

Mattering Press: Submitting a Proposal

Mattering Press is currently welcoming submissions. We publish texts that broadly engage with key ideas and methods emerging out of STS, and which present empirically grounded relational research. These texts may draw from a variety of disciplines within the humanities and the social sciences, including sociology, social anthropology, human geography, history, art and philosophy. Manuscripts may be published as monographs and edited collections, and we are also interested in proposals for short monographs, pamphlets and visual and multimedia projects that are difficult or impossible to publish through traditional academic outlets.

All texts published through Mattering Press will be made available as Open Access books accessible by free download as well as high quality, printed texts for purchase, for a far lower amount than is the case with many conventional academic publishers

Before you submit a proposal:

Mattering Press operates with a production model that encourages shared scholarship and mutual support in the production of texts. Authors will be provided with significant levels of support – in the form of editorial guidance, production assistance and intellectual support – as they develop their manuscripts. We also have a peer review model that encourages ‘open’ (i.e non-anonymous) peer review where appropriate and which also supports close collaboration between authors and editors.

As an Open Access publisher, all published texts will be made available online and will be able to be downloaded and distributed for free. Books will be licensed under a creative commons licence, the precise form of which we will discuss with the authors.

What to submit:

A formal checklist of content for submission appears below; but first a few pointers on submitting a proposal.

What is the story of the text? Briefly (in no more than 700 words) tell us the vision and the scope of your text. What has motivated its creation? What is special about its execution? Where and within which settings it is significant?

Why Mattering Press? There are other publishing forms and opportunities out there. Why have you decided to publish with Mattering Press and in an Open Access format?

What is the competition? While Mattering Press is keen to publish books that fall outside the scope of conventional publishers, it is still important to know what context the book sits in, in part so we can identify the relevant potential readership.

A full chapter outline: Tell us how this story will run. That is, include a chapter outline of the text as you envisage it at present (in no more than 1400 words). Of course this outline may, or may not, come to change.

What is it going to look like? Where possible, please include two completed sample chapters. If it is not possible to submit full chapters, then you can submit representative samples of work instead.

Who would you like as a reviewer? External reviewers will be invited to comment on initial proposals and their

suitability for publication. In a process of open peer-review they will also be able to offer guidance in the creation of a final text. So that your text will be considered by an external reviewer most suitable for you, submit a short list of potential candidates.

Unusual and interactive formats: We welcome the publication of unusual formats and texts which include supplementary online materials (or may involve interactive events). Let us know what this might mean for your text.

Funding: Mattering Press is a registered charity, formally based in the UK, with no ongoing institutional support. This means it is entirely reliant on funding it can itself source. One source are fees from authors (see our [‘funding model and fees’](#) page for more details). For those who have access to funds to support publication projects, we ask them to contribute towards the costs of publication. Our standard fee is £6,000 per book. This is allocated by the Press as follows: £3000 is allocated to cover the cost of production. This is the ‘raw’ cost, mainly comprising copy editing, proofreading and typesetting plus a small budget set aside for marketing/web design costs, which goes into a general pool. Reviewers, designers and editors contribute their labour for free. £3000 is allocated to a general pool to fund books that do not have access to/sufficient funding to cover the costs of their production and to sustain the online presence and general operations of the press.

As is implied by this, we may offer discounts on the full fee depending on the project. We have in the past agreed discounts on the fee ranging from 25% to 100%. If we have to draw from the general pool to partially or fully fund a book’s production costs then final decisions about publication become tougher and slower, as we need to weigh the merits of different projects against one another against various criteria. We encourage authors, particularly if they have access to institutional funding, to explore all means at their disposal to obtain funds to cover the entire fee, given the future benefits this brings to other authors without this opportunity.

Please indicate in your proposal whether you are able to cover the full fee. If not, please let us know what level of discount you are requesting (including requesting a 100% discount).

Reviewers: please suggest five potential reviewers for the proposal.

Checklist of content for submission:

Personal Information:

- Name
- Email
- Present academic affiliation
- Brief Biography (CV may be attached)

Manuscript Information:

- Title
- The story of the text (700 words max)
- Why Mattering Press?
- The competition
- Brief chapter outline (1400 words max)
- Overall expected length of manuscript
- Expected timeline required to complete the text
- Details of unusual formatting requirements or supplementary materials (incl. illustrations)
- Funding

- List of prospective external reviewers

Sample materials:

- Two provisional sample chapters (or equivalent).

How to submit:

All proposals should be emailed to info@matteringpress.org

Following submission:

Initially all proposals will be read by an editor and assessed by the editorial board. They will consider the suitability of texts for publication by Mattering Press. If within the scope of the press the board will forward proposals on to two external reviewers for comments. Following the collection of these comments, an editor will contact you about next steps.

If you have any questions, just email us at info@matteringpress.org