**CSSD Publication Event**

**Challenges of interdisciplinary publications**

**Reviewer Expectations**

Reviewers from each discipline will expect you to know the relevant literature from each discipline, the competing theories and approaches.

* If writing an interdisciplinary piece on your own this can be challenging for the area that is not your main area of specialisation
* Best to seek pre-submission feedback from someone in that field.

**Errors I tend to see that result in rejection or major rewrites before resubmission**

A lack of proper **“scene-setting”** at the outset of the article:

* Publications of interdisciplinary research need to be able to speak to experts in different disciplines, and the major issues/debates in the field
* why is this issue important, why and how is it important in different disciplines, what has been done in the area before, where does this piece of research fit into that wider picture, what was the focus of the research, what did it not cover

**Empirical Research**

Reviewers will be very focussed on your methodology, methods, sample size, power – as well as the analysis of your results.

Unclear presentations of methodologies and methods

* be very clear about why you adopted the overall approach you did (how does it compare with previous work in this field) and include strengths and weakness of the approach
* clearly explain exactly how you went about the empirical research: empirical reviewers are very interested in methods: their view of the viability/significance of your work will depend on their assessment of this. So be clear about constraints you had to work within, how you tried to overcome and acknowledge where some could not be overcome.

Poor presentation of findings

* use clear, easily understandable charts/figures/tables
* do not just insert output tables and expect your reviewer/journal reader to laboriously make their way through complex data

Far too much policy implication discussion that tends to **overstate the significance of the research findings**

* Most empirical studies are not ground-breaking developments in a policy area – they are incremental contributions to an area and the significance of the findings need to be assessed in this light