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Educational Review

ISSN: (Print) (Online) Journal homepage: https://www.tandfonline.com/loi/cedr20

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by Christian Wymann, Opladen & Toronto, Barbara Budrich, 2021, 97 pp., £14.54 (Paperback), ISBN 978-3-8474-2459-8

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To cite this article: Stefan T. Siegel (2021): Mind your writing: how to be a professional academic writer, Educational Review, DOI: 10.1080/00131911.2021.1927316

To link to this article: https://doi.org/10.1080/00131911.2021.1927316

Published online: 15 Jun 2021.

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INFLUENTIAL READERS

Mind your writing: how to be a professional academic writer, by Christian Wymann, Opladen & Toronto, Barbara Budrich, 2021, 97 pp., £14.54 (Paperback), ISBN 978-3-8474-2459-8

English is a lingua franca in many areas, including academia, where writing is central to an academic career, many prestigious "international" scholarly journals require authors to meet high standards of written English, and (often expensive) editing services abound. Developing academic writing competencies should consequently be fostered within higher education; this is, however, not always the case. Christian Wymann offers valuable advice to new academic writers of all disciplines via the volume *Mind Your Writing*.

As the book title suggests, it is about getting to know yourself better as a writer. A recurring message is: you need to know what you are doing when you write, but more importantly, why and how you are writing. In ten chapters the author, therefore, recommends readers to take a closer look at fundamental questions about writing (for example: Why do you write? What's your writing strategy?). (Self-)Reflection concerning these questions may help the book's readers to write more consciously, purposefully, and effectively.

Wymann often introduces his own writing experiences and offers insights into the routines of well-known scholars such as Clifford Geertz or Niklas Luhmann (for example, the latter's extensive use of his large *zettelkasten*, a slip box for managing notes, for efficiently writing well-structured texts), which makes the book varied and intriguing. Additionally, the author addresses the readers directly through a conversational, reader-friendly style and by sharing personal writing challenges (for example, rejections) and achievements.

Working with Wymann's guidebook helped me to reflect on and better define the target groups at which my own writing is aimed (educationalists and teachers). The volume will be especially useful for (aspiring) writers to raise their awareness of different writing strategies, styles and the typical phases of the writing process at an early stage. This helps to prepare them for the demands of higher education study and academic careers.

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https://doi.org/10.1080/00131911.2021.1927316

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