

Oxford New Histories of Philosophy

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL FOR A PRIMARY TEXT

Example

Refer to *Mexican Philosophy in the 20th Century* for an example of the format of a volume in this series. The original proposal for this book is available to download [here](#).

The Book

1. **Brief Description** – In one or two paragraphs, describe the primary text and its author, including the previous publication history of the text, the rationale for a new edition, and any issues concerning its translation into English. Please indicate if the editor and the translator will be separate contributors and, if they are separate, to what extent the editor and translator will cooperate.
2. **Introductory Materials** - Introductory materials should contain a philosophical introduction to the text(s) and might include biographical or historical materials. In a paragraph, describe the introductory materials.
3. **Outline** – A detailed outline of the book’s chapters should be prepared; if there are various previous editions of the text, be sure to indicate which will be regarded as the *canonical* edition, providing a brief rationale for that decision.
4. **Outstanding Features List** – Briefly explain what you consider to be the outstanding, distinctive, or unique features of the work, and its historical importance to the history of philosophy.
5. **Apparatus** – Will the book include photographs, line drawings, cases, questions, problems, glossaries, bibliography, references, appendices, etc.?
6. **Competition** – Consider the existing editions of this text and discuss specifically their strengths and weaknesses. Explain how your edition will be similar to, as well as different from, competitors. Please discuss each competing edition in a separate paragraph. (Please provide us with the publisher and date of publication as well.) This information will provide the reviewers and the publisher a frame of reference for evaluating your material. Remember, you are writing for reviewers and not for publication, so

be as frank as possible regarding your competition. Give credit where credit is due, and show how you can do it better. If there has never been a modern edition of the primary text, please indicate why you believe the time is ripe for one.

Market Considerations

1. What is the major market for the book—scholarly/professional, upper level undergraduate, etc.?
2. For what course(s) is the book intended? Is the book a core text or a supplement? What type of student takes this course? What is the level—major or non-major, freshman, senior, graduate, etc.? Do you offer this course yourself?

Status of the Work

1. What is your timetable for completing the book?
 - What portion or percentage of the edition is now complete? Are there any outstanding copyright matters that must be addressed? Please indicate if you are unsure whether the canonical edition of the primary text is in the public domain.
 - When do you expect to have a complete manuscript?
2. What do you estimate to be the word count of the completed volume?
 - Double spaced typewritten pages normally reduce about one-third when set in type; e.g., 300 typewritten pages make about 200 printed pages. There are about 450 words on a printed page.
 - Approximately how many photographs do you plan to include?
 - Approximately how many line drawings—including charts, graphs, diagrams, etc.—will you need?
3. Do you plan to check the translation with other experts? If so, who? If not, why not?

Sample Chapters

For Translated Manuscripts: Select one or two chapters of your translation along with the original text (the latter might be scanned) that are an integral part of the book. The material need not be in final form, although it should be carefully prepared and represent your best editorial/translational work. Make sure all pages are numbered.

For English Manuscripts: Select one edited chapter of your proposed new edition that best captures your critical apparatus (e.g. informational footnotes, correction of obvious typographical errors, relevant modernization of words) along with the original text (the latter might be scanned). The material need not be in final form, although it should be carefully prepared and represent your best editorial work. Make sure all pages are numbered.

Reviews

If you wish to suggest the names of experts in your field whom you believe to be ideally suited to evaluate your proposal, you may provide their names, titles, and email addresses.

Author Background

Please include a current CV or brief biography of your writing, teaching, and/or educational background and experience. Be sure to list any books that you have previously published, and any other information concerning your qualifications to edit this volume.

Response Time

Please allow at least 6-10 weeks for the manuscript proposal evaluation and review process. We will contact you as soon as we have had a chance to examine your manuscript proposal thoroughly. Thank you for your interest in Oxford University Press. We look forward to reading your materials.

Process

An editor should first submit a draft proposal to Christia Mercer (cm50 [at] columbia [dot] edu) and Melvin Rogers (Melvin_Rogers [at] brown [dot] edu) and then (upon their recommendation) to Peter Ohlin, philosophy editor at OUP, who will have it peer-reviewed (Peter [dot] Ohlin [at] oup [dot] com).

Questions

Editors should feel free to contact the series editors, Christia Mercer (cm50 [at] columbia [dot] edu) and Melvin Rogers (Melvin_Rogers [at] brown [dot] edu) with questions.

