

**Psychology Publishing in Portugal:
Hardships and Disappointment follows
Expectations**

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What motivated me to be involved?

- ✓ what is it best, to publish in our own native language or in a foreign language?
(“*English!!!*”)
- ✓ why should English written articles be more valued than articles published in other languages (e.g., Portuguese)?
- ✓ what are the major obstacles Portuguese researchers usually face when trying to publish?
- ✓ why does it tend to be more difficult for us to know what our own colleagues (*i.e.*, those that work in the same country that I do) are doing than some foreign researcher or team?

Method

- ✓ internet searches
- ✓ informal talks
- ✓ interviews to senior faculty staff (in person, by phone or email)



Interviews:

- ✓ N = 10 (more in process)
- ✓ institutions: 4 major public Portuguese universities (Porto, Coimbra, Lisboa, Braga)
- ✓ research areas: counselling, clinical, social, political and community, work, education and training
- ✓ script

Main conclusions

In essence \Rightarrow lack of resources (financial + human)



Specifically

(i) accessibility

✓ easy to accede to online publications (English) available from databases

✓ hard to accede to any other types of publications (print + non-English + specific areas) \Rightarrow “everything becomes more problematical”

(i) accessibility

Portuguese journals:

- ✓ **few good generalist publications**
- ✓ **easily accessible the “traditional way”**
- ✓ **there’s an online deficit + paid access (usually)**
- ✓ **there are no organised systems of information (e.g., databases) + many researchers on specific fields publish in journals outside Psychology (e.g., Education, Social Analysis)**

(ii) costs

✓ attached to access ⇒ “rather reasonable”

✓ attached to the publishing process ⇒ “there’s no money, there are no supports, there’s no organization structure”



Current status:

✓ a number of publications became or are considering becoming online journals ⇒ money and (human resources) time

✓ journals publish 1 or 2 volumes a year (typically)

✓ department members “do it all”

(iii) reviewing & time delay

General consensus ⇒ Portuguese researchers don't run in the exact same circumstances:

✓ studies aren't considered to have universal value

✓ rejection due to lack of elegance of (English) language (pre-exclusion criterion)

Strict observance of certain norm styles or guidelines ⇒ does not recognise diversity in cultural and ideological (thus, research and reasoning) traditions



Less unanimous

Those that agree ⇒ 2 standpoints (need to learn / refuse to adhere)

(iii) reviewing & time delay

Quality of refereeing, time delays \Rightarrow lot of variability

✓ reviews “constructive” + “well supported” vs. others that are not (national/international) \Rightarrow reviewers with “hands full”

✓ time from submission to publication \Rightarrow from 3 to 12 months vs. up until 2 years (both in Portugal & outside)

(time from publication to reception \Rightarrow less data)

(iv) language, impact & reputation

Unanimity

- ✓ **over-appreciation of English**
- ✓ **devaluation of Portuguese & any other languages**
- ✓ **impact (over)determines reputation**
- ✓ **(high) impact does not necessarily equals quality**



Paradoxes (examples)

Expectations, suggestions...

- ✓ **easy to accede and open to all areas of psychology**
- ✓ **organized by themes & with space for national/regional sections within each theme**
- ✓ **aim the general public & practitioners (above all) + languages**
- ✓ **include a consultation index \Rightarrow index of social impact**
- ✓ **rely on computer system (already available) allowing authors to monitor their articles progression**