


FOOD FOR THOUGHT

WHAT CAN A JOURNAL EDITOR AND AN EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER LEARN FROM EACH OTHER?

To help build networks across research communities, we arranged a meeting over lunch between a **JOURNAL EDITOR** and **EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER (ECR)** working on similar topics.

NAME

Dr Euan Doidge

 @EuanDoidge

ROLE

Teaching Fellow

RESEARCH AREA

Chemistry



EARLY CAREER RESEARCHER

NAME

Professor George Jackson

ROLE

Editor and Chairman

JOURNAL

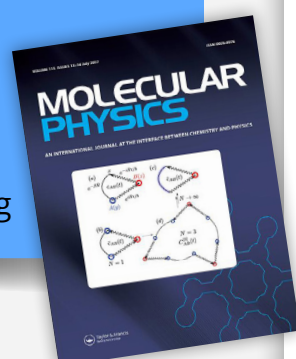
Molecular Physics

RESEARCH AREA

Chemical Engineering



JOURNAL EDITOR



What did you talk about?

Over lunch, we discussed **how to balance teaching and research** as a Teaching Fellow, **our roles at Imperial College**, and **life in London**. Euan only moved here six months ago, and his prior knowledge of London geography was the Monopoly board!

I wanted to know more about the **journal publishing process**. I asked George about:

1. How templates affect peer review
2. How editors build and maintain a bank of referees
3. How to seek novelty in research and differentiate myself from the crowd

We talked about the **role of a journal editor**. I see two main elements to an editor's role:

1. Pre-screening submissions and issuing desk rejections as necessary
2. Selecting appropriate, professional peer reviewers to ensure papers are reviewed fairly

What do you think each other's biggest challenges are?

For editors, it's **managing the peer review process**, including ensuring referees respond in a timely and effective manner.

It's also a challenge for editors to know **how to encourage young authors** to publish in relevant journals, even if this means publishing in journals with a lower Impact Factor to start with.

ECRs face several key challenges:

1. **Access to funding:** applying for grants early in your career can be hard, as you haven't built a reputation for yourself yet
2. **Balancing teaching and research:** with so many commitments, it can be difficult for ECRs to find the time to stay up-to-date with the latest research in the field
3. **Working collaboratively:** through interactions with collaborators, ECRs can develop new skills

What surprised you about each other?

George became a journal editor at the age of **31!**

Euan remains **active in research despite his role as a Teaching Fellow**, so he can get his students engaged and interested in what's new in the field. Perhaps this will even influence what his students are interested in working on themselves.

What's your top tip for journal editors looking to engage ECRs in their journal?

Invite ECRs to join the **editorial board**, and set up **prizes for young authors** based on their publications within five years of their PhD.

What's your top tip for ECRs looking to get published in the right journal to maximise their research impact?

Get in touch with the most relevant journals to your area of work. Ask if you can **put together a special issue**, dedicated to and guest edited by ECRs.

