

Meet the Editors

Stephen Bell

Who you are and what you do?

I am senior research fellow and leader of the ‘Qualitative, Ethnographic and Participatory Research Group’ at the Kirby Institute, UNSW Sydney. I’m also a Visiting Fellow at the Centre for Social Research in Health, UNSW Sydney. My research uses qualitative, participatory, ethnographic and visual methodologies – which prioritise community expertise and leadership in research – with the aim of informing culturally appropriate transformative change in the design, delivery and evaluation of public health services, programs and policies with a focus on three main areas: youth sexual, reproductive and maternal health in Pacific Asia; HIV and other infectious diseases in low income settings; and Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Health in Australia.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

- Rich qualitative data depicting people’s lived experiences in diverse international settings that broaden my world views and understandings.
- Analyses that reflect community agency, and generate understandings of the socio-structural influences that enable, constrain or oppress people’s actions, health and wellbeing.
- Engagement in social science concepts and theories, even if only briefly in short public health papers.
- Rigorous use and presentation of qualitative, participatory and ethnographic methods.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

- Poorly structured papers with a weak storyline.
- A lack of rigour and transparency in the presentation of qualitative study design, sampling and recruitment, data collection methods, analytical techniques and ethical issues.
- Limited reporting of qualitative data in findings sections of papers.
- Overuse of acronyms.

Advice for authors

For authors seeking to publish qualitative research:

- ensure the presentation of methods is rigorous and transparent;
- research recently published qualitative papers in a particular journal to understand what is required in terms of structure and style prior to submission;
- keep your writing simple;
- PERSIST! It can be hard to find journals that prioritise and publish the work we do.



Stephen Bell

Christy Newman

Who you are and what you do?

I’ve been a research academic at UNSW Centre for Social Research in Health for the past 16 years. My interests focus on sexual and reproductive health, blood-borne virus prevention and care, and sexual and gender diversity, and I work closely with the health and advocacy organisations who support LGBTQ+ communities and people affected by HIV and viral hepatitis. Being a part of truly collaborative, multidisciplinary research projects that aim to make a difference in the lives of communities affected by stigma and marginalisation is what drives me.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

Beautiful writing, and attention to detail, always make me happy! But if a paper does a good job of delivering on what it has promised – creating that compelling link between the rationale, the approach, the analysis, and the implications – I will be keen to see it published. I also enjoy seeing enduring/familiar issues being explored in new ways, with interesting methods. Or just a useful new angle on an old problem!

What things make you want to push the reject button?

I don’t have a lot of patience for spelling and grammatical errors, and I get really cranky about incomplete sentences! But as well as those details, it’s never good to have to check with authors if they secured ethical approval before conducting the research, or to feel that they have clearly rushed the submission, so that the manuscript doesn’t make the kind of logical sense that is a basic expectation of quality research papers.

Advice for authors

It is always hard to decide what to fit into a manuscript, and what to leave out. I find that thinking about each manuscript as an opportunity to craft something unique, that will stand alone and really engage the reader, can help those who are new to academic publishing get their work into print. That doesn't mean having to rewrite the genre or be changing the world, but if you think about the experience of someone coming to your article with no background, that can help you create something strong.



Christy Newman

Ligang Yang

Who you are and what you do?

I am the Director of the STI Clinic Department at the Dermatology Hospital of Southern Medical University, and the Executive Director of Quality Control Center for STI Diagnosis and Treatment, Guangdong Province, China. I have more than 30 years of clinical and research experience in STI and dermatoses of genital skin. My latest research focuses on the clinical epidemiology and treatment of rectal *Chlamydia trachomatis* and *Mycoplasma genitalium* infection among MSM.

What things make you want to push the accept button when you see a paper?

A paper with very concise writing: the purpose of the paper is clear, the methodology and results are reliable and repeatable, the discussion is relevant, and the conclusion is based on the research results. The whole article can add to the reader's existing knowledge.

What things make you want to push the reject button?

The structure of the article is disordered, and the 'story' cannot be justified at all.

Advice for authors

Before writing, fully read relevant literature to understand the progress in this field, so that it is easy to judge what further contribution your paper can make to science in the current context, as well as the limitations of your research. Use logic to connect your research findings and a good article will follow.



Ligang Yang