



Dr. Joan Albert Sánchez Cabeza

Instituto de Ciencias del Mar y Limnología  
UNAM

Earth-Science Reviews (Elsevier):  
Managing Editor (Environmental Geochemistry)

# Author



# Reviewer



# Editor



# Environmental-Science Reviews

*The International Geological Journal Bridging the Gap Between Research Articles and Textbooks*

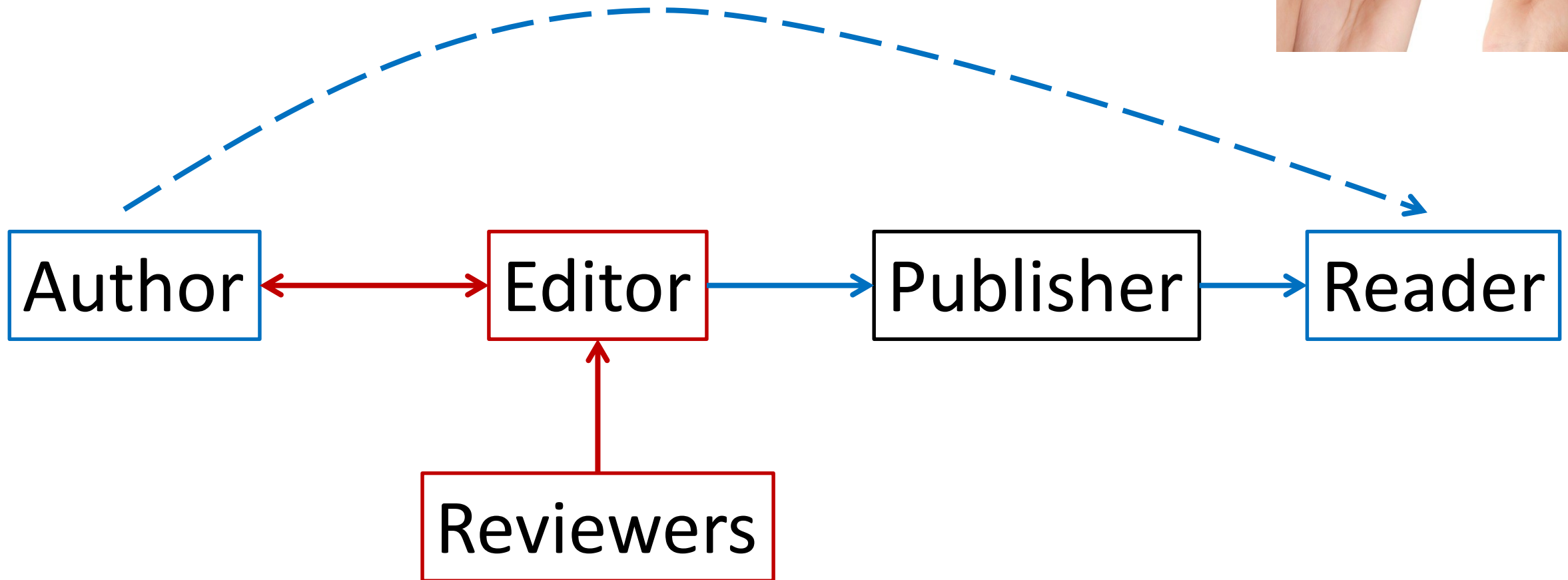
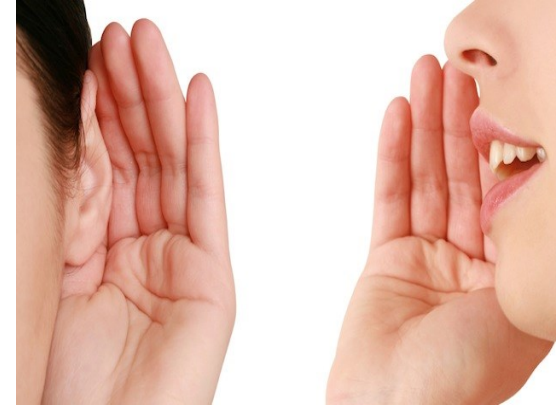


- **REVIEWS**
- 13 managing editors

Year 2017:

- Published 172 papers
- Reject rate: 64%
- Impact factor: 7.491
- 4/189 Geosciences

# All is about communication ...



*We are all busy people!*

# Author and reviewer?



- Suggest (honestly) good reviewers
- Wait patiently...
- Accept criticism (it improves the manuscript!)
- Answer adequately
- **CONVINCE THE EDITOR!** (not the reviewer)



# Reviewer and author?

- FACT: > **50% decline** / no response
- FACT: without reviewers there *should not be* publication
- FACT: each manuscript is reviewed by 2 -3 reviewers
- **Recommendation: support the process by reviewing **AT LEAST 2 -3 manuscripts** for each paper YOU publish.**



# A good reviewer



- **Accept** (or decline) fast
- If you decline propose good reviewers
- Focus on the Journal scope and style
  - e.g. a research paper is not a review paper
- Be honest and ethical (treat the authors as you would like to be treated: you are an author!)
- Accept 2<sup>nd</sup> reviews! The Editor needs you even more in this phase.

# A good review

- Opening paragraph: subject, good points (if any), major issues?, recommendation.
- General comments: address main problems of the manuscript.
- Specific / detailed comments
- Edits: this could be marked in a PDF / Word file.
  - Note: language is author responsibility.



# Bad reviews ...



- No real contents
  - “Only edits... and recommends rejection!
- Recommendation not supported by arguments.
  - “This is a bad paper: reject”.
  - Yes.
- Recommendation is different than the Comments to the Editor
- English *it* is bad, colleague ask review (???)

# Editor: decision time !

- Finding good reviewers is VERY DIFFICULT (>50% of the time)
- Summarize and emphasize main issues
- Make sound decisions based on reviewer's and own opinion





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