

# FEMINIST STUDIES

## Book Reviewer's Information

The *Feminist Studies* editorial board selects a few books each year for review on the basis of their scholarly merit and their implications for feminist scholars and activists. Due to space limitations we do not publish reviews of individual books, but rather review essays of clusters of important books on the same general theme. (If a book on that theme has only minor merit, it should not be included in the review at all.) Our aim is to publish essays of original and scholarly interest in their own right, rather than reviews with an exclusively evaluative focus.

Although we often commission review essays of this kind, we also welcome unsolicited proposals for such essays that follow the guidelines below. Proposals should identify the books to be reviewed, state why these books are important and work together well as a cluster, and briefly present the original concepts the reviewer expects to develop in the essay. A writing sample and curriculum vitae should also be submitted with unsolicited proposals. Reviewers whose own work has been criticized by the authors whose work will be included in the review essay should inform the editorial board of this fact *prior* to beginning the review.

The editorial process for such proposals differs from that of research articles. Proposals will be discussed by the editorial board at one of its regular meetings (held three times a year). On the basis of such a discussion, the board will either commission the review essay as proposed, suggest revisions, or reject the proposal. (A different process pertains to commissioned reviews.)

### GUIDELINES

1. One member of the editorial board will be assigned to work with each reviewer in developing the review and the books to be included in it, and this editor will also work out deadlines and length limits with the reviewer.
2. Early on, the author should define the topic or thesis of this essay and what the books contribute to it; essays should also draw on the author's specialized knowledge to present an original argument beyond simply reviewing each book.
3. Given that *Feminist Studies* is an interdisciplinary journal, reviewers should strive to make the literature accessible to non-specialists, many of whom may rely on the review alone, rather than reading the books, for information about the books' general contents. Therefore, all reviews should tell readers what the books are about in jargon-free language, pointing up the books' original contributions as well as directions for future work. Reviews of anthologies should discuss the range of essays included and their topics. The review should also outline the various approaches or methodologies of the books, present their main theses, and discuss their relationship to past scholarship in the area.
4. The essay should reflect on how the books advance feminist theory and/or strategy. Even if the books do not self-consciously attempt such an advance, their political implications should be explored. If the books are self-consciously antifeminist, the reviewer should discuss how and why they pose a danger to the women's movement and how we might respond.
5. The reviewer should evaluate the books honestly while showing respect for what the authors have accomplished. The aim should be to suggest the usefulness of a book while also indicating its limitations. Under no circumstances should the reviewer view the essay as an opportunity to launch an attack, veiled or unveiled, on the authors under review or on anyone else.