Submitting a Proposal

Thank you for your interest in publishing with Southern Illinois University Press. We publish nonfiction books for academic and general audiences, and we welcome book proposals in the subject areas in which we publish (listed below). We do not publish fiction, conference proceedings, edited primary sources, unrevised dissertations, or festschriften. *Poetry submissions should be sent directly to* Crab Orchard Review.

You are welcome to mail or e-mail your cover letter, addressed to the appropriate editor (see end of page), and a complete prospectus as described below. Electronic submission of files is encouraged. SIU Press does not accept unsolicited proposals by telephone. Do not submit a complete manuscript unless an editor invites you to do so.

What to Include in Your Book Proposal
A proposal is your chance to tell us why you think your manuscript is a good fit for SIU Press. We appreciate seeing an author's clear, concise overview of the project, an understanding of how the manuscript complements other books we have published, and an enthusiasm for the topic. Although there is no set format for a proposal, it would be in your best interest to include the following items:

- Summary of the book's content. What is your aim in writing the book? What are your primary findings or arguments? What is the book's significance?

- Sources. In brief, what major sources have you used in your research? Feel free to share a brief bibliography if you would like.

- Audience and market. Who will buy your book? Will it be suitable for course adoption? What other books have been published on your topic or a similar subject? How will your book be different from competing books?

- Promotion. How can you help us promote the book through talks, signings, video conferencing, and the like? Are you active on Facebook, Twitter, or other social media? Do you have a personal website?

- Illustrations. How many photographs, line drawings, tables, charts, or other illustrations will be included?

- What is the length or proposed length? What is the word count, including notes and bibliography?

- Status. How much of the manuscript has been written? When will it be complete? Do you need the book to be published for tenure?

- Annotated table of contents. Write a descriptive paragraph about each chapter.

- Sample chapter(s). Provide your preface (if available) and introduction and one or two sample chapters that represent your work. See our Manuscript Preparation Guidelines if you have questions about formatting.

- About the author. Include a current vita or resume for each author or editor or a summary of your professional experience and publications. If your project is an essay collection, include concise biographies (not CVs) for each contributor. Be sure to include your contact information.

- IRB. If you are affiliated with a college or university, and if your project involves the use of data collected from human subjects, including secondary data analysis, have you secured approval from an institutional review board? If not, please briefly explain why this step might not be necessary or whether you plan to seek such approval.

- Suggested peer reviewers. Which three to five senior scholars in your field would be appropriate readers for your project? Are there any scholars who should not be contacted?

What to Expect after Sending a Proposal
The editor to whom you addressed the proposal, or an acquiring editor who specializes in the fields in which we publish, will read your proposal and discuss it at a meeting of the acquisitions department. An indication of our decision will follow thereafter. We typically decide whether or not to pursue a project in six to eight weeks.

Return of Materials
If you mail a proposal and would like your materials returned to you, be sure to include a self-addressed stamped envelope. Do not send us any original artwork, as we cannot be responsible for its safe return to you.

Simultaneous Submissions
The editors at SIU Press accept simultaneous submissions of book proposals. Please note in your cover letter if you are submitting your proposal to other publishers. Like most publishers, we do not accept simultaneous submissions of manuscripts and will not consider a manuscript that is under review by another publisher.

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