he joined AMU in 2009**.
- From 2013-2019 he was Research Assistant at the Charles University in Prague
- He has **published far and wide on topics of IE** (especially Tocharian, Iranian, Balto-Slavic, Greek, Celtic, Anatolian) **and historical linguistics**, sociolinguistics, theoretical phonology and morphology, as well as pidgin and creole linguistics (and more!)



Introducing our Speaker

Ronald Kim

- He has vast editorial experience in the area of IE linguistics
- including work as **General Editor** (with Joseph Eska) of *Indo-European Linguistics*
- and (with Petr Zemánek), *Chatreššar: International Journal for Indo-European, Semitic, and Cuneiform Languages*
- He serves on the **Editorial Board** of *Brill's Studies in Indo-European Languages & Linguistics*
- and on the Editorial Advisory Board of *Lingua Posnaniensis*
- as well as on the **Board of Reviewers** of *Tocharian and Indo-European Studies* and the *Academic Journal of Modern Philology*



Ron Kim

Publishing an Article in a
Journal

April 10th, 2026





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Publishing Articles in Academic Journals: A Few Guidelines

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Indogermanische Gesellschaft

PIE Collective

10 April 2026



Outline

1. Introduction
2. Know your target audience
3. Writing style
4. References and connections
5. Final thoughts

Introduction

- Most of you have already begun carrying out your own research, so you know that a major goal is to publish your results in academic journals.
- But how?
- Today I will give a few guidelines based on my own experiences as both a researcher and an editor, then open the floor to questions.

Know your target audience

- Before you start writing an academic article, you should have some idea of your **target audience**.
- Is the paper intended for
 - theoretical linguists?
 - typologists and/or more “general” historical linguists?
 - specialists in Indo-European, or a specific branch of Indo-European?
- Who is most likely to be interested in your topic?
Who can be made interested?

Know your target audience

- This in turn depends on several questions.
- Is your topic mainly of interest to traditional historical linguists and philologists of a specific language or branch, or to Indo-Europeanists in general?
- Or does it have wider implications for language variation and change, typology, or theories of synchronic grammar and language acquisition?

Know your target audience

- When considering particular journals, think about practical questions, such as
 - **readership / viewership**: how widely accessible is the journal? Is it easily available online and/or in major research libraries?
 - **reputation**: how is the journal viewed by specialists in the field, and more generally?
 - **statistics**: how is the journal rated according to all the usual measures (Scopus, Impact Factor, etc.)?
- These questions also apply to the **publisher**, which can be just as important in some cases.

Know your target audience

- Your particular academic system may have additional parameters worth considering.
- For example, Poland and several other countries have a (widely criticized) system of “points” for individual journals, which for our field does not correspond in any obvious way to any of the criteria just listed.
- As early-career scholars, remember to be **strategic** and **flexible** within your own limits. In the end, **you** decide where you want to publish.

Know your target audience

- The decision of journal naturally influences how you write your article.
- If you're writing about Indo-European verb morphology for *Indogermanische Forschungen*, you probably do not need to go into detail about the “received knowledge” in the field...
- but if you submit an article to *Journal of Historical Linguistics*, you do need to spell out the fundamentals: which categories are relevant, how they're marked, how form and function change over time, etc.
- You also need to explain specialist terminology, including abbreviations.

Know your target audience

- Many journals now require you to submit an **abstract** (and, less importantly, keywords).
- This can be useful in helping you decide not only where to send an article, but how best to “frame” it to appeal to the editor, potential reviewers, and target audience.
- Papers on narrow problems of historical linguistics or philology are more likely to be accepted (even by specialist journals) if they emphasize the wider implications of their research.

Writing style

- Publications in Indo-European linguistics were long known for their forbidding writing style, with lengthy footnotes, multiply nested parenthetical references, and avoidance of section or even paragraph breaks.
- Some of this reflects older traditions of academic writing, particularly in German and French,...
- but in any case it has largely fallen out of favor today, and absolutely to be avoided when writing journal articles.

Writing style

- The following are a few guidelines for academic writing in general, and journal articles in particular.

Writing style

- Divide your article into thematically coherent **sections**.
- In most cases, the first section (numbered 1 or 0) will be the introduction, and the final section will be called “Conclusion”, “Concluding remarks”, “Summary”, or something along those lines.
- For longer articles, it’s a good idea to provide a sort of “road map” at the end of the introduction, explaining the content of the following sections.

Writing style

- Sections can in turn be divided into **subsections** when convenient, e.g. when discussing multiple languages, manuscripts, categories, etc.
- At least in the American tradition, one must have at least two subsections, i.e. you cannot have just “2.1”, but also “2.2” (and if necessary “2.3”, etc.).

Writing style

- You may wish to end each section with a brief summary and transition to the following section.
- As one of my old professors put it: “tell the reader what you’re going to say, say it, then tell them you said it.”

Writing style

- Keep **footnotes** to a minimum.
- Individual footnotes should not be more than one paragraph, and ideally no longer than a few lines.
- The footnotes should not take up too much space on the page. Once they occupy more than one-third or so (definitely half) of the page, they disturb the reader and frequently make it difficult to follow the main argument.
- You should under no circumstances approach the (negative) ideal of the “perfect page”, a page made up entirely of footnotes!

Writing style

- In line with the changing practice of our field, **tables** are generally to be preferred when giving large amounts of data, e.g. when explaining changes affecting an entire paradigm.
- Nested parentheses are similarly to be avoided unless absolutely necessary, in which case you can use brackets [] inside parentheses ().

Writing style

- Textual **examples** should be set off when there are several of them, or the emphasis is on grammatical analysis.
- The increasingly widespread practice is to number them consecutively starting with (1), so you can refer back to them in the rest of the text without having to worry about section or page numbers.
- Multiple examples can be placed under a single number and referred to as (1a), (1b), etc. This can be useful when comparing, say, 2+ examples of one lexical item or category with 2+ examples of another.

References and connections

- Scholars of Indo-European vary widely in their practice of scholarly references.
- The tradition, particularly in German-language scholarship, was to be as exhaustive (*ausführlich*) as possible.
- However, there has been an unmistakable trend in recent years toward selective, if not exclusionary citation.

References and connections

- This is partly understandable: the academic literature has ballooned to the point that true exhaustivity in citation has become impracticable, particularly for languages with a long and rich scholarly tradition such as Greek or Sanskrit.
- It also stems from the reasonable tendency of young scholars to cite only those whom they know personally or through reputation,
- and the (perhaps less reasonable) practice among some established scholars of largely dispensing with references.

References and connections

- The result of this practice is that our field has become atomized, to the point that in extreme cases, researchers cite only their colleagues from the same institution.
- This is not productive, and runs counter to the entire spirit of intellectual inquiry and exchange, as well as the ideal of inclusion (the “I” in “PIE Collective”).

References and connections

- For early-career scholars, I would advise being as inclusive as possible with citations and references.
- This is not simply a matter of cultivating academic connections or avoiding offense (although that matters too).
- In my experience, bibliographical research is the best way to learn about the history of the field and opens the door to new connections and ideas.
- Obviously one should be realistic, e.g. there is no need to cite every single outdated grammar of Gothic from the 19th century! As the American saying goes, “know when to say when.”

References and connections

- Another reason not to engage in parochial or exclusionary citation is **anonymization**, an essential component of the process of double-blind peer review.
- Especially in small fields this is somewhat of a fiction, but one does not want to immediately give away one's identity if at all possible.
- I would recommend replacing acknowledgments with “[acknowledgments removed]”, but not necessarily removing self-citations in the text or bibliography. You should be sure to remove any first-person references, e.g. “I have argued...(see Kim 2023).”

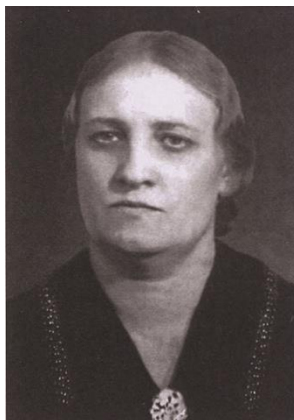
Final thoughts

- Publishing in academic journals is a matter of trial and error, and no two scholars will have the same experience.
- It is important **not** to be discouraged by rejection. Your paper may be rejected outright by an editor as being “out of scope”, but that is a judgment call and does not necessarily reflect on the content.
- A good editor will also choose reviewers who are not known to be biased against the author and control for the content of reviews, so that the criticism is as constructive as possible.

Final thoughts

- Finally, do not be afraid to get in touch with editors or (senior) colleagues if you have questions relating to particular research topics or journals.
- As I said, everyone has her/his own experience, and many colleagues will be happy to offer their advice. In the era of email, the worst that can happen is that someone will not respond.
- If you have any questions for me, you know what to do!

Thank you for your attention!
Good luck!



Q&A

Type your questions in the chat

Thank You!

We'll send you a follow-up email over the next week with slides from the meeting.

