

Guidance on Submitting a Book Proposal to Oxford University Press for the: Critical Frontiers of Theory, Research, and Policy in International Development Studies (DSA series)

The contemporary world is characterized by massive wealth alongside widespread poverty, inequality, and environmental destruction – all bound up through class, race, and gender dynamics of inequality and oppression. Critical Frontiers of Theory, Research, and Policy in International Development Studies, the official book series of the Development Studies Association of the UK published in collaboration with Oxford University Press, was established to contribute to critical thinking about local, national and global processes of structural transformation. The series publishes cutting-edge monographs that promote critical development studies as an interdisciplinary and applied field, and shape the theory, practice, and teaching of international development for a new generation of scholars, students, and practitioners.

The current editors are Andrew Fischer (Institute of Social Studies, The Hague), Naomi Hossain (American University), Briony Jones (University of Warwick), Alfredo Saad Filho (King's College London), Benjamin Selwyn (University of Sussex) and Fiona Tregenna (University of Johannesburg).

As the series evolves, we wish to publish a diverse and inclusive range of authors whose work engages in critical, multidisciplinary, decolonial, and methodologically plural development studies. If you have an idea for a book proposal, contact the editors at: dsabookseries@devstud.org.uk

How to make a proposal for the DSA-OUP book series:
<https://www.devstud.org.uk/what-we-do/publications/>

THE PROPOSAL

In order to make an assessment of your book idea, we ask you to provide a formal proposal. This should include:

- 1) Proposed working title and subtitle
- 2) Details of the author(s), including affiliation and contact details
- 3) Synopsis of the proposed book

Please provide the conclusions reached (first, upfront, so that we understand straightaway what you are proposing).
And then some brief background of the subject area/context, and the aims and objectives of the book. This should include a description of scope and content; the rationale behind the project (e.g., developing out of a course/conference, filling a gap in the market, emergence of a new area of research); major themes you plan to cover; the intellectual contribution the book will make to the field; distinctive features; etc.
Add at the end an 80 word description of the type you'd find on the book jacket.
- 4) Draft Table of Contents

Please list your proposed chapter titles (and sections, where appropriate), and then repeat these adding a one or two paragraph description of the content of each chapter. The series seeks to publish original content, so please indicate if any of the proposed material has been published before and, if so, who holds the copyright.

- 5) The intended market and readership (primary and secondary) for the book
Please include the discipline/subject area of potential readers, the level the book is aimed at (e.g., MA students, academics), and the geographic potential of the book (regions where the book should have strong appeal, and where will it not be relevant). Please also include information on any courses where the book might have relevance. Note that the majority of OUP titles are intended for institutional/library purchase.
- 6) Competition / Contribution to the Literature
Analysis of any existing literature that competes directly or indirectly with your proposed book. Please include title, author, publisher, price, and publication date, and information on how your book is different/will improve upon the existing books. Please don't say specifically that there is 'no competition' because this opens the proposal up to possible criticism if 'something' is thought to be in the same area. How will your work contribute to the literature on this topic?
- 7) An estimate of the length of the book, in terms of number of words (minimum is usually 70,000)
- 8) An indication of any artwork requirements
For example, number of figures (line drawings or photographs), and whether these can be effectively reproduced in black and white.
- 9) An estimate of when you expect to submit your final manuscript
- 10) Sample chapter/material (if available)
- 11) A short, up to date CV / bio for all author(s), including affiliation and significant publications
- 12) Does this project have research funding (e.g., the grant number and, if possible, the named recipient)? Some funders stipulate rights or distribution requirements, which it is useful for us to be aware of. Is there Open Access funding available?
- 13) Two or three appropriate Journal of Economic Literature (JEL) classification system codes that could be associated with the manuscript. http://www.aeaweb.org/jel/jel_class_system.php
This is specifically useful for development 'economics' titles.
- 14) Suggestions for 3 or 4 potential reviewers of the proposal (optional, add to email only).

Please note that we are unable to consider a proposal that is under consideration with another publisher.

There is no prescribed length for a book proposal, but this is typically 14-20 pages.

EVALUATING THE PROPOSAL

Review

In the first instance the Commissioning Editor and Series Editors will be able to tell you whether your work will be suitable for publication by OUP and in the series. If we are interested in your project, the Commissioning Editor will invite a small number of external academic advisors to comment on your proposal, namely confirming the need for a book in this area and the quality of the proposal. Referees will remain anonymous unless they wish otherwise. By sending your proposal to us, you are consenting to us circulating your proposal, your name, and any details about you in the proposal to those advisors. Where the proposal identifies other authors, it is your responsibility to ensure that they are aware that we will send their work and their personal details to those advisors and that they consent to us doing that. This review process may take up to 10 weeks, sometimes longer. Your Commissioning Editor will share the referees' comments with the Series Editors in the first instance and will then send them to you with any additional advice. You will be asked for your reaction to these comments and whether you wish to revise your outline in response to them.

It is also possible that, at this stage, you will be informed that we cannot publish your book.

Approval

Assuming the external feedback is supportive, your Commissioning Editor will invite the Series Editors to prepare an endorsement and will then present the proposal at an internal Editorial Meeting. If your proposal is approved at this meeting, it will then be submitted to the Delegates of the Press (the academic board that oversee the activities of the Press) for consideration at their next meeting. The Delegates meet every two weeks during University term time, but if a decision is needed outside term time a 'vacation decision' can sometimes be arranged. The final decision as to whether to accept a book proposal and to offer a contract rests with the Delegates of the Press. Your Commissioning Editor will let you know the Delegates' decision about your proposal as soon as possible after their meeting.

If you have any queries about the process, please don't hesitate to contact your Commissioning Editor, Adam Swallow, or the Series Editors: dsabookseries@devstud.org.uk

Further information

<https://academic.oup.com/pages/authoring/books/submitting-a-proposal>