A Guide to *SHARP News*
Book Reviews

(Updated March 23, 2024)

SHARP News invites constructive and insightful reviews of scholarly books on topics of interest to book history, book studies, print culture, authorship and publishing studies, and media studies. As the digital newsletter for the Society for the History of Authorship, Reading, and Publishing, *SHARP News* is a companion publication to the journal *Book History* and is SHARP's exclusive venue for book reviews.

The following guidelines are provided as a starting point for reviewers. *SHARP News* encourages reviewers to be fair and nuanced in their reviews and expects all reviewers to be respectful to the creators of the work they review. All reviews will be read and edited by review editors and discussed with the reviewer. Because *SHARP News* seeks to facilitate a diverse, inclusive, equitable, and accessible online space, its editors reserve the right to withhold from publication any review with discriminatory content in regards to sex, gender, age, race, origin, or religion, or that the editors deem offensive or uncollegial.

SHARP News explicitly encourages submissions from graduate students, early career researchers, book trade professionals, and independent scholars, as well as those who identify as BIPOC, LGBTQ+, women, and other minorities. We also encourage reviews of books focused on communities and regions underrepresented in book history and other SHARP fields.

Please see the list of books available for review. We also welcome suggestions.

The Basics
● All *SHARP News* content is published under a creative commons license (CC BY-NC-SA). Please note that *SHARP News* does not publish anonymous reviews.
● Reviews are typically posted on a quarterly basis: June, August, November, and February.
● Publishers provide gratis hard copies to reviewers.
● Reviewers may contribute one review per calendar year.
● *SHARP News* currently publishes reviews written in English. However, contributors may review books originally published in any language.

The Process
● Pitch a review: To propose a review, please email reviews@sharpweb.org with the title of the book you propose to review and a brief note that explains how your background and experience equip you to review this book. See our current list of books available for review or propose your own.
● Receive your review copy: In most cases, you will receive a review copy in the mail directly from the publisher (2-4 weeks). Please email your assigned member of the *SHARP News* editorial team to confirm receipt. If you cannot complete your review, we will request the return of your review copy.
● Submission timeline: Our requested review turnaround is **three months from receipt of review copy** so that we maintain our publishing schedule. Once you submit your review, you will receive a confirmation email from a member of the editorial team with an approximate timeline for

publication. You will then receive edits from a member of the editorial team (typically within a month).

- Submit your review: please submit your review to your corresponding editor: Jolie Braun (braun.338@osu.edu) or Madeline Zehnder (madeline.zehnder@hu-berlin.de).
- Social media: Part of the new direction of *SHARP News* involves social media outreach and engagement. When you submit your review, we will also put you in touch with *SHARP News* social media editor Sarah Pelletier to discuss possibilities for social and digital media promotion.

Review Details & Format
- Book reviews should consider the following elements:
    - What is the book's thesis? How does the author develop key arguments? Are the arguments convincing?
    - What is the author's expertise?
    - What sources does the author utilize? Are they appropriate for the study?
    - What methodologies are used? Are they suitable for the study?
    - Is the writing style clear? What kind of audience/readership will the book have?
    - How does the book compare to other works on the subject? Does the book fill in any gaps in the existing historiography?
    - What are the book's major strengths? What are its weaknesses and limitations?
    - What kind of contribution to the field does the book make? What are the important original insights provided by the book? Is the book world-leading in its field?
- Length: 750 to 1,000 words.
- Formatting: Reviews should be submitted in electronic form as Microsoft Word file, in Times New Roman or a similar serif typeface, size 12 font, and double-spaced.
- Citation: The review should contain the full title/citation in Chicago format at the top of the page, followed by the author's name. Ex. Simone Murray. *The Digital Literary Sphere: Reading, Writing, and Selling Books in the Internet Era.* Baltimore: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2018. 256 p. ISBN: 9781421426099. US $32.95 (cloth). Julie Rak, University of Alberta.
- File Naming: Please name your file in the following format: YourLastName_Review_AuthorLastName
- Keywords: Provide two to three keywords or terms that we can use to tag your review on the *SHARP News* website. Please see the list of keywords for examples. If there are terms not listed there that you think best describe the review, please let us know.
- Bio: Please provide a short author bio of 20-50 words.
- An image of the book will accompany the review. *SHARP News* editors will supply the image.

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