

Seminar 2 in “SciPub in SE” course

The focus of this part of the "Scientific Publication in SE" course is how the publication process works and how you can think about and develop a publication strategy. It is not enough just to do good research and then send it to any forum; you need to have a strategy for where to send what. To develop this you need to understand how processes of publication works for different fora, mainly for conferences and journals. We will discuss how these processes look, what you should strive for in your papers and which strategic choices are available.

To prepare for seminar 2 you should (before the seminar) do the preparatory tasks (numbered T1 to T4 below). Submit your PDF file at least 4 hours before seminar 2. After the seminar you should do the assignment tasks (numbered T5-T6 below). Submit one PDF file with your answers within 10 days of the finish of seminar 2.

Tasks and time expectations

To show my expectations, I expect your pre-seminar preparations to take roughly the following amount of time (per task):

Preparatory Tasks	Time
T1. Think about the below set of prep questions (PQs) and write down your spontaneous answers to them (without researching the internet or reading up on related material)	~1h
T2. Read the study material and update your answers to the PQs	~3h
T3. Search for other material/papers related to the PQs, list them in the doc with your answers, update your answers to PQs based on the additional material you found	~1.75h
T4. Produce PDF and send to examiner at least 4 hours before the start of the seminar	~0.25h

Your answers should be brief (but condensed), i.e. in 7-15 sentences summarize your final view/answers in relation to each of the questions. You can refer to other peoples insight (use normal references like [Feldt2012] in the text and then have a list of references at the end) but your answer should be your own and explain why you hold it.

To show my expectations, I expect your post-seminar assignment to take roughly the following amount of time:

Assignment Tasks	Time
T5. Write a short report as described below in “Assignment report”.	~2.75h
T6. Submit one PDF file containing your answers to AQs and the short report. Send it to the course examiner within 10 days of Seminar 1 .	~0.25h

Prep questions

PQ1. What is the difference between a journal and a conference paper?

PQ2. What are blind and double-blind review processes? What are the possible advantages/disadvantages of each?

PQ3. What is a good SE research paper?

PQ4. How can you ensure your research is reproducible?

Prep study material

PSM1. Mary Shaw's paper "Writing Good Software Engineering Research Papers", <http://www.cs.cmu.edu/~Compose/ftp/shaw-fin-etaps.pdf>

PSM2. Read abstract and slides for Michael Ernst's talk "Reproducible tests? Non-duplicable results in testing and verification", <http://homes.cs.washington.edu/~mernst/pubs/unreproducible-tests-icst-2012-abstract.html>

PSM3. Sense About Science, "Peer Review - The Nuts and Bolts", <http://www.senseaboutscience.org/resources.php/99/peer-review-the-nuts-and-bolts> , 2012.

Assignment report

Write your publication strategy that:

- a, Describes your focus area (within SE) briefly and the goals of your strategy
- b, Gives an overall description of publication strategy and its development over time in your PhD project (the latter part depends on where you are in your studies)
- c, Describes how you should choose which forum to publish in
- d, List the Workshops, Conferences and Journals that you plan to focus on