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Going ahead: How to select topics for research

Félix J. López Iturriaga



1. Conferences as sources of ideas

2. Topicality



An editor's view

ACCOUNTING
& FINANCE



Accounting and Finance 52 (2012) 343–358

Why you don't get published: an editor's view

Michael E. Bradbury

School of Accountancy, Massey University, Private Bag 102904 NSMC Auckland, New Zealand

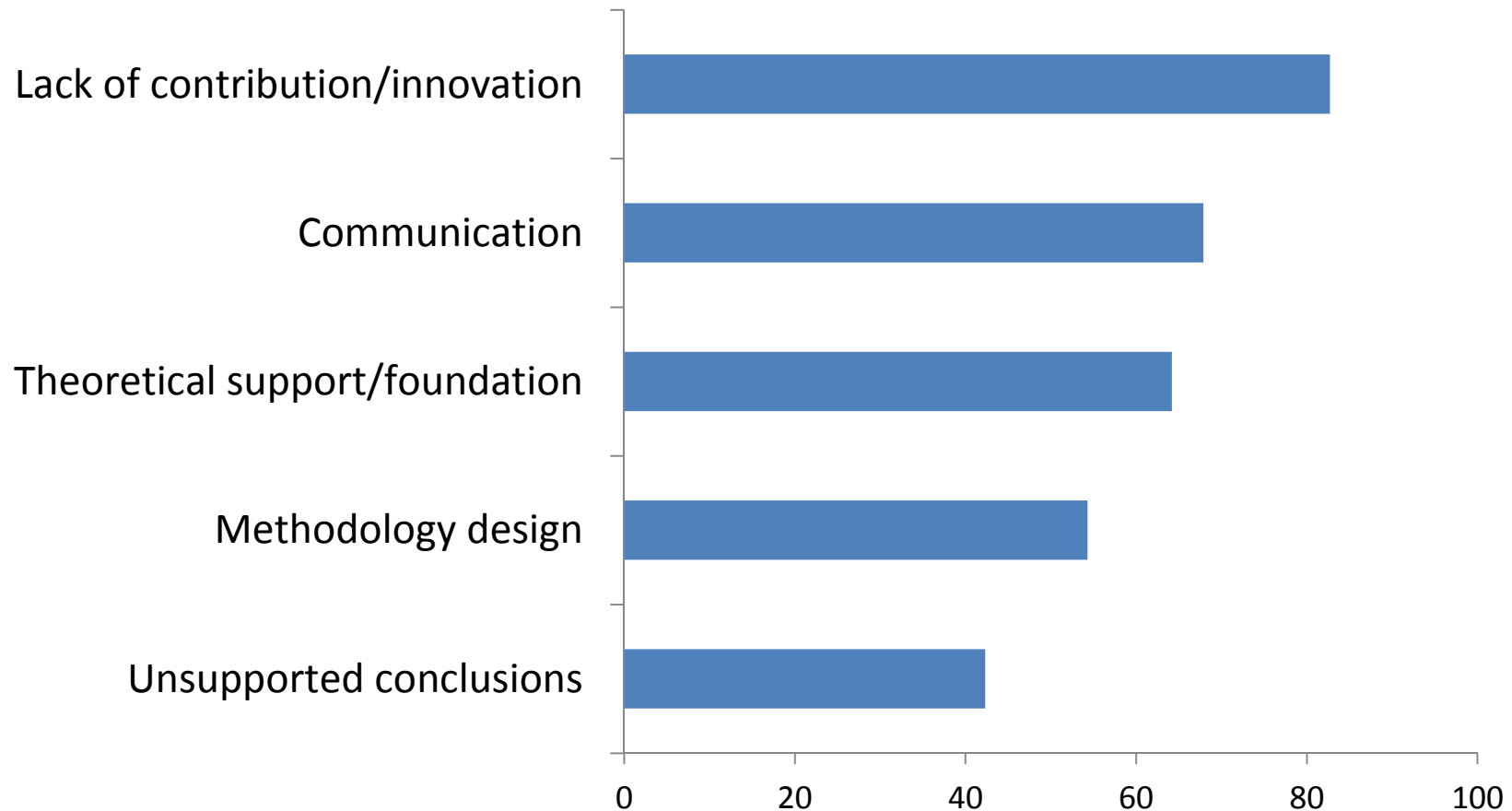
Abstract

This paper uses content analysis to examine 66 reviews on 33 manuscripts submitted to *Accounting and Finance*. Selected extracts from reviews are provided to illustrate the issues considered important to reviewers. The main message is that papers need to be work-shopped and more care taken over editorial matters. A checklist for prospective authors is provided.



An editor's view

Factors underlying reviewers' first-round rejection recommendation (%)





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2. Data and sample construction
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4. The capital market response to restr...
5. Robustness and alternative capital m...
6. The labor market response to restrai...
7. Conclusion
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 **Journal of Financial Economics**
Volume 114, Issue 1, October 2014, Pages 54–83



The death of the deal: Are withdrawn acquisition deals informative of CEO quality? *

Stacey Jacobsen  

Cox School of Business, Southern Methodist University, Dallas, Texas, USA

Received 21 November 2012, Revised 16 August 2013, Accepted 17 September 2013, Available online 6 June 2014

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Journal of Financial Economics

Volume 114, Issue 1, October 2014, Pages 54–83



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I am especially grateful for comments and suggestions made by the referee, Kenneth Lehn, Daniel Beneish, Utpal Bhattacharya, Alex Borisov, Nandini Gupta, Craig Holden, Jonathon Karpoff, Bill Maxwell, Brian Miller, Darius Miller, Sara Moeller, Robert Parrino, Scott Smart, Rex Thompson, Xiaoyun Yu, Chris Yung, and seminar participants at Bentley University, Boston College, California State Fullerton, Colorado State, Indiana University, Southern Methodist University, Stanford University, University of Arkansas, University of Pittsburgh, University of Texas at Dallas, University of Washington, and participants at the 2010 Financial Management Association Conference, 2011 Academic Conference on Corporate Governance at Drexel University, and the 2012 Early Career Women in Finance Conference. All errors are mine.



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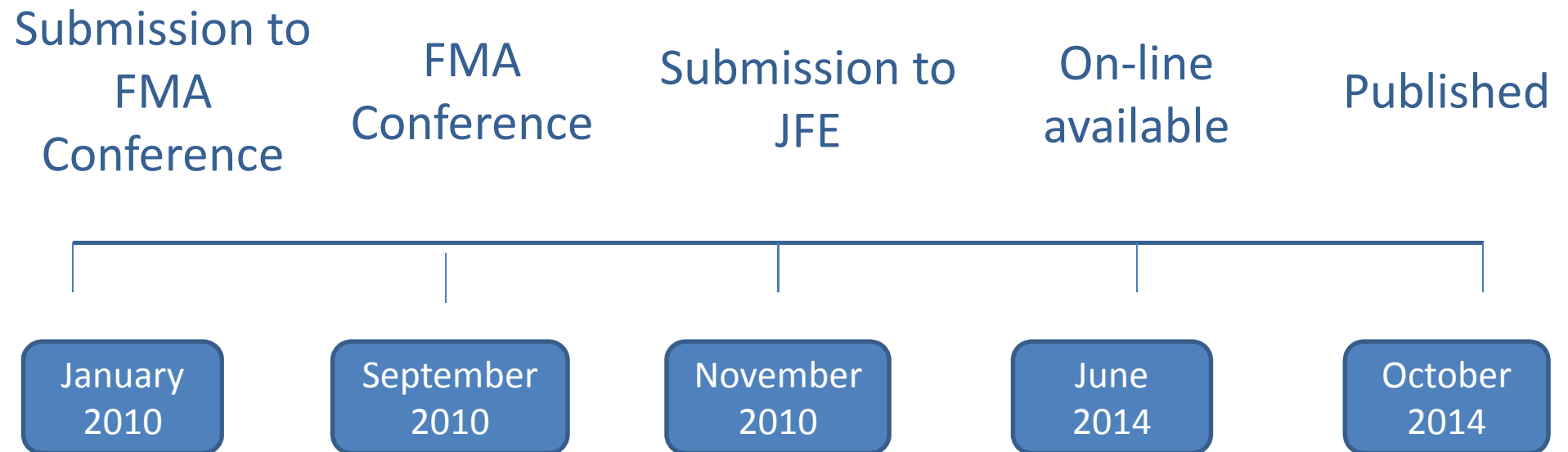
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seminars

3
conferences

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Tracking an example





Some examples of conferences

[Financial Management Association](#)

[European Financial Management](#)

[European Conference on Intellectual Capital](#)



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Another editor's view

THE ACCOUNTING REVIEW

Vol. 80, No. 1

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pp. 55–83

The Importance of Circulating and Presenting Manuscripts: Evidence from the Accounting Literature

Lawrence D. Brown
Georgia State University

ABSTRACT: Editors exhort authors to circulate and present their working papers to colleagues before submitting them to journals (Zimmerman 1989; Green et al. 2002). Authors heeding such advice are said to increase the likelihood of getting their work published and making their research, once published, more influential (Zimmerman 1989). While evidence regarding these matters is of keen importance to authors, editors, and administrators, no research exists showing that circulating and presenting manuscripts increases their probability of being accepted in accounting journals or, when published, their influence on stimulating other research. I present such evidence by perusing acknowledgments in premier accounting journals.



Another editor's view

All submissions (305)	Mean	Median		Kruskal-Wallis p-value
Institutions	2.30	1		
Conferences	0.61	0		
Individuals	4.67	3		
Authors	2.03	2		
Decision: Reject (231)				
Institutions	1.73	1		
Conferences	0.54	0		
Individuals	4.13	3		
Authors	2.03	2		
Decision: R&R (74)				
Institutions	4.08	3		0.0001***
Conferences	0.84	1		0.0048***
Individuals	6.36	5		0.0006***
Authors	2.01	2		0.8122



Some basic questions



This topic has not been looked at before



We use a different technique that has not previously been employed



Is the topic novel, interesting and important?



Is the study consequential, that is, does it have the potential to inform a debate?



How does the study fit with the existing literature, and what is its potential to extend this literature



Is there a solid foundation underlying the development of the hypotheses?



1. Conferences as sources of ideas

2. Topicality