

## Why you should make preprints part of your publication strategy

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*Will preprints be the future of academic publishing? Whilst some subjects have worked this way for many years (arXiv), recently there has been a proliferation of preprint servers for all subject areas. We invite you to post your working papers online and enjoy the benefits of early, open publication! Holly Scott (Psychology) will share how she has used preprints as part of an open research approach and the benefits this brought in promoting her work more widely as a researcher. There will be an opportunity to explore the challenges and opportunities of posting preprints, with experts on hand to answer your questions and concerns about all aspects of open research.*

### Help is available

If you have any questions about preprints and copyright, contact library staff on [research-openaccess@glasgow.ac.uk](mailto:research-openaccess@glasgow.ac.uk).

UofG Website:

<https://www.gla.ac.uk/myglasgow/research/managingyourpublications/sharingyourresearch/preprints/>

We asked for questions via Slido in our session and these were the questions raised:

- Is there a downside to media covering non-peer reviewed work?
- If you modify the work after a peer review and it gets published, do you go back to the preprint to change it?
- If your supervisor was not keen for you to post to a preprint server would you still have done it?
- At what stage should the preprint be submitted? i.e. Views on updating of manuscripts on preprint servers.
- Have you published any of your preprints in peer reviewed journal?
- Do you know what engagement you got from the preprint? Are people reading it or commenting?
- Do you read other people's preprints?
- Are there any blocks to you then publishing formally (copyright etc)?
- How did you first hear about preprints?
- Will it stop me publishing a paper in a top journal like Nature?
- Has using preprints encouraged you to be more active in social scholarly spaces?
- Have you found people to collaborate with having shared your work?
- If you publish a preprint can you then state this has not been published elsewhere?

## Preprints Resources / FAQ

Will it stop you then publishing a paper in a top journal?

No, but you need to check Sherpa Romeo <http://sherpa.ac.uk/romeo/index.php>. This is a database that lets you check publisher policies to see if they permit the posting of preprints. Most do e.g. [Nature: https://www.nature.com/authors/policies/preprints.html](https://www.nature.com/authors/policies/preprints.html).

A quick survey of our most popular top Social Science journals (in terms of UofG papers published) showed that around 95% allowed prior posting of preprints. Arts & Humanities journals gave similar results. Some journals were not listed on Sherpa Romeo so you would need to contact the publisher / editor to check their policy.

Preprints and the REF:

<https://unlockingresearch-blog.lib.cam.ac.uk/?p=2115> and relevant sections of the REF policy guidance can be found here: [https://glamy.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/matt\\_mahon\\_glasgow\\_ac\\_uk/ESvMO3pKfelOowlANKU3LBUBidMD4MAQaOJcYfZZluAAHw?e=nD4dJg](https://glamy.sharepoint.com/:w/g/personal/matt_mahon_glasgow_ac_uk/ESvMO3pKfelOowlANKU3LBUBidMD4MAQaOJcYfZZluAAHw?e=nD4dJg).

Preprints and funders:

Many funders actively encourage the use of preprints, see: <https://asapbio.org/funder-policies> for examples.

How do you cite a preprint?

This will depend on the referencing styles but examples can be seen here:

- Nature give an [example citation](#): “Babichev, S.A., Ries, J. & Lvovsky, A.I. Quantum scissors: teleportation of single-mode optical states by means of a nonlocal single photon. Preprint at <http://arXiv.org/quant-ph/0208066> (2002).”
- Also an example in here: <https://scholarlykitchen.sspnet.org/2018/03/14/preprints-citations-non-peer-reviewed-material-included-article-references/>

Is it wise to share some kinds of medical research before peer review e.g. medical trials / vaccines etc.?

This is discussed in here: <http://fossilsandshit.com/should-we-cite-preprints/>. Also: <https://journals.plos.org/plosmedicine/article?id=10.1371/journal.pmed.1002549> = use of preprints in emergency situations where this could save lives.

How confident do you need to be to post preprints if the senior staff in your department / institute aren't working that way? Do you need permission? You should get permission from all authors before posting a preprint. Suggestions for getting senior researchers on board:

- Show them examples of their peers using preprints
- Refer to funder endorsement of preprints

## Selection of resources on preprints

- Article: “Ten Simple Rules to Consider Regarding preprints”:  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pcbi.1005473>
- Article: Ten Myths Around Open Scholarly Publishing:  
<https://peerj.com/preprints/27580/> (March 2019, preprint)
- List of pre-print servers: <https://asapbio.org/preprint-products>
- Article: “On the value of preprints: an early career researcher perspective”  
<https://doi.org/10.1371/journal.pbio.3000151> and their Fig.1 - see graphic below  
(shared on Twitter  
<https://twitter.com/humbertodebat/status/1098663913619623938>)
- This is a good post exploring many of the issues with preprints:  
<http://fossilsandshit.com/should-we-cite-preprints/> (from 2017)
- A thread from Twitter endorsing the role of preprints:  
[https://twitter.com/dsquintana/status/962214636312461312?ref\\_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E962214636312461312&ref\\_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aje.com%2Farc%2Fbenefits-of-preprints-for-researchers%2F](https://twitter.com/dsquintana/status/962214636312461312?ref_src=twsrc%5Etfw%7Ctwcamp%5Etweetembed%7Ctwterm%5E962214636312461312&ref_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.aje.com%2Farc%2Fbenefits-of-preprints-for-researchers%2F)

## Use of preprints at UofG

- Case Studies from Glasgow that highlight senior researchers using preprints in psychology and natural history: <http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/170483/1/170483.pdf> and <http://eprints.gla.ac.uk/170486/1/170486.pdf>
- Prof Philippe Schyns (Head of Department, School of Psychology), e.g.  
<https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/284158v1>
- Prof Lisa DeBruine (Psychology), lab publication list includes 8 current preprints:  
<http://facelab.org/debruine/Publications/articles>
- Prof Emily Cross (Psychology), lab publication list includes 5 current preprints:  
<https://www.soba-lab.com/publications>
- Dr Emily Nordmann (Lecturer, Psychology) summarised benefits of her preprint experience in this twitter thread:  
<https://twitter.com/emilynordmann/status/1049575672228794368> (including evidence of pedagogical research that helped secure her Lectureship here, thanks to two preprints)
- Matt Dalby tweeted  
<https://twitter.com/DalbyMatthew/status/1115968769963253760> on 10<sup>th</sup> April 2019.