

Book Reviews Detailed Submission Guidelines

The following guidelines are for use by book reviewers who have been commissioned by *Mashriq & Mahjar* to write a book review. Please note that *Mashriq & Mahjar* does not accept unsolicited book reviews, or reviews from graduate students. Reviewers should recuse themselves from reviewing any books in which they played significant prepublication roles. Invitations to review are based on Journal staff and editorial board discretion. If you would like to be added to our reviewer database, please send a letter of interest to mashriq_mahjar@ncsu.edu.

1. General

- ❖ Typescripts should be in MS Word and submitted on the Journal's website via [the submission portal](#). Please contact the managing editor at mashriq_mahjar@ncsu.edu with any questions about the submission process.
- ❖ Editorial policy requires that book reviews should adhere to high scholarly standards. Submissions to the Journal are considered on the understanding that they have not been published elsewhere in any language and are not under consideration for publication elsewhere at the time of submission.
- ❖ Exceptions may occasionally be made in the case of contributions originally published in languages other than English, and which the editorial board agrees may benefit from translation and re-dissemination. A case should be made on submission, using the comment form provided. The author will be responsible for providing a high-quality translation in English.
- ❖ Upon receipt of a solicited book review, the Journal editors will consider said review and either approve, reject, or ask for the reviewer to revise and resubmit the review for further consideration. The editors reserve the right to ask for revisions designed to further a review's detailed overview of a book's content, effective analysis and judgment, clarity, and professional scholarship. *Mashriq & Mahjar* reserves the right to modify or decline to publish reviews that do not meet high scholarly standards and/or contain unsubstantiated critiques, whether scholarly or personal, of the book or its author(s). Authors are responsible for all aspects of their work, especially in regards to accuracy, scholarly integrity, and proper acknowledgements. *Mashriq & Mahjar* follows guidelines set by the [Committee on Publication Ethics \(COPE\)](#).

2. Manuscript preparation and style

- ❖ Single-title book reviews may be in English, French, Spanish, or Arabic and should not exceed four double-spaced pages in 12-point font. Typical book reviews are between 900–1200 words in length. Book review essays may be longer and vary in length depending on the number of titles being discussed in the essay.
- ❖ Referenced page numbers should be included in parentheses at the end of the respective sentence. Notes, if included, must appear as endnotes, not as footnotes.
- ❖ Typescripts must be in a standard font such as Times New Roman, double-spaced, and margins of at least one inch on all sides. Paragraph breaks should be indicated by indents. The first paragraph of the article and of each subsequent subsection should not be indented. Bold and underlined text should be avoided. The Journal conforms to the Turabian style, 9th edition.
- ❖ Both review essays and single-title reviews must include all pertinent publication and reviewer information at the top of the first page. Necessary publication information includes: author(s), title(s), publishing location(s), publisher(s), date of publication(s), number of pages (including the preface), price(s), and ISBN. Important reviewer information should include your name, institutional affiliation, and email address. For example:

SAMULI SCHIELKE, *Migrant Dreams: Egyptian Workers in the Gulf States* (Cairo: The American University in Cairo Press, 2020). Pp. 154. \$19.95 paper. ISBN 9789774169564.

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3. Spelling and punctuation

- ❖ The Journal follows US American convention—e.g. *color*, rather than *colour*; *analyze*, not *analyse*; *traveling*, not *travelling*. Spelling should follow Merriam-Webster’s Collegiate Dictionary.
- ❖ Editorial policy favors the use of serial commas—e.g. “the United States, Canada, and Mexico,” not “the United States, Canada and Mexico.”
- ❖ Authors should spell out numbers from one to ninety-nine, except when used in groups or statistical discussions, e.g. “the act passed with a majority of 65 for, and 45 against.” Percentages should be in numbers, but “percent” should be spelled out except in tables and parentheses—e.g. “20 percent.” European and not US American date format should be used—e.g. 8 August 2011. For dates, the following conventions should also be respected: 1880s, not 1880’s; twentieth century, and not 20th century; sixteenth-century, with hyphen, as an

adjective.

- ❖ Accepted book reviews will be copyedited for grammatical, rhetorical, and stylistic consistency. Reviewers are expected to consider and accept suggested copy edits, except in cases where said edits may impact the author's intent.

Suggestions for Book Reviews & Questions to Consider

- ❖ Book reviews should assess the persuasiveness of the author's thesis, originality, and use of theoretical frameworks.
 - What is the author's argument? How does the author support and structure said argument? Is the author effective in conveying their argument, and is their writing style clear?
- ❖ Book reviews should be written for general audiences who may not be wholly familiar with the book's topic or field of study.
- ❖ Book reviews should give a concise summary of the content, with a brief chapter-by-chapter overview of the book. Examples, short quotations, and/or reference page numbers are encouraged.
- ❖ Does the author use appropriate sources and methodologies? If so, what are they and in what ways do they support the book's argument? Does the author use these sources and methods effectively?
- ❖ If the author uses charts, illustrations, maps, etc., how effective is their inclusion?
- ❖ Where does the author's work fit within the existing scholarship? Does their book and argument contribute to an ongoing discussion in a specific field or body of literature? If and how does this book break new ground?
- ❖ Who would benefit most from reading this book?
- ❖ Finally, would you recommend this work to others? If so, why? If not, explain some of the reasons you may be disinclined to recommend the book.

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Select examples of published book reviews

- ❖ Dean-Olmstead, Evelyn. Review of *Mexican Mahjar: Transnational Maronites, Jews, and Arabs under the French Mandate* by Camila Pastor. *Mashriq & Mahjar* 7, no. 1 (2020): 90–93. <https://doi.org/10.24847/77i2020.248>.
- ❖ Kahn, Michelle. Review of *Precarious Hope: Migration and the Limits of Belonging in Turkey* by Ayşe Parla. *Mashriq & Mahjar* 9, no. 1 (2022): 181–84. <https://doi.org/10.24847/v9i12022.298>.
- ❖ Maghbouleh, Neda. Review of *Arab Routes: Pathways to Syrian California* by Sarah M.A. Gualtieri. *Mashriq & Mahjar* 7, no. 2 (2020): 115–18. <https://doi.org/10.24847/77i2020.262>.