

Journal Publishing Workshop – Part I

September 24, 2026

This worksheet is designed to help you develop a rough publication plan for the next several years. The goal is not to predict everything perfectly; the details of your projects, data, collaborators, and journal decisions will likely change. Instead, the focus is on identifying key research stories, working backward from major career milestones, and thinking strategically about timing.

Step 1: Your research story

What is the big question that you are trying to answer with your research?

Step 2: Define and categorize your projects

In **Table 1, column 1**: Briefly describe each of the potential papers that will help you build toward answering your big question.

In **Table 1, column 2**: Categorize each of your potential papers by scope or journal type. You might use the categories below as a rough guide:

- Major/comprehensive finding
- Focused/incremental finding
- Methods/technical contribution
- Perspective or review

Do your papers together tell a **coherent story** about your research direction?

☐ Yes ☐ Sort of ☐ Needs work

Step 3: Your Key Dates

A. On **Table 2**, add the relevant years to **column A**. For example, if you were hired as a faculty member at BU in 2024, add 2024 next to year 1, 2025 next to year 2, etc.

B. In **column B**, fill in the approximate dates for the review milestones that apply to your situation:

- Mid-tenure review
- Promotion review date
- Promotion dossier due to department
- External letter requests sent
- Latest date by which papers should be submitted to count in dossier*

**Consider a typical timeline of 6-18 months from submission to publication. You may need to clarify departmental expectations about what “counts” — submitted, in revision, accepted, online-first, or formally published.*

C. Before filling in column C, think about your publication goals for the next few years. What is the status of each project you described above? How long will it take to write the paper? Which articles are most important to have published before your dossier is due?

In **column C**, write down a working title for each of the articles you hope to submit in the next few years.

You may also add the titles of articles that you have already published while at BU.

Table 1. Research efforts and potential publications

Column 1	Column 2
Brief description of each potential paper or research effort	Publication category or journal type

Table 2. Timeline

A	B	C
Year (202x)	Tenure/Promotion milestones	Papers: submission goals
1 _____		
2 _____		
3 _____		
4 _____		
5 _____		
6 _____		
7 _____		

8 		
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