Diversifying your Research Agenda with Short Form Academic Publishing

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Overview

- Explain general features and goals of short-form academic publications
- Review emerging genres
- Discuss advantages and potential criticisms
What is Short-Form Publishing?

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- Characterized by length (usually under 2,000 words)
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- Characterized by length (usually under 2,000 words)
- More importantly, characterized by different focus and goals compared to long-form articles
What is Short-Form Publishing?

- Short-form pubs take a speculative and responsive approach to research
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- Short-form pubs take a speculative and responsive approach to research

- Speculates how current events present new opportunities for research

- Also consider how current circumstances force us to revise previous frameworks
What is Short-Form Publishing?

- Short-form pubs are not comprehensive
What is Short-Form Publishing?

- Short-form pubs are not comprehensive
- Can be viewed as “rapid prototyping” that responds to the here-and-now
- Goal is to hypothesize the potential of new ideas in hopes of testing out these ideas further on
Emerging Short-Form Genres

- Several emerging genres in short-form publication
- Discuss a few genres, then explain structure and goals
Emerging Short-Form Genres

- Critical teaching narratives
Emerging Short-Form Genres

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- Discuss classroom experiences and practices
- Usually prefaced with research that influenced instructor’s design rationale
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- Discuss classroom experiences and practices
- Usually prefaced with research that influenced instructor’s design rationale
- Main focus is on **praxis** (providing frameworks or assignments for other instructors)
Emerging Short-Form Genres

- Mini-literature reviews
Emerging Short-Form Genres

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- Differs from standard lit reviews by emphasizing the contemporary exigency of keystone texts

- Main focus is on how current events elicit reviewing and revising key ideas
Emerging Short-Form Genres

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- Differs from standard lit reviews by emphasizing the contemporary exigency of keystone texts
- Main focus is on how current events elicit reviewing and revising key ideas
- Can highlight non-canonical or overlooked texts
Emerging Short-Form Genres

- Small-scale case studies
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- Usually retrospective and impromptu in nature (were not initially designed as an experiment)
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- Small-scale case studies
- Usually retrospective and impromptu in nature (were not initially designed as an experiment)
- Explains how key ideas emerged organically from real-world situations
- Sets the foundation for full-length case studies
Advantages of Short-Form Publication

- Review some advantages of short-form publishing while also discussing common criticisms
Advantages of Short-Form Publication

- Short form allows for an emphasis on speculation
Advantages of Short-Form Publication

- Short form allows for an emphasis on speculation
- What problems are currently emerging? How can be begin to anticipate solutions?
- This can help you set the stage for full-length research in the future
Advantages of Short-Form Publication

- Time and turnaround advantages
Advantages of Short-Form Publication

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- Shorter pieces can quickly respond to real-world events (i.e., impact of COVID-19 on teaching)
- Require less time investment from reviewers
Advantages of Short-Form Publication

- Can be easier to manage in terms of schedule
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- Teaching and other obligations may increase over a semester
- Might be able to establish writing time within smaller windows (i.e., winter break or spring break)
Criticisms of Short-Form Publishing

- Review potential criticisms
- Use criticisms to highlight flexibility of short-form publication (not chastise those who might be skeptical)
Main criticism revolves around rigor
Criticisms of Short-Form Publishing

- Main criticism revolves around rigor
- Shorter
Criticisms of Short-Form Publishing

- Main criticism revolves around rigor
- Shorter → less detailed
Criticisms of Short-Form Publishing

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- Shorter → less detailed → less rigorous
Criticisms of Short-Form Publishing

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- Long-form pubs are comprehensive and solidify research into a stable foundation
- Short-form pubs speculate where new research might emerge
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- Short- and long-form pubs can be complimentary
Criticisms of Short-Form Publishing

- Concerns about legitimacy
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- Short-form pubs can undergo the same blind peer review process as traditional articles
- Peer responses can be more consistent in short-form pubs due to time commitments
Conclusion

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- Combination of short- and long-form publications supports a comprehensive research agenda
- Give you a forward-looking and retrospective perspective on your discipline
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- Combination of short- and long-form publications supports a comprehensive research agenda
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- Test out new writing and research strategies
Conclusion

- Please consult the ORS Lab website for webinars and worksheets that discuss different writing strategies.

- Resources dedicated to different research methods (qualitative, quantitative, and AI-assisted).

- Consultants available to discuss best practices for different research methodologies.