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Panel: Publishing high impact IS research in top journals: Tips and traps

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PUBLISHING HIGH IMPACT IS RESEARCH IN TOP JOURNALS

Tips and traps

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It is widely known that there are significant differences between a European “style” of IS scholarship, and a North American style. There is also a significant difference in the acceptance and publication of European research and North American research in the top ranked journals. While this gap may be closing, it remains favorable to the North American style. Several reasons have been attributed to the difference, including differences in research methods (e.g., a preference for quantitative vs. preference for qualitative), indifference to publishing in top journals in Europe because people are not rewarded for it, or differences in doctoral training. We do not believe that any of these reasons alone can explain the gap, as most top journals have opened their pages for any type of research, and many of them invite the deep theoretical and philosophical work more characteristic of European style. Moreover, the emphasis on publishing in top journals has become common in many European universities. In the panel we will argue that the differences lie rather in the overall publication culture and tradition, doctoral training and faculty development, and available support in departments required to publish consistently in top journals. We also claim that in Europe there is a greater lack of understanding as to what it takes to score in these journals.

In this panel four IS scholars- some trained in Europe, some in working in Europe, some both- who have extensive experience in publishing, reviewing and managing top IS journals will discuss their experiences with regard the following topics:

- What makes papers publishable and acceptable in top IS journals?
- How to manage review process so that you can finish it successfully?
- How to prepare manuscripts for top journals and what steps help you keep the manuscript alive?
- What to expect from editors and reviewers at top journals?
- How to address different concerns raised by reviewers and editors?
- How different journals operate and how they differ with regard to publication policies, reviews or editorial decisions?