A Guide to SHARP News

Book Reviews

Thank you for reviewing for SHARP News, the digital newsletter for the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing! Here are some details about the book review process, as well as possibilities with our social media platforms.

The Basics

- **SHARP News** is an entirely online publication and can be found here: [https://www.sharpweb.org/sharpnews/](https://www.sharpweb.org/sharpnews/).
- Reviews make up a large amount of our content and currently include books, exhibitions, and e-resources. Reviews are posted on a quarterly basis: June, August, November, and February.
- We welcome a very wide range of chronological, geographic, thematic, and material approaches to book history and publishing studies. These reviews can be requested (i.e. we reach out to potential reviewers of all career stages and approaches) or recommended to the **SHARP News** team. **SHARP News** especially encourages submissions from graduate students, early career researchers, book trade professionals, and independent scholars, as well as those who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ, women, and other minorities. If you are interested in a particular review, or have a specific book you’d like to bring to our attention, please see our contact information.
- **SHARP News** encourages reviewers to be fair and nuanced in their reviews and expects all reviewers to be respectful to the creators of the work they review. All reviews will be carefully read and edited by review editors, and discussed with the reviewer. Because **SHARP News** seeks to facilitate a diverse, inclusive, equitable, and accessible online space, its editors reserve the right to withhold from publication any review with discriminatory content in regards to sex, gender, age, race, origin, or religion, or that the editors deem offensive or uncollegial.

The Process

- **For Books:** Publishers provide gratis copies to reviewers. We ask that reviewers provide their preferred mailing address so that the publisher can send the copy directly to the reviewer. If that is not an option, the **SHARP News** team will mail the copy to the reviewer instead.
- **Format:** We ask that all reviews are between 750 and 1,000 words for books; they may be submitted as .docx, .doc, .rtf, .txt, or .odt files.
- The review should contain the full title/citation in Chicago format at the top of the page, followed by the author’s name. An image of the book will accompany the review. Please note that **SHARP News** does not publish anonymous reviews. Please also note that all **SHARP News** content is published under a creative commons license (CC BY-NC-SA).
- **Book reviews should consider the following elements:**
  - What is the book’s thesis? How does the author develop key arguments? Are the arguments convincing?
  - What is the author’s expertise?
  - What sources does the author utilize? Are they appropriate for the study?
  - What methodologies are used? Are they suitable for the study?
  - Is the writing style clear? What kind of audience/readership will the book have?
  - How does the book compare to other works on the subject? Does the book fill in any gaps in the existing historiography?
  - What are the book’s major strengths? What are its weaknesses and limitations?
  - What kind of contribution to the field does the book make? What are the important original insights provided by the book? Is the book world-leading in its field?

- **Keywords:** When submitting your review, we’d appreciate it if you could provide two to three keywords or terms that we can tag your review with on the **SHARP News** website. Please see the list of tags we currently use. If there are terms not listed there that you think best describe the review, please let us know!
- **Timeline:** We fully understand how many demands are on everyone’s time and are extremely grateful to reviewers for their tremendous contributions to **SHARP News**, **SHARP**, and the wider book history and publishing studies communities. We appreciate that this is a service, and that these things take time. Our requested turnaround is
three months so that we keep up with our publishing schedule, but should you require more time, please keep in touch!

- **Social media:** A big part of the new direction of *SHARP News* involves social media outreach and engagement. When you accept or suggest a review, please let us know your comfort level with social and digital media promotion, i.e., if you would like us to mention your twitter handle or not, and/or any other accommodations. You can follow us [@sharporgnews](https://twitter.com/sharporgnews) alongside the other SHARP channels, and also look for updates via the SHARP-L listserv. Please feel free to also reach out to Leah Hendrickson at [communication@sharpweb.org](mailto:communication@sharpweb.org) for social media related queries.

- **Submission:** Please submit your review, along with contact information, to [reviews@sharpweb.org](mailto:reviews@sharpweb.org)

**Contact**

- Editor in Chief: Andie Silva, [news@sharpweb.org](mailto:news@sharpweb.org), [@andiesilva](https://twitter.com/andiesilva).
- Head Reviews Editor: Nora Slonimsky, [reviews@sharpweb.org](mailto:reviews@sharpweb.org), [@noraslonimsky](https://twitter.com/noraslonimsky).
- Associate Editor, Book Reviews: Stevie Marsden, [bookreviews@sharpweb.org](mailto:bookreviews@sharpweb.org), [@StevieLMarsden](https://twitter.com/StevieLMarsden).
- Associate Editor, Exhibits and E-Resources Reviews: Emily Spunaugle, [ereviews@sharpweb.org](mailto:ereviews@sharpweb.org), [@the_embrarian](https://twitter.com/the_embrarian).
- Associate Editor At Large: Mariam El Ashmawy, [editoratlarge@sharpweb.org](mailto:editoratlarge@sharpweb.org), [@marelashmawy](https://twitter.com/marelashmawy).
- Associate Editor for Social Media and Promotion, Leah Henrickson at [communication@sharpweb.org](mailto:communication@sharpweb.org), [@leahhenrickson](https://twitter.com/leahhenrickson).