

How To Be a *Great Peer Reviewer* for the AES Journal

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Advancing the State of the Art

- The field of Audio Engineering moves forward by sharing new and useful ideas and results: the Journal of the AES (JAES) provides this platform.
- JAES offers a unique audience of practitioners, enthusiasts, companies, and academic scholars.
- Publishing in JAES helps establish you as an expert in your specialty area of audio engineering. This is important for career advancement and professional satisfaction.

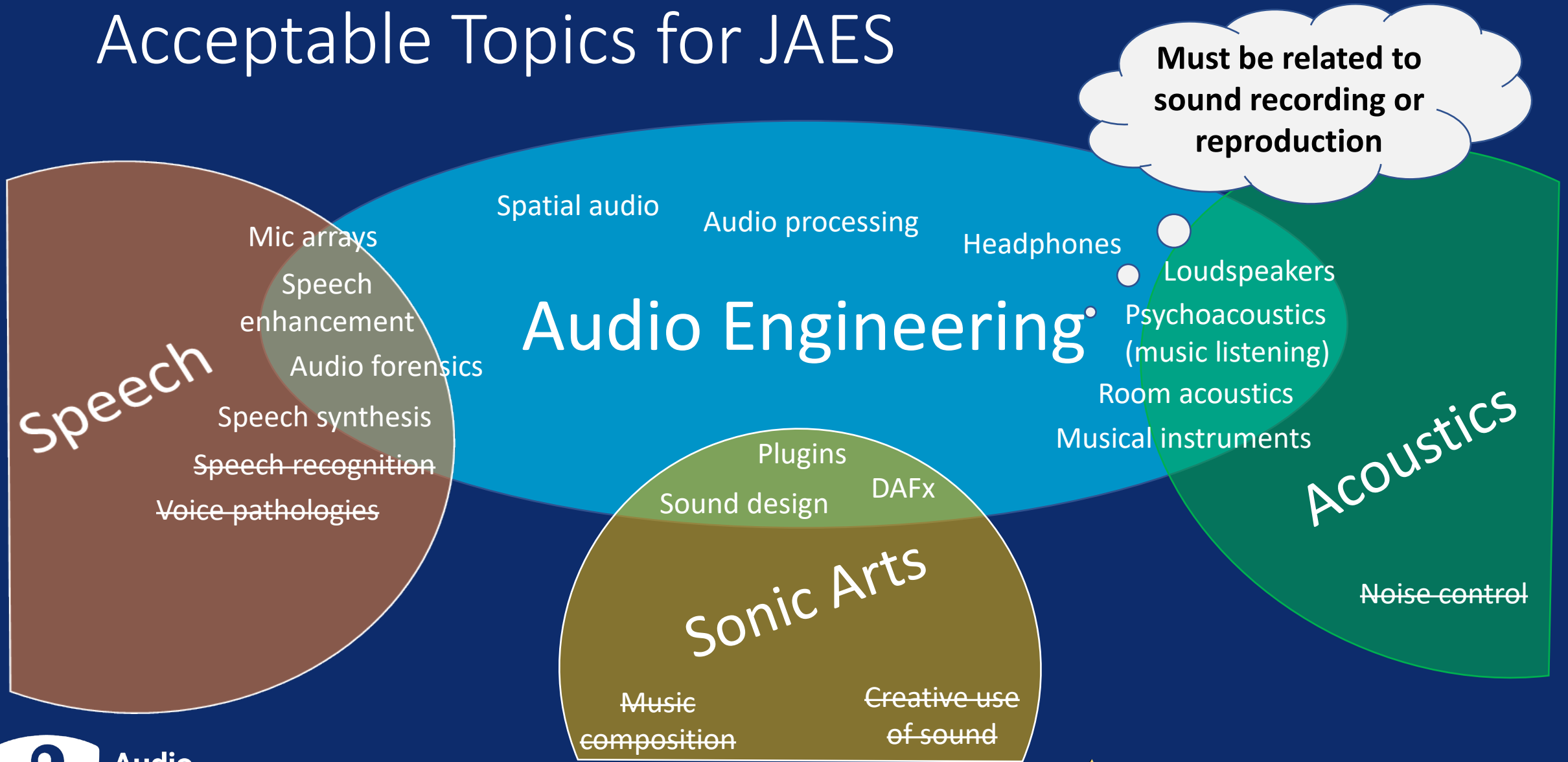
Local, Convention, Conference, Journal

- The Audio Engineering Society offers many opportunities to share your work:
 - AES **local sections** are often looking for presenters and technical demonstrations
 - AES **Conventions** feature technical sessions with late-breaking information
 - AES **Conferences** offer more in-depth coverage of new ideas and
- The **AES Journal** provides corroborated and fully-peer-reviewed articles of archival quality

Publishing in the Journal

- A manuscript suitable for the Journal of the Audio Engineering Society will face many tough layers of scrutiny—including *peer review* by other experts in the field.
- Some manuscripts are initially rejected—and nearly every manuscript requires some revision before publication—to ensure very high quality.
- Manuscript submission outcomes:
ACCEPT / MINOR REVISION / MAJOR REVISION / REJECT

Acceptable Topics for JAES



Journal of the Audio Engineering Society

- Editor-in-Chief: Vesa Välimäki
- Managing Editor: Paige Horvath
- Production Editor: Christopher Cifani

- **Associate Technical Editors:** Assist the Editor-in-Chief with specific expertise: loudspeakers, microphones, audio coding, room acoustics, archiving, etc.

AES

JOURNAL OF THE AUDIO ENGINEERING SOCIETY

AUDIO / ACOUSTICS / APPLICATIONS

Volume 70 Number 9

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Special Issue on New Trends in Audio Effects...

The Dynamic Grid: Time-Varying Parameters for Musical Instrument Simulations Based on Finite-Difference Time-Domain Schemes

Conditioned Source Separation by Attentively Aggregating Frequency Transformations With Self-Conditioning

Nyquist Band Transform: An Order-Preserving Transform for Bandlimited Discretization

Antialiasing for Simplified Nonlinear Volterra Models

The Fast Local Sparsity Method: A Low-Cost Combination of Time-Frequency Representations Based on the Hoyer Sparsity

Style Transfer of Audio Effects with Differentiable Signal Processing

Loudspeaker Equalization for a Moving Listener

Phase-Aware Transformations in Variational Autoencoders for Audio Effects

Deep Audio Effects for Snare Drum Recording Transformations

Word Embeddings for Automatic Equalization in Audio Mixing

A Comparative Study of Music Mastered by Human Engineers and Automated Services



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Initial Manuscript Screening by Editor-in-Chief



Editor-in-Chief or an ATE (Associate Technical Editor) does the basic screening

1. Out of scope?
 - Not audio engineering, no JAES references
2. Is it well written?
 - Language deficiency, incomprehensible
3. Too much similarity?
 - Earlier AES Conv paper, plagiarism
4. Is the work properly validated?
 - Comparison/evaluation/experiments
5. Is there novelty?
 - Nothing new is claimed, missing references

Secondary Manuscript Screening by ATE

- Associate Technical Editor carefully reads the abstract, section structure, conclusions, and list of references.
- The ATE identifies 3-5 experts in the area of the manuscript who could understand each and every detail. These individuals are asked to be **PEER REVIEWERS**.

WHO are Peer Reviewers? What do they do?

- Peer reviewers are experts working in the same field as the topic of the manuscript.
- Peer reviewers assess the intrinsic quality, validity, and originality of the manuscript, then make a recommendation on publication.
- For JAES, peer reviewers are *anonymous* to the author. Their service is voluntary, not paid.
- Peer reviewers must be impartial, free of any real or perceived conflict of interest, and must keep confidential the contents of the manuscript.

What makes a good peer review report?

- The peer reviewer needs to assess:
 - The structure and organization of the manuscript.
 - The authors' description of how the new work fits within prior work in the field, and the completeness of the list of references.
 - The clarity and effectiveness of the figures (diagrams, graphs, charts, tables, photos, etc.).
 - The scope and quality of the reported work.
 - The degree to which the authors' claims appear valid, based upon the manuscript's explanations and results.

What do peer reviewers need to remember?

- Peer reviewers are not "co-authors" – the manuscript needs to be considered on its own merits, not "*here's what I would do.*"
- Write the review as a recommendation to the editor.
 - Include a brief summary of the work and its relevance.
- Explain how the authors have placed their new work in the context of ongoing work in the field.
- Determine any errors, misinterpretations, and missing information.
- Always be mindful of ethics and integrity.

Outcomes of the peer review process

- The Associate Technical Editor receives and reads the peer review reports. The result is a recommendation of:
 - **Reject** – the manuscript is not suitable for publication in JAES
 - **Major revision needed** – the manuscript has one or more significant shortcomings that the author needs to address. This might require additional experiments and/or analysis. This recommendation usually involves a full review of the revised manuscript.
 - **Minor revision needed** – the manuscript has some shortcomings that can be remedied by minor adjustments to the text.
 - **Accept** – the manuscript is accepted for publication in JAES.

How should an *author* respond to peer reviews?

- **Every** JAES manuscript receives suggestions and critical review comments. Don't be angry or discouraged!
- Take the comments seriously: the suggestions provide an opportunity to improve your manuscript.
- If the reviewer misunderstood something, so would other readers. Use the opportunity to provide a clearer explanation.
- If you are revising and resubmitting, clearly address *each* and *every* reviewer comment.

Does peer review guarantee perfection?

- Unfortunately, No.
 - Even with thorough and capable peer reviewers, errors and misinterpretations are still possible.
- So what is peer review worth?
 - It provides the author, editor, and future readers a *reasonable* assurance that the manuscript is worth reading and archiving.

Can *you* be a peer reviewer?

- **Yes**, if you...
 - Are recognized as an expert in your field of work.
 - Regularly read and use papers published in JAES.
 - Have demonstrated experience writing and publishing papers, and responding to critical peer reviews of your work.
 - Have time to read and knowledgeably discuss the work of others.
 - Understand and embrace the impartiality, confidentiality, and ethical integrity of the peer review process.
 - Recognize the **professional obligation** of AES members to enhance the quality and usefulness of our Journal.

Conclusion

- Publishing in JAES helps establish you as an expert in your specialty area of audio engineering. This is important for career advancement and professional fulfillment.
- Serving as a peer reviewer contributes to the quality, integrity, and sustainability of AES, and of the AES Journal.
- Peer reviewers enjoy the satisfaction of helping move our profession forward as a key contributor to the audio engineering field.
- Contact an Associate Technical Editor to find out more.

Thank you for your attention

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Deputy Editor-in-Chief*

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