

New Historical Perspectives (NHP) Author Workshops

Author Workshops are an integral feature of the New Historical Perspectives editorial programme, provided for authors of first monographs.

What purpose do the Author Workshops serve?

The NHP Author Workshops have been designed to help early career researchers turn good manuscripts into high quality books. A small group of experts in the field will read the manuscript, and then they will discuss it at a workshop which will normally be chaired by one of the NHP Series Editors. Also present is the author's academic contact, who is a member of the NHP Editorial Board and will have worked with the author since acceptance of their book for publication.

The Author Workshop is intended to be an exciting and intellectually rewarding experience for all participants. It will normally last, online or in person, for 2-3 hours to allow for a careful and considered discussion of the manuscript and final revision before its submission to the university press.

When does an Author Workshop take place?

An author's Workshop will take place after a proposal has gone through peer review, been accepted for publication by the NHP Editorial Board, and the author has undertaken as much revision and rewriting as possible.

Authors will be encouraged to present manuscripts for the workshop when they are well advanced but still require work, and therefore will benefit from the careful review provided in the Workshop. We hope that workshops will not require major revisions, but instead help first-time authors turn an advanced draft into an even better final manuscript.

The role of the invited specialists is to help authors to improve the structure and argument of their book manuscript. They may also provide feedback on the content and writing of the text.

How is an Author Workshop organized and run?

The Chair (Series Editor) of the workshop will work with the RHS in arranging the time and place of the meeting, and inviting experts to participate. Authors will choose which specialists to invite to their Workshop, in discussion with their editorial contact.

The Chair will distribute this document and copies of the author's draft manuscript to workshop participants, ideally one month in advance of the workshop. The Chair will explain how the Workshop works, and will ask each expert to provide a brief summary of key points one week before the meeting, identifying the value of the text as an intervention in key debates. If this exchange with the outside reviewers throws up contradictory advice, the Chair should seek to reconcile the conflicting positions ahead of the workshop.

The editorial contact will liaise with the author to ensure that by the time of the Workshop the manuscript will be close to completion, but still open to revisions designed to enhance the quality of the published book. The Contact Person will secure a copy of the manuscript at least one month before the workshop, and will send this to the Chair for distribution to workshop participants. Readers will not copy-edit the manuscript (although a degree of editing will be appreciated by authors), but instead will focus on ways the author might improve the intellectual content of the manuscript. This may involve suggestions to cut or add material, and change the structure and order.

Above all, they will discuss the overall significance of the work, and ways in which the author can present their argument and its historiographical contribution to the best effect.

At the workshop the Chair will introduce all participants and then ask the author to introduce the manuscript and its key arguments and conclusions. A general discussion will follow, along with discussion of each chapter or section of the manuscript.

What happens after the Workshop?

Following the Workshop, the author will draft a note of key advice provided and decisions taken about revisions. They will send this to the editorial contact and Chair for distribution to all Workshop participants and to the Editorial Board.

Based on the extent of the proposed revisions, and the author's other commitments, a new timetable will be agreed for completion of a final manuscript—typically 3 to 4 months after the Workshop takes place.

Following these final revisions, the Series Editors will check the final manuscript, which will then go forward to University of London Press to begin the publication cycle.

Book production includes copy editing, typesetting, clearance of rights for any images or quoted content, cover image design, proof reading, creation of an index (which is the author's responsibility) and marketing of the book. This cycle usually takes c. 9 months from submission of the manuscript to the University Press.

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