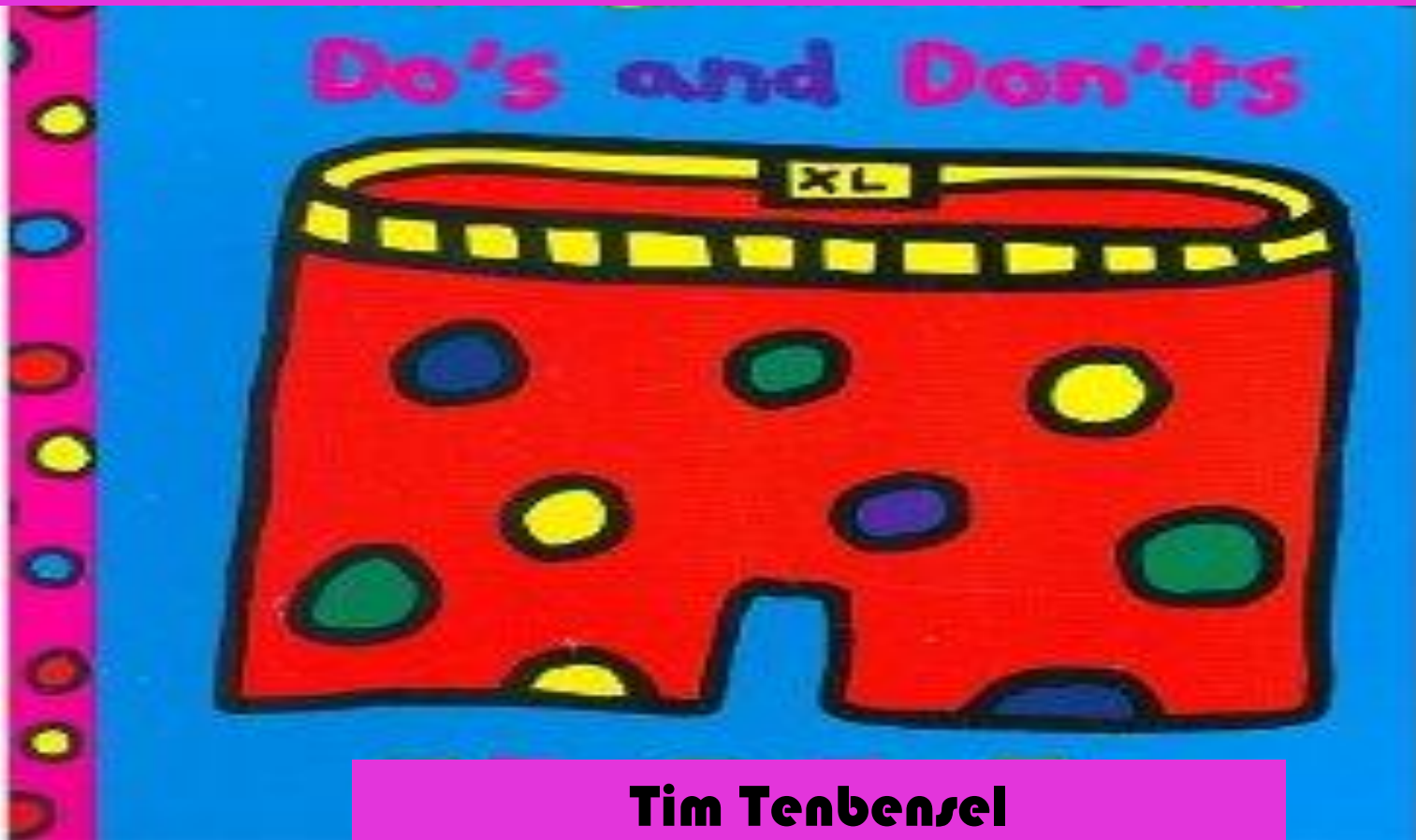


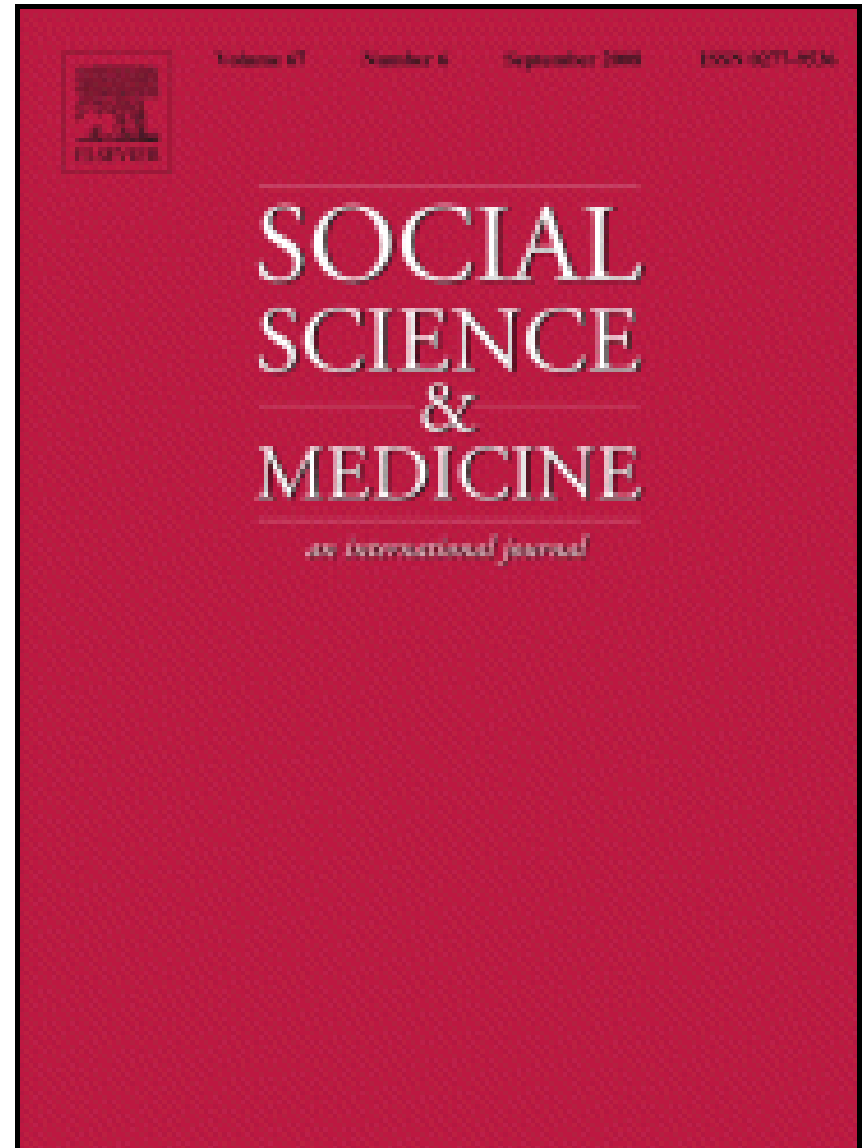
Graduate Student Publishing



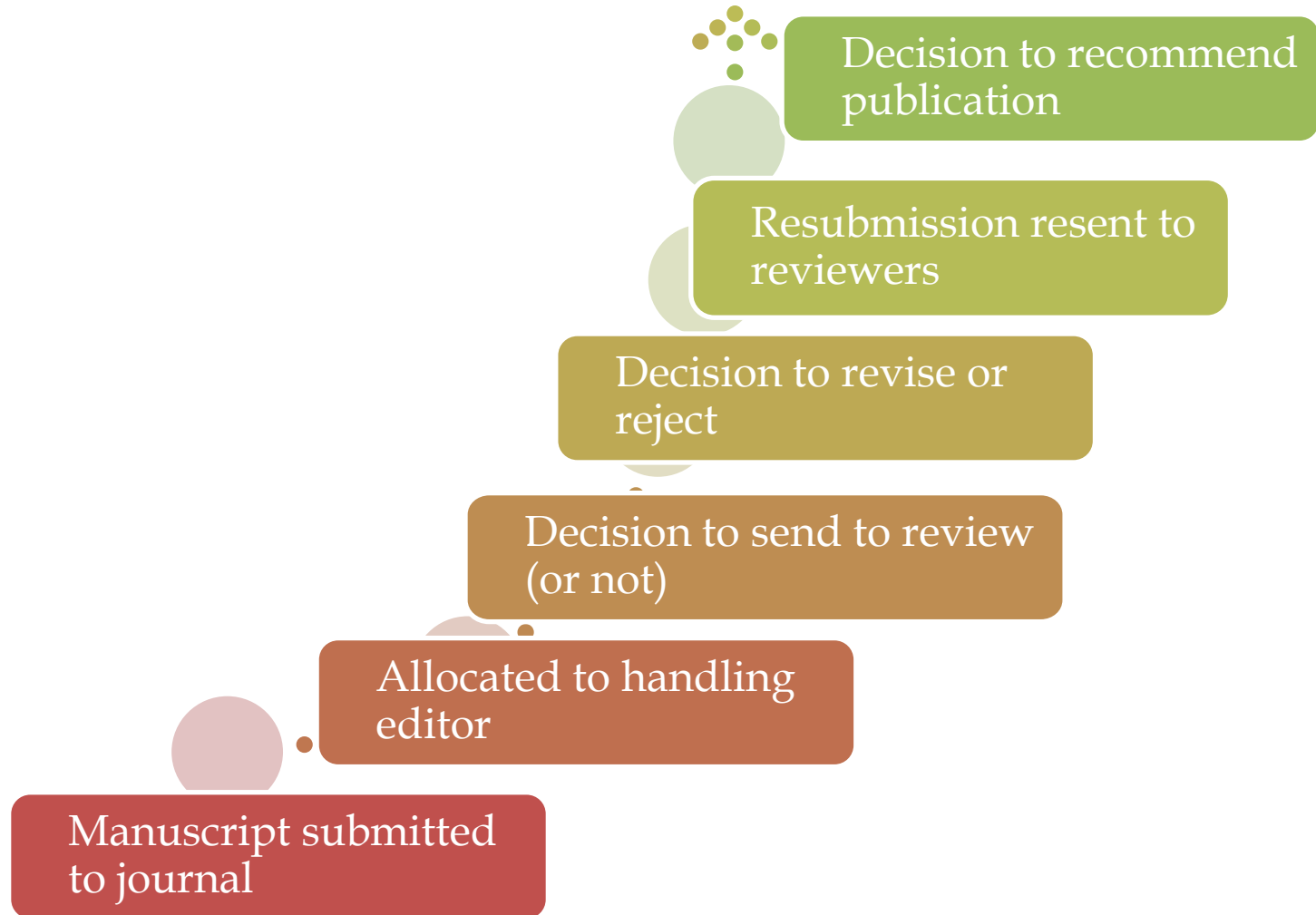
My experience:

Assistant Editor
(Health Policy)
2005-2012

- Processed approximately 200 manuscripts
- Reviewed about 20



The Journal Review Process



When preparing a manuscript....

Don't

- Attempt to fit the whole thesis into one article



Do

- Attempt to submit 'bite-size chunks'



Don't

- Attempt to fly solo



Do

- Co-write with your supervisors (or other experienced academics)



Don't

- Aim for a journal just because it has a high reputation or impact factor



Do

- Aim for a journal that fits the research you have done



Editor's decision to send for review based on....

Potential contribution to academic literature

Journal's specific criteria

Presentation

- Written expression
- Formatting
- Referencing

In 'pitching' your manuscript...

Don't

- Be vague about the purpose of your manuscript



Do

- Be clear about the specific contribution you are making to a specific body of literature



I don't think, at this stage, that the manuscript is strong enough to send for review, but with some improvements I would be happy to do so.

1) I think the manuscript would be much more likely to make a contribution if it was framed in such a way that it answered a question raised in the 'research to policy' literature.

2) The discussion generally links findings to existing literature, but at this point one could easily ask the 'so what' question. Does this research tell us anything we wouldn't reasonably expect? What is surprising? What is noteworthy? Why should the reader sit up and take notice? This would require a significant redrafting and a much stronger linkage with issues raised in the research to policy literature (see point 1).

3) The whole manuscript needs a thorough re-edit to correct many mistakes in English grammar and word selection.

As this appears to be related to a PhD project, I'm yet to be convinced that this material 'stands on its own'. However, I think there is the kernel of a very good article here, so I would encourage you to resubmit.



What reviewers will look for

The overall argument (is it coherent?, are there any gaps?)

The 'set-up' (intro leading to research questions)

Clarity of methodology and results

Discussion – significance of the research

We have sent your manuscript out to reviewers and they have now returned with their comments, which are appended.

Two reviewers recommend acceptance with minor changes and one recommends major revision. This is a very positive reaction, and the reviewer suggestions for further improvement are very clear and concrete.



Resubmitting

Don't

- Ignore reviewer advice



Do

- Respond fully to reviewer criticisms and suggestions



Unfortunately, I do not consider your response to this reviewer's comments to have adequately addressed these concerns. It is not enough to say simply that '(w)e would disagree with the reviewer's statements and suggest that what we presented are the findings of the research'.

This is a shame, as I think you could have provided plausible justifications for your approach and interpretation in response to these specific points.



Some good examples

Holden, C. A. and V. Lin (2012). "Network structures and their relevance to the policy cycle: A case study of The National Male Health Policy of Australia." Social Science & Medicine 74(2): 228-235.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com.ezproxy.auckland.ac.nz/science/article/pii/S0277953611006587>

Flitcroft, K., J. Gillespie, et al. (2011). "Getting evidence into policy: The need for deliberative strategies?" Social Science & Medicine 72(7): 1039-1046.

<http://www.sciencedirect.com.ezproxy.auckland.ac.nz/science/article/pii/S0277953611000888>

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ***Good luck!*** ★ ★ ★ ★ ★