

Summer School: Writing workshop on publishing in scientific journals and in the field of knowledge transfer related to Eastern Europe

After the successful writing workshop last summer, the Leipzig regional group of Junge DGO, the young academics' organisation within the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Osteuropakunde e.V. (German Society for Eastern European Studies), and EEGA again worked together in encouraging and supporting young scholars on their way to being published in scientific journals and to publish in the field of knowledge transfer.

The workshop on the 13th of July 2023 at GWZO (Leipzig) was divided into two parts. In the first public part, moderated by **Anne Kluger** (University of Münster, Junge DGO), **Katharina Kucher** (IOS) and **Fabian Burkhardt** (IOS) presented the "Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas" and the "Russland-Analysen" and "Ukraine-Analysen" (as part of the Länder-Analysen consortium). As a historical journal, "Jahrbücher" contains articles (mostly in German and English) that undergo a double blind peer review process, book reviews and research reports. They are published quarterly in print and online. The "Länder-Analysen", on the other hand, offer twice-monthly analyses and commentaries on current political, economic, social, and cultural developments in Eastern Europe. The articles that are written by academics and experts are accessible online and aimed at the interested public.

In the second part of the workshop, the participants worked in separate groups under the guidance of the two experts. Questions such as what makes a good text and which criteria have to be observed in order to write a scientific journal article or transfer contribution were discussed intensively. **Katharina Kucher**, editor of the "Jahrbücher für Geschichte Osteuropas", first provided an overview of the text genres included in the "Jahrbücher". For doctoral students, she recommended writing book reviews and research reports, because often these can be more easily integrated into the dissertation writing process. She pointed out, that dissertation chapters usually cannot be published as articles without significantly reworking them, because the structure of dissertation chapters and articles are too different. As one of the most exciting topics, the participants considered the insight into the "black box"-like publishing process. The expert explained the entire working process between the first submission of the text to its publication. That made it easy to understand, why this process usually takes up to two years. She stressed, that major reworks of articles after the review process are the norm and encouraged the participants to view the critique of reviewers as a rare chance for in-depth feedback and improvement of one's text. The participants also looked at different reviews that were published in the "Jahrbücher" and discussed what makes a good review. As Katharina Kucher explained, reviews are a good first step into publishing, especially if they fit thematically with one's own work. Another topic debated was that of gendered language. Kucher introduced the participants to the "Jahrbücher's" statement on the use of gendered language in German texts, which they praised for its flexibility and inclusiveness. The participants and the facilitator speculated about reasons for the relatively low amount of women published. Despite Kucher aiming for a higher amount of female writers in the journal, women only make up a third of the authors.

The other workshop was conducted by **Fabian Burkhardt**, editor of "Russland-" and "Ukraine-Analysen". After a detailed introduction to the work of the "Länderanalysen", a major focus of was on the importance of knowledge transfer and science communication, which the participants overwhelmingly considered significant, but time-consuming. On the other hand, it promises high visibility and a good writing exercise. A major difference to the "Jahrbücher" is that the comments are

submitted at the request of the editors and are less based on self-initiative, although it is nevertheless welcomed. Since there is no peer review, the publication process is short and the timeliness of the publication is increased; comments can appear within a few weeks. With the help of two submitted drafts, the participants got into discussion about the writing criteria in the second half of the workshop. Fabian Burkhardt especially encouraged scholars who did not speak German as their mother tongue to submit texts, as all texts go through language editing again regardless and are important for the fostering diverse perspectives.

— In a final reflection round, moderated by **Paula Seidel** (Centre Marc Bloch, Junge DGO), the impressions of the day were collected and debated. The participants shared the highlights of their respective workshops with those from the other group. Strategies to become visible as a young scholar and the best timing for the first publication were especially important topics. The workshop day ended with an informal get-together at Café Madrid, Leipzig.

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