

FOUR COURTS PRESS

Book Selection & Peer Review Policy

Four Courts Press is a scholarly publisher whose aim is to publish work of high academic quality. Accordingly, decisions on publication depend both on an academic judgment, which involves both the Press' editors and a rigorous process of peer review, and on consideration of commercial and marketing criteria. Four Courts Press has an Editorial Panel that it consults at all stages of the publication process. The Editorial Panel consists of over 20 academics of international standing.

A majority of manuscripts/proposals reaching the Press are declined by its internal editors. Proposals passing this stage are then subject to evaluation by the Editorial Panel. Reports are obtained on the project on the basis of which a decision is made by the Press.

1 MONOGRAPHS

By 'monographs' here is meant single-author books. All single-author books published under the Four Courts Press imprint are subject to peer review. Proposals are reviewed by the Editorial Panel of the Press and, if they are deemed suitable for publication, authors will be asked to submit full manuscripts for formal peer review. Anonymous reports are obtained on the completed manuscripts from scholars in the appropriate field and the content of these reports may be forwarded to the author if the Press thinks it appropriate. On receipt of the author's written response, a decision on publication is made by the Press.

Books that derive from PhD theses fall within the 'monograph' category. All are subject to review, and typically such review calls for changes to be made to the thesis manuscript as regards content, structure and, often, length.

2 SERIES TITLES

Where a title appears in one of the Press's ongoing series (such as Medieval Dublin, Ulster and Scotland, the Making of Dublin City, Irish Musical Studies, Maynooth Research Guides in Irish Local History, Nineteenth-Century Ireland etc.), the series editor performs the peer review function, with essays subject to independent reviews.

3 CONFERENCE PROCEEDINGS & OTHER COLLECTIONS OF ESSAYS

The Press will consult the editorial Panel on all such proposals, and reserves the right to send any manuscript for peer review.

In principle, the Press does not publish conference proceedings, but it is open to proposals for books based on *selected* conference papers. The Press prefers to be consulted in advance of a conference rather than after the event. The selection of papers is the responsibility of the editor(s) of each book in discussion with the Press. Peer review of essays is conducted by a book's editor(s), who seek outside academic advice as they judge fit.

The Press welcomes proposals for planned collections of essays not emanating from conferences. *Festschriften* fall within this general category. The Press' policy favours thematically focused *Festschriften*, whose contributors and editor(s) are established academics.

Four Courts Press will occasionally commission an established or retired academic to assemble a selection of his or her own previously published papers.

4 REPRINTS OF ACADEMIC WORKS

Titles that appear in a series such as Four Courts Press History Classics are not subject to new peer review. However, titles in such series are included on advice from academics, and where possible should include new material such as corrections, new prefaces, revised bibliographies and indexes.

5 RELIGION & THEOLOGY

Theology titles are subject to normal peer review. Books in the general area of religion do not lend themselves to peer review.

6 THE 'OPEN AIR' IMPRINT

Proposals that the Press considers suitable for publication but which do not lend themselves to peer review or may not suit the scholarly nature of the Four Courts Press imprint, may be published under its Open Air imprint. These books will be assessed by the Press' internal editors in terms of their quality and commercial potential.