

Physics Colloquium, St. Francis Xavier University

February 8, 2019, 4pm, PSC 3046

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The Mechanics of Scholarly Publishing, Peer Review, and Ethics in Publishing and lots of stories about life at the editor's desk

I will try to give picture of the life and responsibilities of an editor of a scholarly journal. This talk originated with a short-course I gave at the National Autonomous University in Mexico City some years ago. I will discuss what an editor is looking for and what exactly it is that he or she does. I will try to give examples of the modern, computerized submission process at the Canadian Journal of Physics, which is similar to the process at other journals.

This will, of course, deal with content, but also with questions of attribution of textual material used and the avoidance of any possible implications of plagiarism or duplicate publication.

It will be emphasized that communication is an essential part of the scientific endeavour. If you cannot communicate what you have done (verbally and in writing) then you haven't done it! Whether we like it or not, English has become the world-wide language of communication and for authors for whom English is not the first language, a working knowledge is a great, if not essential, part of preparation to be a working scientist. If this is lacking, a friend or colleague with good English skills is a very important asset. To write well requires not only language skill, but an understanding of how to write briefly and concisely in a manner that will inform and interest a reader who is not a specialist in your narrow sub-field.