

Economic Development

McGill Undergraduate Journal of Development Economics

Journal Guidelines 2007-08

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I. EconDev 2007-08: A new year, a new issue

2007-08 marks the second year of EconDev in which we hope EconDev will continue to progress in leaps and bounds. This section will briefly present EconDev and touch on some issues central to the journal.

EconDev began as a journal called MUJDE (acronym for McGill Undergraduate etc...) in the beginning of 2007. It was a rather spontaneous initiative. As such, only a small number of students participated in it and the first issue was put together in a somewhat haphazard, albeit successful, way. The final product was the online publication of the first issue, that is, it was published in PDF format, which is of course available at ausmcgill.com/mujde. During this period the process of putting together the journal was established largely through a process of trial and error. Consequently, this year presents a lot fewer obstacles and a much larger scope of possibilities.

Presently the journal is collaborating with two other websites (developmentdata.org & econphd.net) in the construction of web pages to help undergraduate economics students. This project is almost completed, a little work is still needed though. Also, a link to the journal has been added to the main Department of Economics website, which is important because it means the department recognizes the journal.

This year, the goal of the journal is to publish one more issue. Given the journal is still young, the choice has been made to publish only one issue at the end of the school year which would ensure that the workload of editors is much lighter and the quality higher. Whether this issue of the journal should be published only online or also in print has not been resolved yet, it depends on funds and submissions.

A second project that the journal will take on this year is the organization of a series of lectures and panel presentations on topics relevant to undergraduate economics students, such as graduate studies in economics, studying skills in economics and academic writing in economics. The demand for such lectures seems to be quite high. Nevertheless, these lectures depend on the availability of faculty, volunteers and some funding.

Finally, an important comment is needed regarding the nature and approach of the journal. Along with the main goal of publishing, the journal also tries to a) minimize the work and time commitment on part of its members, b) keep the process as informal as possible- it would be a pity if we got caught up in the same unnecessary formalities that other journals do-, c) regard nothing as definite, this means that everything about the journal is subject to discussion, even its name (if you have a better one please let me know)!

II. A little ideology behind EconDev

The purpose of the McGill Undergraduate Journal of Development Economics is to recognize and promote valuable research by undergraduate students in the field of development economics. The journal provides access for undergraduates to a resource normally reserved for professionals and graduate students in the field, thus creating a spirit of critical and original thinking, international and cross-cultural dialogue as well as professionalism in young aspiring economists.

The most important ideal, at the heart of this publication, is the spirit of critical thought. The aim of the journal is to recognize those who argumentatively stand up for what they believe to be true. The field of development economics is very dense with important questions, questions which bear heavily on the welfare of many societies. Thus, this Journal looks for complete, well presented and supported new ideas from undergraduate students, expressed through research papers and essays.

A final point worth mentioning in this introduction to the journal is its international character. The journal seeks for submissions internationally and values them equally regardless of origin. Thus not only is the spectrum of EconDev wider than most undergraduate journals, it also promotes an attitude of international understanding and respect among university students. Finally, economic development is an international goal, it demands work from all parts of the world. The journal would like to recognize this by using an international platform.

John Maynard Keynes once wrote, “Words ought to be a little wild for they are the assaults of thought on the unthinking,” let us then unbound our imagination and our words and unsettle the economic world through new, bright and sophisticated ideas with style!

III. Format and Contents

The definitive format for the 2008 issue will be decided upon during the editing process depending on submissions. Content will depend on the amount and variety of submissions. This year the section containing essays will hopefully be developed.

Here is a preliminary format of the Journal:

1. Front matter:
 - Cover page (design/photo, issue and volume, date etc.)
 - Blank page
 - Page with title and department
 - Editors and staff
 - Table of contents

2. Main body (depending on submissions) this is where numbering the pages starts:
 - Article1
 - So on and so forth
 - Essay1
 - So on and so forth
 - Paper1
 - So on and so fort

3. Back matter:
 - Acknowledgments
 - About the Journal (including address, web-page, etc)
 -

IV. Editorial Process

All received submissions are first read and evaluated individually by each board member, on the basis of the listed criteria. Rejected submissions that do not meet the criteria are returned to the authors. The short-listed articles undergo the peer-review process, as a second evaluation stage. Copies of the manuscript are sent to the selected reviewers. Upon receipt of the reviews, the comments are combined with those of the editorial board to reach a decision over the article's suitability for publication. Regardless of the outcome, reports of reviewers are forwarded verbatim to authors, along with a point-form evaluation of the article justifying the decision.

Three decisions are possible:

i. Rejection

- Typically justified by outstanding issues noted by reviewers

ii. Rejection with possibility of re-submission

- Authors are recommended to re-submit their manuscript for the next issue of EconDev, after applying further work to improve its overall worth.

iii. Conditional Acceptance

- Manuscripts are returned to authors with suggestions for improvements. After criticism has been addressed in the form of revisions, authors are required to re-submit their articles.

Final articles are approved by the graduate supervisors. Accepted manuscripts undergo grammatical verifications. Thereafter, electronic proofs are sent to the authors for approval, with the expectation of a quick response.

General criteria

Above all, EconDev seeks to publish well-written work which demonstrates good understanding of economic concepts and a critical approach to economic phenomena. We encourage student contributors to write engaging, non-technical manuscripts. EconDev accepts articles based on the following criteria:

- clarity, organization, and style
- presentation and interpretation of results
- motivation of the study based on literature
- contribution to advancing the field of study

V. Call for Submissions

Call for Submissions

EconDev, the McGill Undergraduate Journal of Development Economics is looking for papers, essays and articles on topics in the field of economic development. Papers and essays written for classes, honors theses, based on fieldwork experience or written independently are welcome. Multiple submissions are allowed.

If the manuscripts submitted were originally written for a course, they must have received a grade of A- or better. The submissions should reflect a sharp intellect, critical thinking, perceptiveness, as well as originality and creativity.

For more information visit <http://ausmcgill.com/mujde>

Submission Checklist:

- i. Consider whether the topic of your work is relevant, the journal will only consider submissions regarding strictly development economics.
- ii. Prepare your manuscript accordingly. It is important that your submission(s) adheres to the EconDev *style* and *format*, described on <http://mcgillaus.com/mujde/submissions.htm>
- iii. Submit via e-mail attachment to mujde.submissions@gmail.com before the deadline of
- iv. Get involved during the editorial process when revisions are requested.

VI. Manuscript: Format and Style

Manuscripts should be presented in a clear and consistent manner, and should adhere to the basic EconDev guidelines as detailed below. Any questions regarding format and style are welcomed.

1. Format

- (i) Cover Page
 - Full name
 - Program of study
 - Name of university
 - E-mail

- (ii) Document
 - Length:
 - Articles (350 – 700 words)
 - Essays (500 – 1500 words)
 - Research Paper (1500 - 4000 words)
 - The research paper should include an abstract and key words (not included in the word limit)
 - Only in exceptional circumstances will the editors consider manuscripts exceeding this range.
 - Margins and Paper size: 1” for all margins
 - Fonts: Time New Roman, 12-point font, 1.5 line spacing
 - Charts and Tables:
 - Charts and tables should be illustrative rather than just mere data
 - Add titles, labels, and units where applicable
 - Captions to begin with **Table/Chart #**, capitalized and in bold
 - Caption font in Times New Roman, 10-point font, single-spacing
 - Sources for tables should cited below each table
 - **Attention:** if illustrated material is directly copied from other publications it must be done with the permission of the original author, otherwise it must be removed.

2. Style Rules

- (i) General
 - Canadian English spelling
 - Acronyms are to be spelt out in first instance, after which abbreviations can be used
 - Spell out ‘percent’ in the text; the use of ‘ %’ is acceptable in tables
 - Limit usage of passive voice.

- (ii) Overall and default rules follow the standards of style of the *Chicago Manual of Style (15th edition)*.

Citations

Citations are provided in-text, in parentheses instead of brackets. Acceptable examples are:

(Author yr#), Author (yr#), (Author1 and Author2 yr#), Author1 et al. (yr#), (Author1 et al. yr#), (Author yr#, p. #), or (Author yr#, p. #-#)

References

References are listed alphabetically by first-author surname. Acceptable examples are

Journal articles:

- Herschfus, J. A. 2002. Bronchial Decongestion: experimental techniques. *Applied Allergens* 192(4): 12–22.
- Bell, X., Emmett, D. and Grayson, F. 1995. Identifying Venomous Amphibians. *Herpetologia* 27:167–89.

Book articles:

- Feike, T. 2000. Inhibitory value of dopamine blockers. In *Pharmaceuticals and Industrial Design*. T. M. Nadrathan and Y. Gohe (eds.). 121–134. New York: New York University Fake Press.

Entire books:

- Sheppard, T. 1997. *Climatic Variability*. T. Mann (ed.). Cambridge, MA: MIT False Press.
- _____. 2001. *Climatology and Further Investigations*. Cambridge, MA: MIT False Press.

Conference proceedings:

- Cliff, B. 2003. Deep Oceanic Acidity: recent findings in a benthic sampling. Paper presented at The Royal Oceanography Society 11th Annual Meeting, Melbourne, Australia, 22 June 2003.

Dissertations:

- Parson, W. 2006. On the Collisions of Particles, Waves, and Dualities. PhD diss., Utrecht University.

VI. Projected Timeline 2007-08

<i>item</i>	<i>date</i>
> Call for Editors	9th October
> Deadline for applications Members of Editorial Board determined First meeting called	19th October
> First Meeting Presentation of Journal Give out tasks regarding contacting universities Send out call for submissions	22nd or 23rd October
> Deadline for call for submissions	2nd January
Review submissions and short-list articles	Jan. 2-4
Article selection finalized	Jan. 5-6
Divide articles among teams	Jan. 5-6
Send articles to reviewers	Jan. 7
Essay completion deadline	Jan. 5
>Editing period	Jan. 8 - Feb. 17
Team meetings and editing	
Reviewer's feedback & comments due	Feb. 8
Return papers to authors	Feb. 9
Paper completion deadline	Feb. 15