

2009

Reflections of a new academic

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Reflections of a new academic

Abstract

Purpose – The purpose of this poem is to describe the feelings of uncertainty and frustration that may be experienced by new academics as they seek to publish, or attempt to publish, in academic journals for the first time.

Design/methodology/approach – The poem is a reflective piece that expresses some of the feelings of anxiety and uncertainty faced by the author. A poem was selected as the medium for this reflection because it is an indirect way of expressing the issues and may have resonance for other new (or even not so new) academics.

Findings – The process of elucidating the difficulties associated with knowing where, how, and what to publish was very helpful on a personal level.

Originality/value – A poem that reflects on the trials and tribulations surrounding publication efforts by new academics is an original contribution to the literature.

Keywords

Academic staff, Publications, Serials, poem, publication, journal rankings, new academics

Disciplines

Business | Social and Behavioral Sciences

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Category: Viewpoint

Reflections of a new academic

Up the greasy pole we climb
Seeking academic success
Publish! Publish! Is the cry
But where to place our bets?

Journals ranked A-star or A,
Of course these are the best
But do we have the time for this?
And will we pass the test?

High quality of work...
Of course this is a must
But once in the review process
It's no longer up to us

What if the paper is held up?
Waiting for review...
Then more years to publication
What are we to do?

Success in those ranked B or C,
Yes! We're on the climb!
We've got the lines on our CV's
But were we wasting time?

We're told quality not quantity...
But c'mon publish more!
All these rankings, always changing
And too important to ignore

The rules might change, but goals remain:
Work hard to keep ascending
And if we slide back down the pole
Well then it's time for mending

Re-write, revise and re-submit
We'll climb the pole with grace
Then look back down, reach out a hand
As someone takes our place