

SAA Press
Contemporary Issues Series
Description and Guidelines

The Contemporary Issues series seeks to publish works that address important issues in archaeological research and practice such as ethics, fieldwork practices or collections management, and collaboration with Native or descent populations. Edited volumes as well as monographs are welcome. The series was named and formalized in 2017 in part to codify a publishing direction already set by earlier volumes including *All the King's Horses: Essays on the Impact of Looting and the Illicit Antiquities Trade on Our Knowledge of the Past* (Lazrus and Barker 2012) and *Ethics in Action: Case Studies in Archaeological Dilemmas* (Colwell-Chanthaphonh, Hollowell, and McGill 2008). The intended audiences are a broad range of archaeologists including cultural resource management and agency professionals as well as students in and instructors of advanced undergraduate or graduate courses concerned with archaeological practice.

The books are relatively inexpensive and published in both paper and Kindle format, which means they are widely available. The current catalog is available here:
<http://www.saa.org/AbouttheSociety/Publications/TheSAAPress/tabid/130/Default.aspx>

Length: Approximately 60,000 words of text, not including references cited. References should be current and include crucial sources, but also selected judiciously.

Tables and figures are encouraged though have to be balanced against production cost. Consult with the editor about specifics.

Use the (under revision) *American Antiquity* style guide for basic formatting and references. For matters not in the style guide (e.g., table of contents, chapter headings) be consistent and clear.

Procedure:

- Author(s) discusses ideas with the press editors.
- Author prepares a prospectus following the guidelines below.
- Editors review the prospectus; revisions or clarification are often requested.
- If and when prospectus is deemed satisfactory, press editor invites author to prepare a manuscript, setting a mutually agreed upon due date.
- If the review-ready manuscript is submitted on time, the author get a \$300 honorarium. If the manuscript is late, especially if it is not close, the invitation to submit may become null and void. "Review-ready" means the manuscript is ready to be assessed by peer reviewers. It is acceptable for review-ready manuscripts to have some figures in draft form, permissions underway, or a few references that need to be finalized. However, the manuscript must be otherwise complete and clean, not "rough."
- Submitted manuscript is sent out for anonymous peer review.
- Based on the reviews and the editors' own reading, author may be asked to make revisions.
- If reviews are good and/or revisions are satisfactory, press editor informs the SAA press office and at this point a formal contract is written.

- Author submits a final manuscript.
- Manuscript is forwarded to SAA press office for copy-editing and production.
- The book is published!

About edited volumes

Many edited volumes begin as a meetings symposium, which is subsequently developed for publication. The development is critical. Not all papers presented in a symposium are necessarily a good fit for a volume, and sometimes volumes need chapters that were not part of the original symposium. Furthermore, a prospectus must be more than a collection of SAA abstracts; in most cases abstracts will need to be completely rewritten. Similarly, published chapters must be more than printed versions of spoken papers; they will generally need to be substantially revised after presentation to fit into the integrated volume.

Edited volumes must be integrated, in several senses:

- Most importantly, the chapters must intrinsically fit together, either because they all address a common topic or take a common theoretical perspective.
- An introductory (and sometimes concluding) chapter should tie the chapters together.
- The chapters should cross-reference one another.

Prospectus:

The prospectus for a Contemporary Issues volume should include:

- A one to two page outline or summary of the planned text that provides both a sense of the substantive content and of the ideas animating the text.
- A table of contents with a one or two paragraph summary of the chapter's purpose and contents.
- Answers to the following:
 - What is the inherent value of the proposed work?
 - What is its appeal to the broad SAA membership?
 - Are there other books on the topic? How is this one similar to/different from them in terms of orientation, coverage, anticipated audience?
 - Please list three or four potential reviewers with contact information.