

Notes for Book Reviewers

As women's studies is a rapidly-growing discipline with much innovative work being written, book reviews are extremely important for *European Journal of Women's Studies*. We are very appreciative of reviewers who are willing to devote the time to providing us with thoughtful, critical reviews. In order to maintain a high quality book-review section that will be informative for the readers of *European Journal of Women's Studies* and stimulate further discussion and debate, we provide the following guidelines for reviewers. These are adapted from several other journals to suit our particular concerns.

1. Content

(a) A good book review provides a critical evaluation of the book. Through a discussion of the purpose of the book, the author's approach to the subject matter, and an evaluation of the author's success in fulfilling the purpose, the review explains the scope and nature of the contents. A good review, however, should go beyond this and develop the author's own ideas about the book. The book reviewer engages with the author in a dialogue. Book reviews which follow this format become part of ongoing theoretical and political discussions and are not simply an abbreviated description of one specific work. As such, they are not a substitute for reading the original text but instead are worth reading in their own right.

Frequently, the book reviews appearing in journals never go beyond the book's context. In *European Journal of Women's Studies*, we hope to avoid the simple reporting of content that is prevalent elsewhere and provide book reviews rather than book reports.

(b) It is important to address the broadest possible range of readers. The readers of *European Journal of Women's Studies* vary considerably in their disciplines as well as their theoretical, methodological, and political orientations. Making significant theoretical debates and original empirical analyses available to the general reader is a valuable goal for the reviewer.

(c) Good criticism is aimed at the book's contents and not at the author(s). Both strengths and weaknesses of the work are identified.

(d) Finally, it may be useful to situate the book within the current context of feminist inquiry and compare it to similar books.

2. Form and Style

(a) Begin the review with a citation of the book in the following format: Author/Editor, title, number of volume or edition, city of publication, publisher, year, number of pages (xix pp.), ISBN.

(b) Quotations: Use double quotation marks around short quotations of 40 words or less. Set longer quotations off from the text in a freestanding block with no quotation marks. Provide a page number for every quotation. Acknowledge any changes to the original quotation by putting brackets around any inserted text and indicating where italics are added by the reviewer.

(c) Keep references at a minimum and present them in AA style.

(e) No footnotes or tables.

(f) Authors should avoid the use of sexist, racist and heterosexist language. Authors are encouraged to use clear language which avoids unnecessary jargon.

(g) Double-space reviews, including citations.

(h) The length of book reviews for one book is 1,000-1,500 words. Book reviews of two books or more can be between 2,500 and 3,000 words long.

- (i) Sign the review with your name and affiliations.

3. Other Considerations

It is vital that reviewers take their deadlines seriously in order to ensure that the book review section will reflect current scholarship. Also, *European Journal of Women's Studies* must be firm about the number of words allotted due to journal page restrictions. The editors will make changes to reviews in order to bring them into line with the contracted length and also to improve clarity. On occasion, a review may be returned to the author for clarification or revision. If you feel that you cannot provide a fair review (e.g. the author was your graduate supervisor or you are the author of a competing book), please notify the Book Review Editor.

The book reviews must be written in English. The *European Journal of Women's Studies* cannot cover any costs for translation. We will, however, provide extensive (copy-)editing for reviews written by non-English speakers.

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