

Biometrics Winter School

Journal Paper Writing Club

Mark Nixon

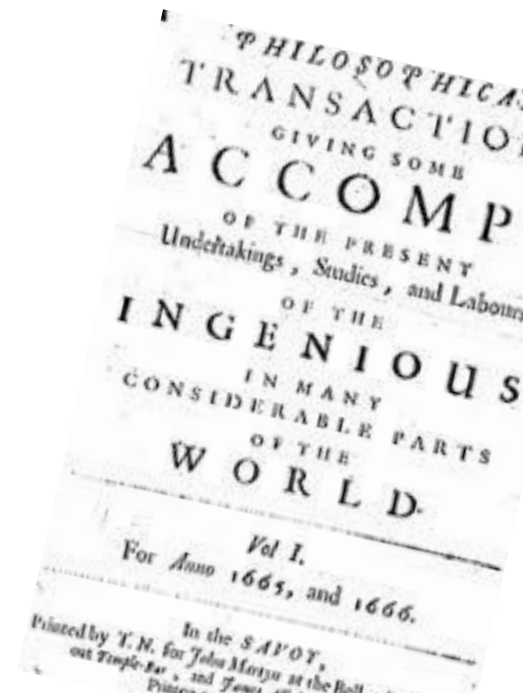
and any academics and all...

Audience participation is welcome!!

Edited from
V. Patel and M.
Nixon
IEEE BTAS 2018



The banner features logos for organizers (Department of Computer Science, HKBU, Chinese Academy of Sciences, and South China University of Technology), student grant sponsors (IAPR and IEEE Biometrics Council), technical sponsor (IEEE Beijing Section), and industry sponsor (OPEN AI LAB). The main text reads "IAPR/IEEE WINTER SCHOOL ON BIOMETRICS 2021" and "24 - 28 January 2021 Shenzhen, China". The background includes icons for biometric technologies like face, fingerprint, and iris recognition, along with a computer monitor showing a 35% loading progress bar.



Caveats

1. I won't talk about writing a 'good' paper
2. Research which isn't published didn't happen

Conferences/ Workshops/ Schools are part of a student's experience

They include:

- Presentations
- Doctoral consortia
- Contacts
- Advice

..... and a **journal paper writing club**

Different points of view?



Rama Chellappa

[FOLLOW](#)

Professor, ECE, Affiliate Professor, CS, [UMD](#), College Park
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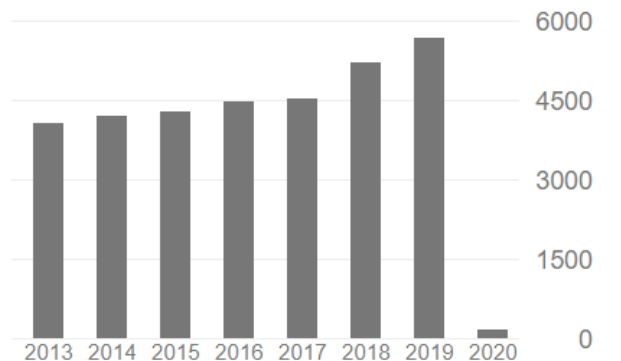
[Computer Vision](#) [Pattern Recognition](#) [Image Processing](#) [Signal Processing](#)
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TITLE	CITED BY	YEAR
Face recognition: A literature survey W Zhao, R Chellappa, PJ Phillips, A Rosenfeld ACM computing surveys (CSUR) 35 (4), 399-458	8253	2003
Human and machine recognition of faces: A survey R Chellappa, CL Wilson, S Sirohey Proceedings of the IEEE 83 (5), 705-740	3944	1995
Machine recognition of human activities: A survey P Turaga, R Chellappa, VS Subrahmanian, O Udrea IEEE Transactions on Circuits and Systems for Video technology 18 (11), 1473	1519	2008
Discriminant analysis for recognition of human face images	1310	1997

Cited by

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	All	Since 2015
Citations	67722	24449
h-index	121	71
i10-index	615	359

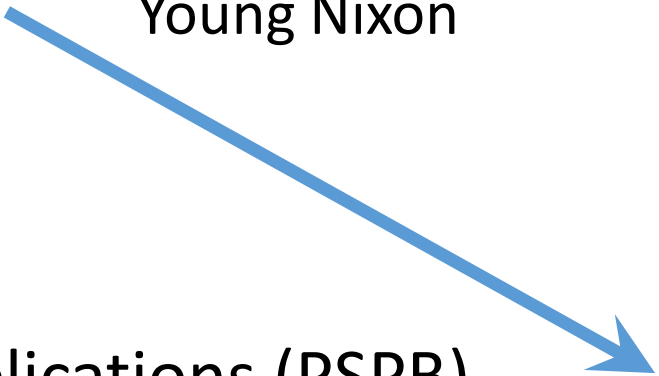


Co-authors

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There are many points of view to this material 1

Mark's association with journals

- Reviewer
 - Editorial Board
 - Editor
 - Advisory Editor
 - Vice Chair IEEE Publications (PSPB)
- Young Nixon
- 
- Old Nixon

There are many points of view to this material 2

Mark's publication targets

1983 Getting published **anywhere**

1987 **Avoiding** abstract only conferences

1988 Aiming for **top** journals

1995 Focussing **only** on IEEE/ Springer conferences

2000 Focussing mainly on **IEEE Transactions**



Caveat, on the following advice

Quod ali cibus est aliis fuat acre venenum

Titus **Lucretius** Carus

c. 70 BC

What is food for **one man** may be bitter **poison** to others



Why do we write journal papers? 1

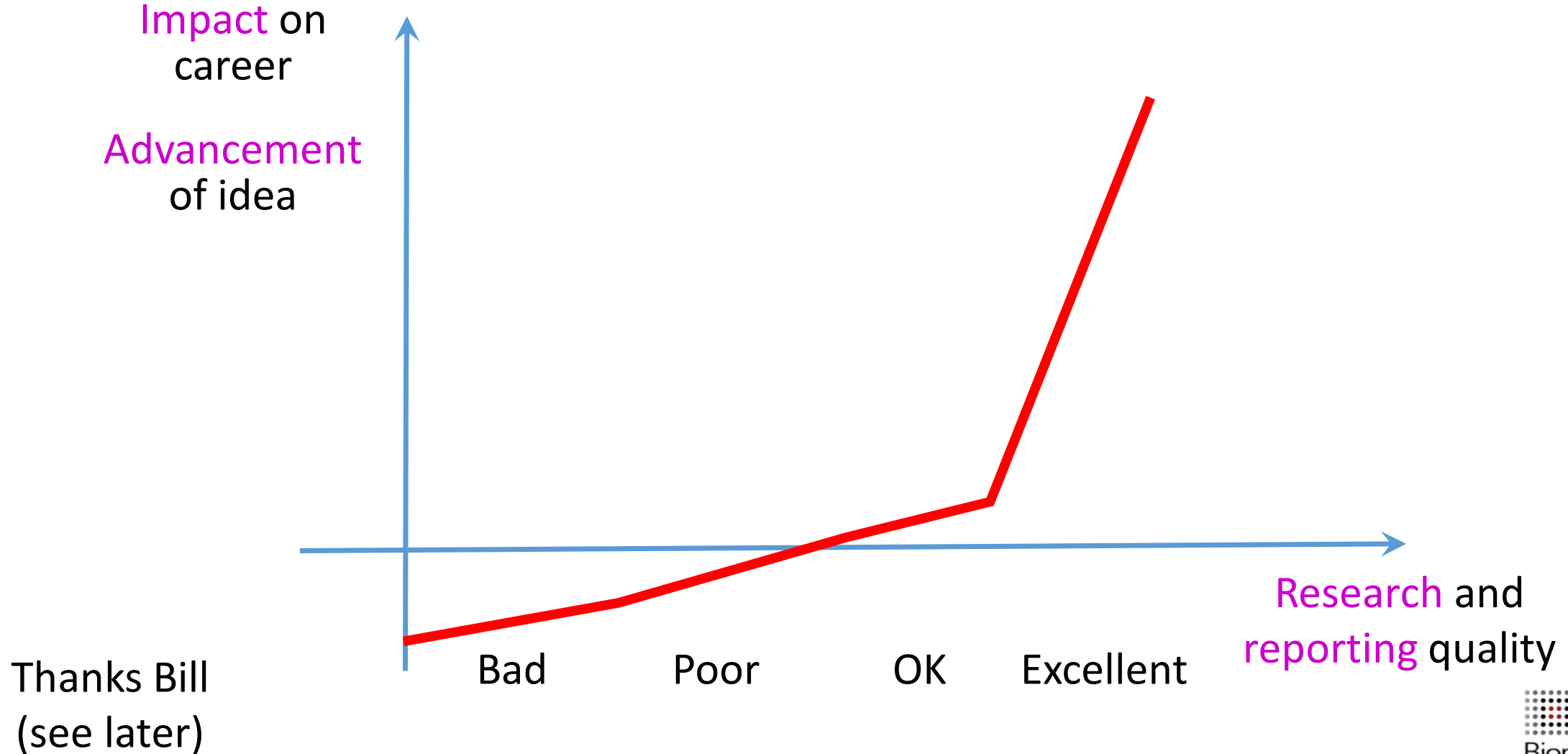
Alternative forums exist

- Some conferences are very top, e.g. CVPR, NIPS and SIGGRAPH
- Arxiv and citations clearly matter
- Other venues are perceived to be faster

BUT

- Some fields don't recognise conference papers
- “ “ “ “ non-refereed papers
- Need diversity in experience and output
- Journals can be very fast

Why do we write journal papers? 2



Thanks Bill
(see later)

Why do we write journal papers? 3

Many reasons

- Official version
- Prestigious achievement
- Recognition of work
- Needed for the job (e.g. UK REF 2020) or PhD
- Because we like competition
- Intellectual trademark
- Something to give Mum and Dad

At what **level** should we aim to publish?

- Very **difficult** and **important** choice
- Aim for the **top** (that has the best **chance**)
 - Likely to lead to better exposure
 - More **citations**
 - Work better **recognised**
- Is the **idea** any good?
- Was there rapturous welcome to any **conference papers**?
- **Never** go for the **easy** choice
 - Comments about Hi.. are never too be repeated

The people told to publish in Hi..



How to choose the journal?

- The **top** (that has the best chance) – reprise
- Journal affiliated to **conference**
- **Special Editions**
 - You want to get a PhD!
 - Flattered by faint praise?
- Take **median journal** of all citations made
 - Reviewers often chosen from citations
 - Gives approximate format for research presentation
- Remember that you often only get **two shots**
(3 shots with 'resubmission as new paper')

Salami slicing?



- Can we **recycle conference papers**?
 - **Yes** in special editions and regular journals
 - Some journals state **extra amount** required, e.g. 30%
 - Does one recycle NIPS, CVPR? (No!)
- Some journals **say no to extended conference papers** (or have that reputation)
 - E.g. IEEE TPAMI, IEEE TIFS
- Some (top) journals dislike **previously rejected** papers
 - Need **completely new version**
 - Also submit **previously rejected version** at same time

Who do you write papers with?

- **Only** with people who **contribute**
 - Admittedly someone might have arranged your funding
 - Can use **acknowledgements**
- It takes **time** and **commitment**
- How do you order the **author list**?
 - In engineering, generally by **contribution**
 - Some areas order authors **alphabetically**
 - Some areas have **everyone** in the lab
 - When chairing conferences, **more** authors on papers following acceptance than at submission!

Bare Essentials

- **Balance** between conferences and journals
- **Structure** presentation within available space
- Formulate **claims** and rational presentation thereof
- Avoid **low level** material
- Avoid **plagiarism** (and self plagiarism!)



What do you write papers using?

- Academics have a longstanding love of **Latex**
- **Word** has a grammar and spell checker
- Use a **copy editor** if you need to



Who makes the decisions?

Ranking scheme



Reviewing system

- It's not the best
- But think of a different one
- How are the reviewers **chosen**?
- **Who** does the reviewing?



Marketing your paper

- You need to convince reviewers it's an **interesting** and **topical** advance to the **state of art**
- If people **don't like** it – reject
- If it's been **done before** - reject
- If people **won't review** it – reject
- Get the marketing wrong
.... reject (probably)

Be careful writing a rebuttal

- Don't go nuts or **lose your rag**
- Answer **all** the reviewers' (in some way) and associate editor's comments
- A rebuttal is **evidence**: write a reasoned analysis
- It's like **another paper**....



Do you **reply** to all **reviewer comments**?

- Well, **yes** and **no**
- **Reviewers** have much influence on the final decision
- You don't work in a **vacuum**
- Everyone is entitled to their own **opinion**

Do you reply to **associate editor** comments?

- Too bloody right
- Yes, absolutely
- Of course
- You'd be whacko not to

Note that AE comments can:

- **prioritise** reviewer comments
- **reconcile** apparently conflicting review comments
- send an **indirect message** to reviewers

What **mistakes** do people make?

Audience suggestions most welcome!!

Some reasons for rejection include:

- **Contributions** insufficiently clear
- **Disparity** between claims and evidence
- **Writing** too poor
- **Figures** too small
- **Structure** badly thought out
 - Too much detail on tiny points
 - Order incorrect
- **References** incomplete or omitted



And what about page charges

- **Avoid** vanity press
- Some journals only make a surplus on page charges
- In some areas it's **de rigeur to pay** page charges
- Page charges can be **substantial**
- **Why** do we have overlength page charges in an **online** world?



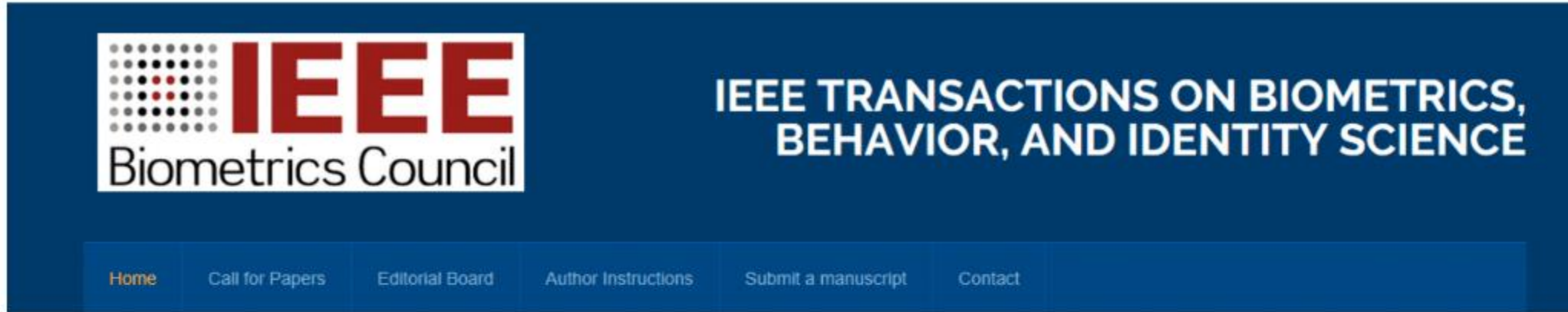
Reproducible research

- Something **definitely** to watch (and **do**)
- Store **data**
- Store **technique**
- Github etc

Open access

- Go for **green**? free
- Go for **gold**? Costs
- Note that an EU suggestion for 2020 is for open access gold or open access journals for all papers

Don't forget ...



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Other information

How to write a good CVPR submission

<https://billf.mit.edu/sites/default/files/documents/cvprPapers.pdf>

How to Get Your SIGGRAPH Paper Rejected, Jim Kajiya, SIGGRAPH 1993 Papers Chair, <https://www.siggraph.org/sites/default/files/kajiya.pdf>

Notes on technical writing, Don Knuth, 1989.

Hope this helps...

....and **Good Luck!!**

Journal Paper Writing Club

Vishal Patel and Mark Nixon, IEEE Biometrics Council Younger Members
and any academics and all...

Audience participation is welcome!!

BTAS 2018

