



## Submitting a Book Proposal to OUP's Modernist Literature & Culture Series

Kevin J. H. Dettmar & Mark Wollaeger, editors

Authors submitting a proposal should send a cover letter, prospectus, curriculum vitae, and two sample chapters to both editors. All materials should be sent as Word or WordPerfect attachments. Complete manuscripts should not be sent unless invited. In the prospectus, include the following:

**Brief Description**—In 1–4 paragraphs, describe the book's argument, approach, goals, distinguishing features, and place in the literature. Is the book setting out to answer a previously unanswered question, tell an unknown story, or solve a problem? Why does this contribution matter to your field? Why now?

**Outstanding Features List**—What are the outstanding or distinctive features of the work?

**Annotated Table of Contents**—Provide a table of contents with a paragraph or so description of the contents of each chapter.

**Collected Volumes**—If you are submitting a proposal for an edited collection, please include essay abstracts and a short biography outlining each contributor's qualifications. Indicate whether the essays have been previously published or if they are original material.

**Competition**—Compare your book to the existing books on similar topics or with a similar approach. Discuss the strengths and weaknesses of competing or kindred books. Spell out how your book will be similar to, and different from, such works. Please be as frank as possible regarding how your book fits in with other available books and why you believe there is an audience for it.

**Market Considerations**—What is the major market for the book: other specialists in your subfield, scholars across a larger field or whole discipline, undergraduate students, grad students, etc.? If students are the primary market, is the book likely to be assigned in the class-room? What level of classes? Is the book a trade book, that is, a book for a general reader rather than someone with specialized knowledge in a particular discipline? How would OUP best reach your book's market?

**Status of the Work**—What portion of the material is now complete? When will it be done? What do you estimate to be the size of the completed book in manuscript (i.e., double-spaced with normal margins in a basic 12-point font)? Do you plan to include material requiring permission (previously published works, lyrics, illustrations)? Have you started the permissions request process? Do you foresee any complications getting permissions?

**Author Background**—Please provide a short summary of your professional experience, past publications, and relevant research—materials aimed at explaining why you are the right author for the book you intend to write. (Please send a current CV as well).

**Sample Chapters**—Select two representative chapters of the manuscript. It is advisable to submit any chapter that is particularly innovative or unique. A draft of the book’s introduction is very helpful and should be included if possible.

**Reviews**—If we are interested in your project, both editors will read the entire manuscript and write reports; if those reports are favorable, we will also send it to a third, outside reviewer. We would like to consult established scholars whose opinions you would consider particularly important. For this purpose, please provide the names and affiliations of three or four people whom you feel would be especially well-suited to reviewing your material. Please don’t include close associates or friends. We may use one of these reviewers or go to them for other suggestions. Naturally, we do not reveal the names of reviewers without their permission.

**Response Time**—Please allow 2-3 months 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 the Modernist Literature & Culture series. We look forward to reading your materials.

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For more extensive advice on preparing book proposals, you may wish to consult:

William Germano, *Getting It Published: A Guide for Scholars and Anyone Else Serious About Serious Books* (University of Chicago Press, 2001)

Susan Rabiner and Alfred Fortunate, *Thinking Like Your Editor: How to Write Great Serious Nonfiction — and Get It Published* (Norton, 2002)

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