



Journal of Appalachian Studies

Book Reviewer Guidelines

What can be reviewed?

JAS reviews books of academic scholarship, fiction, poetry and other genres related to the field of Appalachian Studies. Our ability to serve the needs and interests of its readership depends, in part, on the integrity and quality of the reviews it publishes. If you are selected as a reviewer, please know that *JAS* appreciates your time and effort.

JAS does not accept unsolicited reviews of books. Reviewers must have demonstrated expertise in the field relevant to the review. Potential conflicts of interest in writing the review, professional or personal, should be made known to the editor. If you would like to volunteer to review books for *JAS*, you may do so by filling out a reviewer application form.

Review length is 750 words. Essays dealing with multiple titles require longer length and will be discussed with the editor at the time of assignment. Reviews are due no later than eight weeks from receipt of the book/s to review.

Reviews should be submitted electronically to the book review editor as a Word file, double-spaced, 12-point type, Times New Roman, with page numbers. On the first page of the review, include your name, address, phone number, and e-mail address. At the end of the review, include a brief bio of one or two sentences.

All quotations from the book cited in the review *must include the page number of the citation*.

Reviewers may be asked to reword or rewrite sections of the review. Editors may refuse submissions.

Review Standards

The purpose of a review is to offer the reader a fair and balanced representation and critical evaluation of an author's work. Whether favorable or unfavorable, the review should be respectful to the author and written in courteous and constructive terms.

We expect book reviews to include the following components:

- 1) Standard header information: with title, author, publisher, year of publication and page count.
- 2) Brief description of the author. This could include the author's title and place of work, and/or a general indication of who the author is (e.g., an established authority on Appalachian history; an innovative feminist literary critic; an award-winning poet and fiction writer; an environmental educator with ten years' experience working in Appalachia).

- 3) A statement of the purpose of the book, and an indication of the intended audience of the work.
- 4) A description of the approach(es) taken in the work with special attention to: scope, content, rigor of the research and scholarship, logic of the argument, readability of the prose, and/or quality of the craft or skill displayed.
- 5) A comparison with earlier or similar works in the field (e.g., place a book in context of the existing literature).
- 6) An indication of the work's strengths and weaknesses, with at least one example of each.
- 7) A concluding evaluation of the book, with attention to how the work contributes to our understanding of Appalachia, and the primary benefits of the work (e.g., usefulness in teaching) for its intended audience.

Please avoid the following:

- 1) Long quotations.
- 2) Quotations that do not clearly illustrate a specific critical issue.
- 3) Excessive summary.
- 4) References to works or authors not generally known to most readers.
- 5) Anecdotes or details about the reviewer, unless these are directly relevant to the argument of the review.
- 6) Biographical details about the author that do not bear directly on the work.
- 7) Criticisms based upon what the reviewer wishes the work had done or been, rather than what it set out to accomplish or be.

Questions regarding the review process can be emailed to the book review editor, Kathryn Santiago, at santiago@marshall.edu.