



Nottingham Trent
University



The
Chartered
Society of
Forensic
Sciences

Top 5 Ways to Get Your Study Published

Dr Rachel Bolton-King

Associate Professor of Forensic Science
Editor-in-Chief of *Science & Justice*



22/01/2024

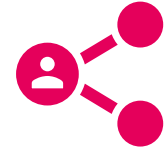
Know ...



The Journal!



The Editorial Board!



Who Will Care?!



What's NEW?!



Global Value?!

What's NEW i.e. NOVEL ...



Knowledge to field

- Problem/challenge being addressed/solved?
- Gaps being filled?



Cutting-edge method?

- Need for it?
- State-of-the-art? If not, why not?
- How it improves current approach?



Recommendations

- For research?
- For practice?



Perspective

- Not previously considered/published
- Different stakeholder?

What's NEW ...

- **Novelty statement**
 - Even for review articles
- **Since** most recently published papers, **globally**
- Consider:
 - All journals
 - All keywords
 - Pre-print servers, eg
 - [Forensic Science Research Network](#)
 - Various stakeholder perspectives



Who Will Care ...

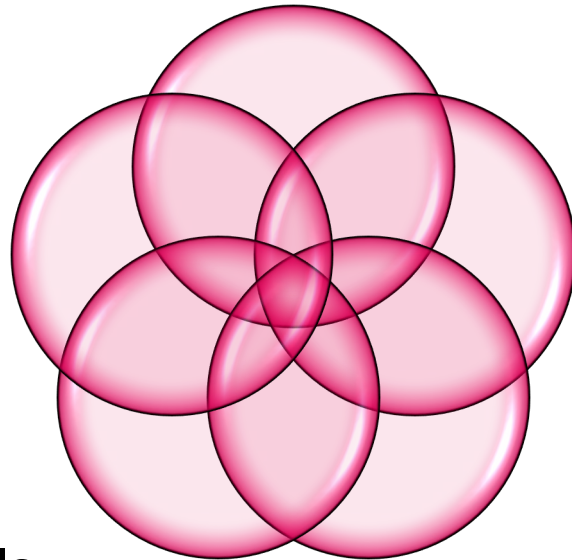
Investigators &
crime analysts

Educators &
trainers

Researchers
& academics

Legal
professionals

Forensic
scientists



- **Who** are you writing for?
 - Write specifically for them
- Write from **readers'** **perspective**
 - Concise for expert readers
 - References for non-experts
- **Bespoke to journal**
 - Re-write manuscript if re-submitting

The Journal ...



Relevant fields/topics of interest for Editor & readers

Submissions are invited from all relevant areas of criminal justice, criminal law and forensic science disciplines including, but not limited to, crime scene and vehicle collision investigation, forensic archaeology and anthropology, forensic biology, forensic genetics and pathology, forensic chemistry and toxicology, criminalistics and physical sciences, digital forensics, environmental forensics and wildlife crime. Authors should consider the journal's diverse, international readership, and wherever possible, should contextualise their work and its application for the benefit of practitioners, academics, researchers and criminal justice systems across the globe.

Readership



The Journal ...

Readers

Introduction

Science & Justice is the official publication of The Chartered Society of Forensic Sciences which was founded, in 1959, with the objectives of advancing the study, application and standing of forensic science, and facilitating co-operation among persons interested in forensic science throughout the world. *Science & Justice* is published six times a year and will be of primary interest to forensic scientists, forensic practitioners and crime scene investigators, legal professionals and their colleagues in related fields. It is chiefly concerned with the publication of formal scientific papers, in keeping with its international learned status, but will not accept any article that does not comply with strict ethical and legal standards.

Types of article

The Editor welcomes original, high quality contributions in English on any aspect of forensic and crime science, as outlined in the journal's aims and scope. *Science & Justice* welcomes submissions of the following article types:

Size or scope of study

- Original Research Papers (Regular Papers)
- Review Articles
- Short Communications (for example, Preliminary Studies and Proof-of-Concept articles where datasets are limited)
- Technical Notes
- Case Studies
- Professional Practice Reports
- Rapid Communications
- Commentaries (including Professional Commentaries)
- Correspondence

Original Research Papers (Regular Papers)

- Original research with larger datasets/variables (may have word limits)
- Novel contribution with sound method
- Ethical approval

Short Communications

- Original research with smaller datasets (may have lower word limits)
- Novel contribution with sound method
- Eg preliminary studies & proof-of-concept studies

Technical Notes

- Advances in methods, procedures or technology
- Describe technical aspects of a problem or discipline

Case Studies/Reports

- Critical evaluation of case
- Must have new/important learning outcomes to advance field
- **Legal consent** needed & case resolved (not ongoing)

Review articles

- Should have a method section (even if not a systematic review)
- Must have critical review not just summarise published studies
- Must have novel contribution(s) to field

Professional Practice Reports

- Innovative application of professional practice
- Highlight important lessons to be learnt
- Eg policy change, collaborative working, development quality standards

Rapid Communications

- Urgent need to get material out (word limits usually)
- Rarely used in our sector
- Editor assesses if 'rapid' or not

Commentaries

- Inc. professional commentaries (may have word limits)
- Eg perspective on hot topic or emerging field

Correspondence (Letters to Editor)

- Responses to previous publications
- Original authors can comment/respond
- Editor can reject



The Journal ...

Follow ALL these



Science & Justice

Articles & Issues ▾

About ▾

Guide for authors

Introduction

- Types of article
- Sections of Science & Justice
- Submission checklist

Before you begin

- Ethics in publishing
- Declaration of Interest
- Declaration of generative AI in scientific writing
- Additional information
- Submission declaration and verification
- Use of inclusive language
- Reporting sex- and gender-based analyses
- Authorship
- Changes to authorship
- Copyright
- Role of the funding source
- Open access
- Submission
- Additional information

Preparation

- Queries
- Peer review
- Double anonymised review
- Discussion
- Essential title page information
- Ethics Statement
- Highlights
- Abstract
- Keywords
- Artwork
- Tables
- References
- Additional information
- Data visualisation
- Supplementary material
- Research data

After acceptance

- Online proof correction
- Offprints
- Author orders

Author inquiries

Global Value ...

- Use cited literature to explain & **critically discuss** your study beyond your ...



Region

Jurisdiction



Discipline

“

Interpreting p-values cannot tell you the strength/size of statistical significance...

you must calculate, interpret & discuss the effect size or probabilistic index for statistically significant results

”



Why is your work worth publishing?

Need to explain clearly to international experts
who peer-review



Editorial Board ...

- Team of 22
 - 1 Editor-in-Chief
 - 3 Associate Editors
 - 18 Editorial Board Members
- Based in:
 - 13 UK
 - 3 Australia
 - 2 USA
 - China, Italy, Spain, Switzerland
- Journal development & strategy
- Assess, handle & process articles
- Suggest others as reviewers



Editor-in-Chief

Dr. Rachel Bolton-King, PhD

Nottingham Trent University, Nottingham, United Kingdom

Forensic science, firearm, ammunition, ballistics, gunshot residue

Associate Editors

Dr. Steve Bleay

Centre for Applied Science and Technology, St. Albans, United Kingdom



Dr. Matteo D. Gallidabino, PhD

King's College London, London, United Kingdom

Chemical Criminalistics, Forensic Chemistry, Explosive/GSR Analysis, Trace Evidence, Evidence Interpretation

[View full biography](#)

Dr. Georgina Meakin, PhD

University of Technology Sydney, Broadway, Australia

Forensic science, Forensic genetics

Editorial Board ...

Dr. Leon Barron

King's College London, London, United Kingdom



Dr. Eric J. Bartelink, PhD

California State University Chico, Chico, California, United States of America

Forensic anthropology, Bioarchaeology, Paleopathology, Stable Isotope Analysis, Trauma analysis, Violence

[View full biography](#)

Dr. Itiel Dror, PhD

University College London, London, United Kingdom

Areas of Expertise, Cognition, Decision Making, Human Performance, Neuroscience

[View full biography](#)

Dr. Sarah Fieldhouse

Staffordshire University, Stoke-On-Trent, United Kingdom

Dr. Robert Forrest

The University of Sheffield, Sheffield, United Kingdom

Dr. Caroline Fournet

Groningen, Netherlands

Dr. Will Goodwin, PhD

University of Central Lancashire School of Natural Sciences, Preston, United Kingdom

Forensic genetics, molecular evolution

Dr. Ian Kennedy, PhD

The Open University, Milton Keynes, United Kingdom

Digital forensics, IoT, Malware, AI, Security



Dr. Chen Long, MD, PhD

Fudan University, Department of Forensic Medicine, Shanghai, China

Forensic Pathology

[View full biography](#)

Dr. Reza Montasari

Swansea University, Swansea, United Kingdom

Dr. William Morris

Leicester, United Kingdom

Dr. Michael S. Nirenberg, DPM, FAENS

Friendly Foot Care Inc, Crown Point, Indiana, United States of America

Forensic Podiatry



Dr. Christopher Phillips, PhD

University of Santiago de Compostela Luis Concheiro Institute of Forensic Science, Santiago de Compostela, Spain

Forensic Genetics

[View full biography](#)

Dr. James Robertson

Australian Federal Police, Canberra, ACT, Australia

Assoc. Professor Barbara Stuart

Sydney, NSW, Australia

Dr. Helen Tidy, PhD

Teesside University, Teesside, United Kingdom

Forensic fibres, forensic footwear marks, forensic glass

Dr. Stefano Vanin

University of Genoa, Genova, Italy

[View full biography](#)

Professor Céline Weyermann, PhD

University of Lausanne, Lausanne, Switzerland

Forensic

[View full biography](#)

- Expand expertise
- Feed into journal development
- May formerly peer-review
- Can answer questions



Please don't ...

Immediate rejection



Submit without ALL approvals

All authors

Ethical

Legal

Copyright

Submit to multiple journals



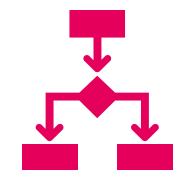
Ignore feedback

Editors & reviewers

Angers reviewers & similar feedback, or desk rejection

Annoys reviewer & causes problems for you later

Reference using incorrect format



Overstate your conclusions

Likely rejected

Cannot publish everything

Get upset if rejected



Thank you!

Any questions?

Scan QR code for my contact details →

