



"Share your knowledge. It is a way to achieve immortality."

– Dalai Lama XIV

"Content is King. Promotion is Queen."

– Bob Mayer

Dear colleagues,

Consulting the fellow scholars has traditionally been an integral part of publishing researchers' scholarly work. Although intensive review critique before the publication of articles in scientific journals requires a significant investment of time. In contrast immediacy of preprint dissemination allows circulating current results quickly, receiving early feedback and fostering a richer collegial interchange.

So, current issue spotlights HSE's Working Paper Series. You will get a general overview of the series and also some practical information on how to get your working paper published. Dr. Dirk Meissner, Research Professor and a Deputy Head of the Laboratory for Science and Technology at HSE's Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge (ISSEK), shares his experience of editing one of the working papers series.

And we are proud to write about the visit of Princess Anne hosted by our colleagues in the International College of Economics and Finance (ICEF).

Yulia Grinkevich

Director for International Academic Integration

Working Papers at HSE: A Step on the Path to Success

Work on a research project consists of several stages varying from individual or team work to heated debate over preliminary or final results. At a certain stage researchers will most certainly feel the need to introduce their outcomes to the scientific community. For scholars keen to share the ideas and results of their studies publishing a working paper can be the right way forward. In this article we present the university's Working Paper Series and offer some practical information on how to get your paper published.

A working paper is a well-developed publication as it appears online and sometimes in print and is included in one's academic profile. However, the title of this kind of paper implies that the work is not yet finished and that there will be more coming out of it. In other words, for scholars that strive to publish in scientific journals a working paper is not the final goal but a step in the process of getting there.

As a working paper is a preliminary publication this makes it possible to quickly present the results of the latest research to

the academic community and engage in a discussion about its implications. Knowing that the publishing of an article is a lengthy process, presenting one's ideas in the form of a working paper can help a scholar get feedback from colleagues and experience a sense of progress, while still being engaged in bringing the work to completion. Another advantage of this kind of publication is that it preserves the authors' rights for research ideas and results.

On the part of the university publishing working papers is a way to distribute recent studies conducted by our researchers and thus inspire new research at home and abroad.

Publishing Working Papers at HSE

Working papers are published in [13 series](#) within the Basic Research Programme (BRP) targeted at developing fundamental research. The works appear online and are available only in English. The fields and aspects of research published in these series are various. They include most of the fields that the university specialises in. The first series established at HSE was devoted to economics and sociology, whereas the most recent one has featured works primarily in the area of humanities, but also in such topics as science, technology and innovation.

The first BRP working paper was published in 2011 and by 2013 the programme had already published its 200th work as part of this initiative.

One of the main goals is to transform the published working papers into fully developed journal articles. The authors of the PBR series get editorial and proofreading support for texts submitted in English. It normally takes about two–three weeks to get a work published under the BRP, which definitely offers a sense of satisfaction, especially considering the usual lengths of time that it takes to get something published in a peer-reviewed journal.

Another opportunity offered by this series is the possibility of publishing it in a working papers series abroad. Dmitry Veselov, a junior research fellow at the Laboratory of Macroeconomic Analysis did just this and published his paper *[“Redistribution and the Political Support of Free Entry Policy in the Schumpeterian Model with Heterogeneous Agents”](#)* in the Sorbonne Economic Centre series.

Spreading the Word

Working papers by HSE researchers and faculty are posted on the HSE Publications webpage, in the Russian Science Citation Index, and most importantly, in the Social Science Research Network (SSRN). The agreement with SSRN, one of the world's largest electronic archives for scientific articles and working papers in key socioeconomic fields, was reached in 2012. Already published materials, as well as unpublished articles, working papers, and conference reports may be circulated on SSRN's site. HSE is represented in SSRN by its own Research Paper Series, where our faculty publishes their working papers on economic topics. Articles and working papers in other scientific fields can be published on one's own page or in SSRN's thematic journals.

Success Stories

In order to measure the interest our working papers have instigated, a survey was conducted by the Centre for Basic Research. The results showed that many papers authored by our researchers are popular among overseas colleagues. According to recent download statistics for all 13 series of e-working papers within the BRP, the Science, Technology and Innovation series was the leader in total number of downloads.

A paper analysing concepts of innovation by M. Kotsemir, A. Abroskin and D. Meissner, *[“Innovation Concepts and Typology—An Evolutionary Discussion”](#)* takes the first place in terms of total number of downloads. Other popular papers include historical research such as *[“In Search of the New ‘Turns’: History and Theory in the 21st Century”](#)* by I. Savelieva, a paper on education policy in rapidly developing economies, *[“The Economic Returns to Higher Education in the BRIC Countries and Their Implications for Higher Education Expansion”](#)* by M. Carnoy, P. Loyalka, G. Androuschak and A. Proudnikova and a paper on structural economic change, *[“Deconstructing the BRICs: Structural Transformation and Aggregate Productivity Growth”](#)* by G. De Vries, A. Eruban, M. Timmer, I. Voskoboynikov and H. Wu.

For those HSE researchers who have not yet published in English, a special online course has been developed. “My First Preprint” is a course meant to guide participants through writing a working paper in one of the HSE series. Upon successful completion participants not only receive certificates but are also able to submit their works for publication within the BRP. Many young international researchers are already getting their papers published and much of it is available online. A post-doctoral student at the Faculty of World Economy and International Affairs, Dina Balalaeva has published several working papers. Her most recent one is entitled *[“Democracy and Quality of Governance: What Matters More for Health?”](#)* International faculty have also been publishing working papers. At the end of 2013 Alexey Bessudnov and Alexey Markov released a work on education called *[“Gender Differences in Mathematical Performance and the School Context: Evidence from Russia”](#)*, while Alexey Parakhonyak, Nick Vikander and Anastasia Parakhonyak published a paper in the Economics Series, *[“Optimal Sales Schemes for Network Goods”](#)*.

Faculty and research fellows are invited to submit working papers, but so are talented postgraduate students. For them it can be a confident first step into the world of scientific publications. A good example of a successful student work was a paper by young researchers at the Department of Political Theory and Analysis. The paper by Anton Sobolev and Irina Soboleva, coauthored by Regina Smyth, an Associate Professor at Indiana University, is entitled *[“A Well Organised Play: Symbolic Politics and the Effect of the Pro-Putin Rallies”](#)*. This research based on recent events that caused a lot of debate was later published as an article in the journal “Post-Communism”.

The main idea behind working papers in general is to provide free access to knowledge. It is our hope that these series will not only develop interest in research conducted at the university, but more importantly, will help to create a united academic community and inspire new ideas, projects and discoveries.

The working papers mentioned in this article can be found at publications.hse.ru/en/. Find the steps for submitting a working paper for publication within the BRP in the infoscheme and at www.hse.ru/en/org/hse/wp/prinprprfi. For detailed information, please contact the editors of a particular series and the Centre for Basic Research manager at preprint@hse.ru.

The article is based on materials provided by the coordinators of the Basic Research Programme, an article by Lyudmila Mezentseva (the HSE News Service) and an article by Maksim Kotsemir (ISSEK).

“Think of your working paper as a product you need to sell...”

Interview with Dr. Dirk Meissner, Research Professor and a Deputy Head of the Laboratory for Science and Technology Studies at HSE’s Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge (ISSEK).

Dirk Meissner was born in Dresden, Germany. After graduating from the University of Wolverhampton in Great Britain and writing his thesis at Osaka Sangyo University in Japan Dirk completed doctoral studies in Germany at the Dresden University of Technology, 2001. Dr. Meissner has accrued considerable experience in innovation, intellectual property and risk management as well as innovation and technology policy consulting. He currently works at the Institute for Statistical Studies and Economics of Knowledge at HSE and is the Russian delegate to the OECD Working Party on Technology and Innovation Policy.

I know you are involved in many projects at HSE. What are these projects?

My main activity is doing research and heading of the international master’s programme, Governance of Science, Technology and Innovation that will be launched in September 2014. Another responsibility of mine is the development of junior scholars. We have begun some courses such as a class on academic writing. We have prepared our Handbook for Academic Writing, which gives some tips on how a paper should be structured, how to search for academic literature and so on. We also give some advice for being a successful author, such as co-authoring articles. It’s our basic principle here: somebody chooses one topic and then we start thinking about it together, we divide it up and assign different roles to different people. Another thing I do together with two colleagues is editing our working papers series on Science, Technology and Innovation.

What are the aspects of research covered in this series?

It actually covers all aspects of science, technology and innovation policy and management tools. Now we have two basic focus areas. One is about the framework and environment, and another one is about practical implementation, the conversion of your creative ideas into a concrete action. So the question here is: how do you develop an idea towards a product or application? This is one side of product management and the other side is a multi-policy direction: how to design the creative conditions, what the government does, and what regional governments do and so on. So, these are the two major streams and here we are actually quite well-established and engaged in the international community.

I read that this series is very successful in terms of downloads. Why do you think this is so?

I am not sure, we should ask people who download our papers. But I am still a little bit cautious: downloads is one thing. We need to see how the citation develops. I am quite confident that it will also develop, but it takes time. So, after one year of existence we cannot say anything good or bad, we have to wait another three or four years until our work is “digested” and incorporated into other works. For a project that has just started it usually takes between one and five years until you can start counting citations.

In our series we pay a lot of attention to abstracts and the titles of papers. We don’t want papers to have technocratic titles. We want titles to give a message. This is the lesson we learnt clearly from our colleagues with Anglo-Saxon background. If you look at publications by American or British universities you will not find technocratic headlines. They always look for a very dedicated title that says something. This is also a recommendation for our authors. Don’t consider your working paper as a paper, think of it as a product! You need a title which sells your product. Market it by having some of the keywords, but try to avoid a long title. Be aware that it will be included in databases and there you will have at least 100, maybe 1,000 matches. Think about your own searches. What is your reaction when you are confronted 1,000 results and you need to select just a few sources? This said I always assume that the quality of work is high with no doubt.

What are the specifics of being an editor? What is your editorial experience?

I have edited some books before but editing working papers is different. I have had some good experiences and bad ones. Part of the job sometimes is telling those that have submitted for the series that we are unable to accept the papers in their current form. The failure rate for the first submission round is 70–80%. We ask authors questions to get them to the point where they recognise that a paper needs to be improved for their own benefit and reputation. Our authors understand that it’s not about their personal reputation only, that they make a contribution to the overall reputation and image of the series and consequently of the institution, HSE.

As editors we have some regulations here: within 24 hours after submission we will give our first impression and we don’t let the judgment “go to bed”. If something is to be criticised, we ask the author why that is. If the author has an answer – it’s fine. It’s the author’s intellectual work, not ours. And we don’t tell people what to do. We simply try to do it in a constructive way. I think that is probably among the reasons why we have so many papers in our series.

Can you say that the quality of a paper depends on the quality of the language?

Yes, that is the argument. This is also what we see frequently enough: when the language is poor, the paper is rejected. When we receive a paper where the English is weak we do the first revision correcting major mistakes and hand it over for further editing since we are non-native English speakers.

Why focusing on publishing working papers when one could publish in a peer-reviewed journal?

We limit the working papers to a certain extent and we try to convert them into full-fledged articles. It is not “copy and paste” from one to the other, but a large part of a working paper can be developed into an article. We also consider a working paper to be some kind of motivation. Writing an article takes a long time and quite often you are frustrated and you think, “I just want it to be done”. At the moment you submit a paper you feel relaxed. This is additional inspiration. You see your work online! It’s the first step on the way – structuring ideas and developing them further.

You are very productive as an author. What are your priorities? How do you find time for everything?

Somehow it works. The major driver behind this is enthusiasm for the topic and my great wife that enables me to stay at work for more than 12 hours a day. The second thing is that you will rarely find an institution in Western Europe and America that gives you so much freedom. Here you have the freedom to initiate and implement things, to be constructively creative. This freedom creates this kind of energy and the momentum that makes you much more comfortable. You don’t experience any kind of negative pressure. You have the same indicators to meet as they would have in America or Europe, but you don’t consider it as pressure. You think instead, “Ok, we are doing something, we are moving somewhere. And we will see how it develops”. In the established world of old-fashioned, old-style American and European universities there are established routines that are resistant to change. Here we simply talk to each other and we don’t care about any artificial borders. We are here as individuals in a larger group and it work well.

How does it feel living in Russia and in Moscow?

I didn’t have any problems moving here. It’s a good thing for foreigners who are coming here not to have any preconceived notions and simply accept the rules and don’t be so wise as to tell people what they need to do. Don’t do it. Simply adjust and accept the rules. If you are unhappy with a rule, well you can be unhappy, but it doesn’t mean that you should go around changing all the rules.

Take the Russian style of driving. At first I was shocked by the way Russians drive on the MKAD. I thought there must be a lot of accidents. But the logic is quite simple – there won’t be any accidents, because everybody is driving like this. They take care of each other while being very flexible. This is a fascinating combination! So if everybody is like this, I have to work with this chaos. If I drove a car in a German style, I would be an enemy, because their rules are different. So I don’t see more accidents on the MKAD than in Berlin.

My family and I definitely enjoy living in Moscow. I like practical things about this city. If I find something is missing in my fridge I just go next door to *Pyatyorchka*. Living in Germany if I find my fridge is empty in the evening or on Sunday, I have a problem. And taking the Moscow metro is a pleasure – this is a metro system that works and functions well. This is the feeling that you get in Moscow: if you need something, you get it.

Princess Anne Visits ICEF

On February 4, 2014, Her Royal Highness Princess Anne honoured HSE with her presence on her way to the Winter Olympics in Sochi where she represented Great Britain in the International Olympic Committee and led the UK delegation.

As Princess Royal, Princess Anne’s official duty is to be the patron of a number of prominent British educational institutions including the University of London. She was officially elected the Chancellor of the university in 1981 during a graduates’ vote. The London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) of the University of London has been cooperating with the Higher School of Economics. As a result of this cooperation the International College of Economics and Finance (ICEF) was founded in 1997.

ICEF is one of the best and most prestigious faculties at the university: scholars from LSE provide academic expertise and support for the college, while HSE supplies it with facilities, administrative services and student intake. ICEF was among the first institutions at HSE hiring top international academics, launching double-degree study programs and thus offering their students an opportunity to obtain a world-class education. For its commitment to academic achievement ICEF was given the Affiliate Centre status of the University of London International Programmes in 2009.

During her visit Princess Anne met with ICEF academics, students, and leadership. Her Royal Highness was interested in how cooperation between the two institutions influenced educational standards and approaches in HSE and talked to international academics and students that come to work and study in ICEF. Princess Anne who is involved in over 200 charity organisations also gave her attention to students’ extracurricular activities, their engagement in volunteering on environmental issues and work with children.

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