

# Some thoughts about getting papers published...

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# Starting off: beginnings

- We'll assume you have done some good research
- Structure: tell a story
  - beginning, middle and end
- Beginning
  - what is already known?
  - not the whole literature review from your thesis! - summarise
  - what problem are you addressing?

# Middle

- Describe what you did...so that a reader can
  - understand it
  - replicate it
- Some or all of sections describing data, methodological development, analysis, results
- Pet hates (avoid these!):
  - simulation studies with insufficient description to be replicatable
  - tables that don't demonstrate the points made in the text
  - too many tables (remember, you can provide supplementary materials)

# Ending

- Discussion, or conclusions, or both?
- Whichever, set in context of
  - what was known before
  - what has been learnt from your research
  - (maybe) what comes next?

# Abstract and title

- Summarise the problem *and the result*
- Should be intelligible independently
- No references
  
- Title succinct description of topic
  
- Keywords
  - don't repeat words in the title

# Some personal preferences...get me on-side

- Put the figures and tables where they belong in the text
  - having figs and tables at the back is (if at all) only necessary when we get to publication
  - ...tell the story!
- Display data properly
  - how many significant figures/decimal places? (scale whole tables if necessary)
  - align in columns at decimal point
- Get referencing right
  - consistent style (preferably journal's style)
  - no unpublished references

# Discussion Papers at the Journal of the Royal Statistical Society

# Discussion Paper Meetings at the RSS

- Previously called “Ordinary Meetings”
- paper presented in person, followed by discussion, all published in one of the journals
- include many of the most significant developments in statistical methodology
- also covers other discussable topics



# Criteria

- Discussable, wide appeal or application
  - draw in a large and varied audience
  - stimulate people to attend the meeting and to contribute to the discussion
  - narrow topics unlikely to be accepted
- *Excellent* research/scholarship
  - innovative methods
  - statistical debates, relevant issues

# Process

- Submit through JRSS ScholarOne site
- Choose “Discussion paper (any series)”
- Quick screening by Discussion Meetings Committee, followed by review

# Getting involved

- Discussion meetings programme
  - next 17 Oct 2018 “A comparison of sample survey measures of earnings of English graduates with administrative data” organised by Social Statistics Section
  - opportunities to contribute to the discussion (in person and in writing)
  - to be added to email list to receive a preprint of all discussion meetings papers contact [j.shorten@rss.org.uk](mailto:j.shorten@rss.org.uk)