Publishing in Top-Ranked Journals: Lessons from the Journal of Contemporary Asia

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Abstract: Publication is a major activity for all academics, often determining career paths. For beginning and early career academics, it has a special significance. Journal articles are often the first publication outlet for early career academics; in some disciplines, they may be the major or only publishing avenue throughout a career. In the first part of this presentation, the reasons for writing and for publishing in journals are considered, along with a discussion of how to choose the “right” journal, and how to avoid scam journals. In a second part, the presentation turns to the experience of the Journal of Contemporary Asia in considering and publishing articles and the processes involved in publication. Importantly, time will then be given to questions from the audience.

Kevin Hewison is Editor-in-chief of the Journal of Contemporary Asia and Weldon E. Thornton Emeritus Professor of Asian Studies at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. He is also an Adjunct Professor with the University of Macau. He has held academic positions in Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Hong Kong and visiting positions in Thailand, the UK, Singapore, Japan, Malaysia, and Sweden. He is the author of more than 200 publications on Southeast Asia, and especially Thailand. His most recent book is Precarious Asia, with Arne Kalleberg and Kwang-yeong Shin, published in 2022 by Stanford University Press.

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