Early Career Researcher (ECR) Round Table

Future proofing our journals to meet ECR needs

Why?

• To inform recommendations for Wiley editors, to ensure the journals they are custodians of meet the evolving needs of ECRs.
• To hear firsthand the ECR experience throughout the research process (finding, conducting, and sharing research).
• To identify pains and gains of that process specific to ECRs.
• To hear ECR views on inclusivity/diversity in academia and publishing.
• To future proof Wiley journals.

The Format:

• A live event at Wiley’s office.
• Facilitated discussion based on research workflow with 10 ECRs from diverse subject disciplines, invited via an open call.
• Fun! Visual representation of findings via a professional illustrator.

Results: A quick insight into the theme of our recommendations

• Diversity of editorial boards needs to become a priority. This reduces the risk of historical ‘gatekeeping’ prejudices and may make journals more appealing by including new research areas, ideas and communities.
• Writing and submitting your article is considered challenging. Author guidelines should be shorter and clearer. Could these, or the way they are explained, be biased for or against certain groups?
• Technologies need to be adopted and used more successfully. Keeping up with the ways that ECRs access, review and share research is important. Adding simple ways to share or highlight new research to individuals or a global audience supports lay person interest, and boosts visibility and networking opportunities.
• The effectiveness of peer review needs to be reviewed, and made more efficient. Open Review, Registered Reports, journal ‘house’ styles, re-formatting issues and fair treatment of authors and reviewers were all priorities.
• Power dynamics within academia. Many of our ECRs reported experience of difficulties with supervisors, co-authors or other colleagues. Ensuring good authorship practices, and implementing recognized authorship status for all roles contributing to the research process and write-up, can ensure correct accreditation.