



TOP PUBLICATIONS AND PHD STUDENTS

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PhD students



Goal: get maximized potential

Not always top publications, will also depend on topic, skills, effort and luck

Today: Some ideas on how and when to publish in top journals with examples from my own field and as editor in one of the top journals in economics.



How to publish in top journals for applied economists in Norway?

Who and what have been published in top-5 in economics using Norwegian register data 2005-2022? Learn from what others have been doing in your area. This also applied to PhD students. I share this list (coming soon) with all new PhDs at econ-nhh.

Often “misses” in top journals end in very high quality alternative journals - a lot of the “strategy” for top journals also applies to other international journals.

Top 5 papers 2005-2020 using Norwegian Register data

1. Black, Devereux and Salvanes (2005) «Why the Apple doesn't Fall far: Understanding Intergenerational Transmission of Education.» *American Economic Review*, 95, 437-449
2. Black, Devereux and Salvanes (2005) «The More the Merrier? The Effect of Family Size and Birth Order on Children's Education» *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 120, 669-700
3. Black, Devereux and Salvanes (2007) «From the Cradle to the Job Market? The Effect of Birth Weight on Adult Outcomes of Children.» *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 122, 409-439
4. Rege, Telle and Votruba (2011) «Parental Job Loss and Children's School Performance» *Review of Economic Studies*, 78, 1462-1489
5. Bharadwaj, Løken and Neilson (2013) «Early Life Health Interventions and Academic Achievement.» *American Economic Review*, 103, 1862-1891
6. Bhuller, Havnes, Leuven and Mogstad (2013) «Broadband Internet: An information Superhighway to Sex Crime?» *Review of Economic Studies*, 80, 1237-1266
7. Irarrazabal, Moxnes and Opromolla (2013) «The Margins of Multinational Production and the Role of Intrafirm Trade.» *Journal of Political Economics*, 121, 74-126
8. Dahl, Løken and Mogstad (2014) «Peer Effects in Program Participation.» *American Economic Review*, 104, 2049-2074
9. Kostøl and Mogstad (2014) «How Financial Incentives Induce Disability Insurance Recipients to Return to Work.» *American Economic Review*, 104, 624-655
10. Dahl, Kostøl and Mogstad (2014) «Family Welfare Cultures.» *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 129, 1711-1752
11. Carneiro, Løken and Salvanes (2015) «A Flying Start? Maternity Leave Benefits and Long-Run Outcomes of Children.» *Journal of Political Economy*, 123, 354-412
12. Akerman, Gaarder and Mogstad (2015) «The Skill Complementarity of Broadband Internet.» *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 130, 1781-1824

Top 5 papers 2005-2020 using Norwegian Register data

13. Bøler, Moxnes and Ulltveit-Moe (2015) «R&D, International Sourcing and the Joint Impact on Firm Performance.» *American Economic Review*, 105, 3704-3739
14. Kirkebøen, Leuven and Mogstad (2016) «Field of Study, Earnings and Self-Selection.» *Quarterly Journal of Economics*, 131, 1057-1111
15. Brinch, Mogstad and Wiswall (2017) «Beyond LATE with a Discrete Instrument» *Journal of Political Economy*, 125, 985-1039
16. Fagereng, Guiso and Pistaferri (2018) «Portfolio Choices, Firm Shocks and Uninsurable Wage Risk.» *Review of Economic Studies*, 85, 396-436
17. Hvide and Jones (2018): «Innovation by University Employees.» *American Economic Review*, 108, 1860-1898
18. Gavrilova-Zoutman, Hopland and Zoutman (2018): “Estimating Both Supply and Demand Elasticities Using Variation in a Single Tax Rate”, *Econometrica*, vol. 86(2), pages 763-771
19. Bertrand, Black, Jensen and Lleras-Muney (2019) «Breaking the Glass Ceiling? The Effect of Board Quotas on Female Labour Market Outcomes in Norway.» *Review of Economic Studies*, 86, 191-239
20. Alstadsæter, Johannesen and Zucman (2019) «Tax Evasion and Inequality» *American Economic Review*, 109, 2073-2103
21. Autor, Kostøl, Mogstad and Setzler (2019) «Disability Receipt, Consumption Insurance and Family Labor Supply.» *American Economic Review*, 109, 2613-2654
22. Eika, Mogstad and Zafar (2019) «Educational Assortative Mating and Household Income Inequality.» *Journal of Political Economy*, 127, 2795-2835
23. Bütikofer and Salvanes (2020) «Disease Control and Inequality Reduction: Evidence from a Tuberculosis Testing and Vaccination Campaign.» *Review of Economic Studies*, 87, 2087-2125
24. Bhuller, Dahl, Løken and Mogstad (2020) «Incarceration, Recidivism and Employment.» *Journal of Political Economy*, 126, 1269-1324

Top 5 papers 2005-2022 using Norwegian Register data

25. Dubois and Sæthre (2020): «On the effect of parallel trade on manufacturers' and restailers' profits in the pharmaceutical sector, *Econometrica*, 88,6
26. Fagereng, Guiso, Malacrino and Pistaferri (2020) «Heterogeneity and Persistence in returns to Wealth.» *Econometrica*, 88, 115-170
27. Carneiro, Lopez-Garcia, Salvanes and Tominey (2021): «Intergenerational Transmission, Human Capital Formation and the Timing of Parental Income.» *Journal of Political Economy*, 129, 757-788
28. Fagereng, Mogstad and Ronning (2021): «Why do Wealthy Parents Have Wealthy Children?», *Journal of Political Economy*, 129, 703-756
29. Aryal, Bhuller and Lange (2021): «Signaling and Employer Learning with Instruments», *American Economic Review*, forthcoming
30. Kostøl and Myhre (2021): «Labor Supply Responses to Learning the Tax and Benefit Schedule», *American Economic Review*, 111, 3733-3766

Many papers just below in top general interest and top fields journals



Specific lessons

- A few Norwegian economists have several papers
 - Mogstad: 11/30
 - Salvanes: 6/30
 - Løken: 4/30
 - Kostøl: 4/30
 - Bhuller: 3/30
- More diversity in both number, authors and topics lately
 - 2005-2013: 7 papers
 - 2014-forthcoming: 23 papers
- While a few exceptions, most papers are joint with international collaborators





More general lessons

- Those that have already published in top journals know more about what it takes – use network of authors and learn from other successes in your field
- Likely spillover effects – more authors learn how to do it over time!
- International network key for top publications
- Keep updated on the research frontier in your field, «copy» their styles of writing etc.





Supervisor - PhD

- Hard for PhD student to publish better than supervisor – set the goal in the beginning
- Set expectations: to be in research frontier and compete internationally have to work more than the average Norwegian working hours...
- If you do not have the level you think the PhD student should aim for
 - Use colleagues to help as second supervisor
 - Use international network (regardless)
 - Send the PhD student abroad and to conferences/workshops (a lot!!)





Supervisor - PhD



- My «model» for PhDs:
 - One joint paper, one coauthored paper with someone else, one single authored paper
 - Push for international couathors
 - Does not always work – sometimes have no joint and somtimes two. But never three...



Insights from RESTUD – a top general journal in economics

FAIR

Board of Directors 7 people+secretary and business manager: run the journal. Chair appointed four year period: currently Nicola Fuchs-Schündeln

Joint managing editors: 8 (app 230 papers per year per editor)

Editorial board: currently 52

--expert referees (12 reports per year), vote on new journal policy and give feedback to directors (annual board meeting).

Board member vote in new members at annual board meeting (2+3+3 terms)

Managing editors typically appointed from board

Foreign editors: 15 – mostly US based – expert referees, not board members

Joint Managing Editors

[Thomas Chaney](#), Sciences Po

[Andrea Galeotti](#), London Business School

[Bård Harstad](#), University of Oslo

[Nir Jaimovich](#), University of Zurich

[Katrine Loken](#), Norwegian School of Economics

[Kurt Mitman](#), IIES, Stockholm University

[Francesca Molinari](#), Cornell University

[Elias Papaioannou](#), London Business School

Experiences from RESTUD

My stats since august 2021 (per september 29th 2022):

221 papers

115 desk rejected (52%)

67 rejected (30%)

29 pending (13%)

10 revise and resubmit (5%)

Experiences from RESTUD

What do we look for and ask referees to give feedback on?

I would appreciate a lot if you could prepare a report that could be shared with the authors and a separate confidential cover letter to me that addresses the following questions:

1) Is the paper innovative?

What paper(s) are they using as benchmark?

Do you expect it to stimulate further research on this or similar topics?

1) Are the findings useful and if so, in what contexts?

2) Is it the best method to answer the question and is the method in the research frontier?

Typical desk rejection letter after 1 week

I am very sorry to say that I have decided to reject your submission, XXX, at the Review of Economic Studies. I have read your paper carefully – something that I always try to do before sending a paper out for full review. Your paper is very interesting, and I enjoyed reading it and learned from it. However, in my judgement the paper is too narrow in scope to sufficiently appeal to the wide and heterogeneous audience of the Review. My impression is that your setting has important policy implications, however the wider lesson of your study for new economic principles or mechanisms are more unclear. You might want to try your paper at XXX.

Rejections: include more paper specifics in letter
+ reports (on average 3 reports per paper). Average 90-100 days.

How to motivate papers from Norway? Examples from Economics



Proof of concept

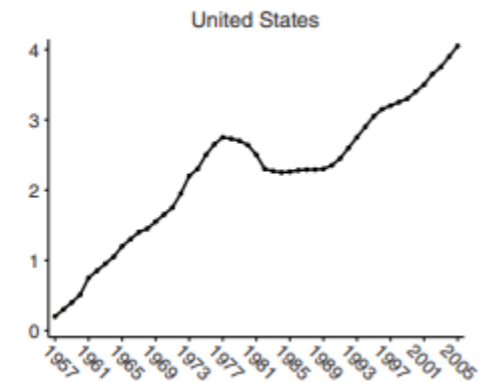
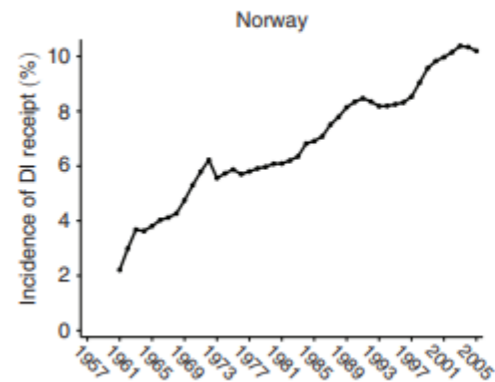
While the Nordic Model is a little unique on some aspects, there are many «universal» questions on human behavior, learning from best practises, comparing policies (maybe not that different afterall?)

Check how others have written their intros/motivations before

Examples

Kostøl and Mogstad (2014) «How Financial Incentives Induce Disability Insurance Recipients to Return to Work.»
American Economic Review, 104, 624-655

Panel A. Incidence of DI receipt



the US



How to motivate papers from Norway

Examples

Black, Devereux and Salvanes (2005) «Why the Apple doesn't Fall far: Understanding Intergenerational Transmission of Education.» *American Economic Review*, 95, 437-449

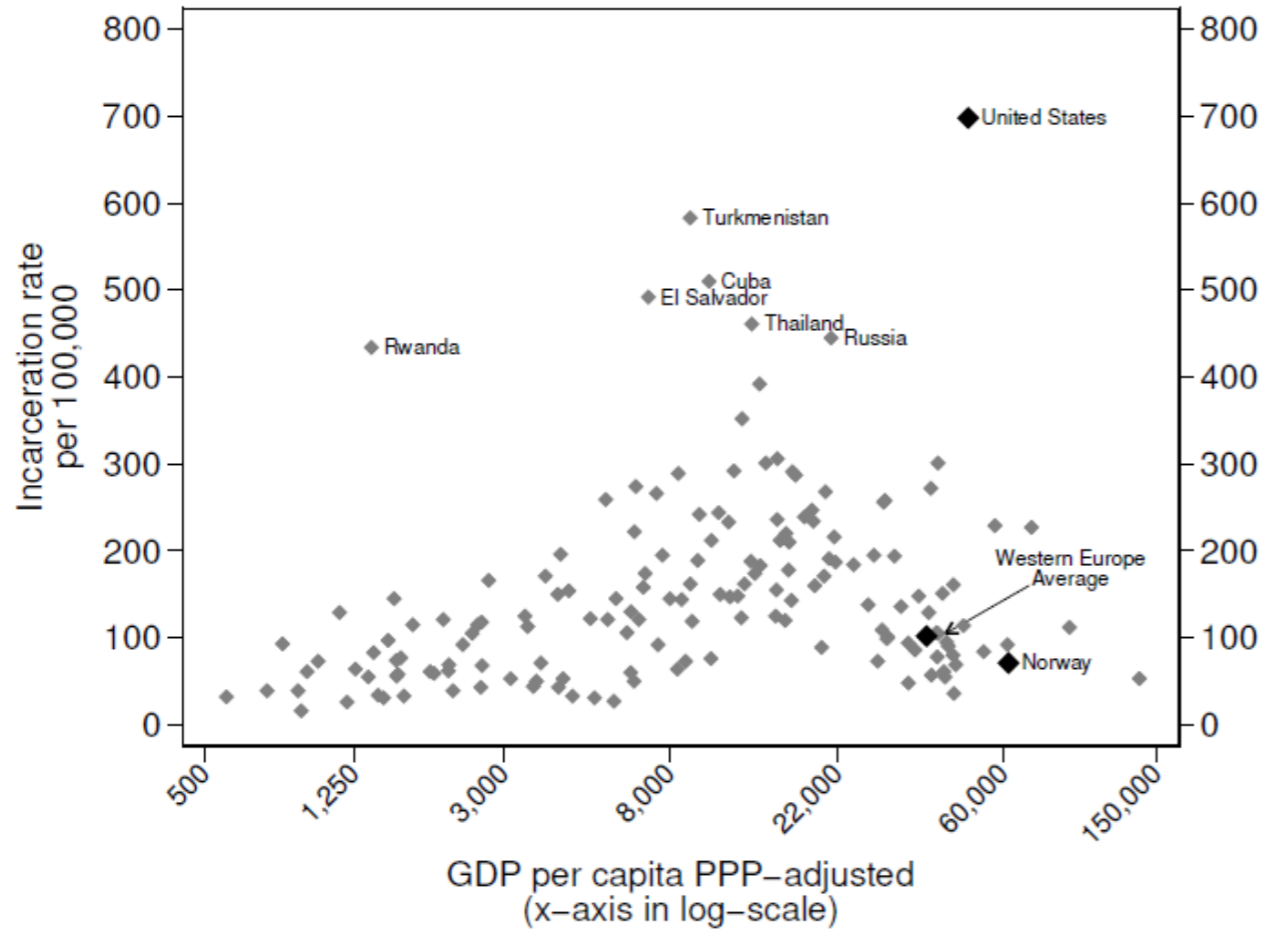
No one had shown if parents education causally affect children's education before. While finding may not be universal across settings, it is a first step in understanding intergenerational transimission of education.

Examples

Dahl, Løken and Mogstad (2014) «Peer Effects in Program Participation.» *American Economic Review*, 104, 2049-2074

This paper studies a reform in paternity quota in Norway. Few countries have paternity quotas. Most of the paper devoted to uniquley understand peer effect and how changes in gender norms may change with a reform.

Norway: an ideal country to study prison systems to learn what may work in reforming a system



Norway: the combination of


1. short prison spells
2. focus on rehabilitation
3. a flexible labour market

Motivates the current ongoing projects to learn more about the system and what works and what does not work





When to aim for top journals?



Often “misses” in top journals ends in very high quality alternative journals - a lot of the “strategy” for top journals also applies to other international journals.

But where to start? Always top journals first?

--Innovative, Novel, Useful, Moving state-of-the-art

All of the top journals?

--depends on feedback in first round

Senior advice – and colleague advice for your phd students for whether they should aim for top publications.