Dissertation Reviews
Guidelines for Reviewers

Dear Colleague:

Thank you very much for contributing to **Dissertation Reviews**. When writing your review, please follow this Guideline for Reviewers.

OVERALL STRUCTURE OF REVIEW

Please include the following four components in your review:

1. A non-critical summary of the dissertation in a chapter-by-chapter or section-by-section format – all criticism of the author/work (whether direct or indirect) will be removed.

2. A placement of the dissertation within its primary intellectual genealogy, by outlining the major authors to whom the dissertation is responding. Please note: it is best to incorporate this information within the body of your summary, rather than separately.

3. Please conclude your review with a brief estimation of the potential impact of the work once it is published.

4. A brief list indicating which bodies of sources (archives, periodicals, literary sources, museum collections, databases, or otherwise) constitute the primary basis of the study. Please limit yourself to **no more than five**, which might include the particular archival collections under use, the names of key periodicals, and so on (e.g. The Library and Archive of the Royal Society, Beinecke Rare Book and Manuscript Library, Medizinischen Bibliothek der Charité, *Journal of the American Medical Association*, and so forth).

In a **separate** section, distinct from the review, please provide the following information about the dissertation:

- Brief but substantial constructive feedback for the author, in which you suggest areas that might be strengthened in the revision and publication process. Please note that **we will not post these comments online**. Instead, we will forward them directly to the author.

FORMATTING GUIDELINES

- For the length, we do not have an 'upper word-limit'. Please aim for ***at least* 800 to 1,000 words**, not including your list of source materials and your comments to the author.

- Prepare review in **RTF (Rich Text Format)** – we do not accept DOC, DOCX, PDF or ODT files.

- Single-space entire review.

- At the top of your review, the header should read as follows (please note bold/italics/caps):

A review of *Title of Dissertation: Subtitle of Dissertation*, by Dissertation Author.

Example:
A review of *Drowning Daughters: A Cultural History of Female Infanticide in Late Nineteenth Century China*, by Michelle Tien King.

Please see the sample included at the end of these Guidelines.

- We would like a **one-line** gap between paragraphs, but please do not indent paragraphs.

- Include page numbers for all quoted text from the dissertation – reviews cannot be published with uncited quotations or references. Examples: (pp. 86-88, 103-104) or (p. 66).

- Citations of other works should be placed in parentheses in your text and must include full publication data: complete names of authors or editors, title, place of publication, publisher, date and page references.

  Example:
  (Steven Shapin and Simon Schaffer, *Leviathan and the Air-Pump: Hobbes, Boyle, and the Experimental Life.* Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1985, pp. 86-88, 103-104).

- Please do not include footnotes/endnotes, glossaries, or bibliographies.

- Double quotation marks should be used throughout, except in the case of nesting (then it becomes e.g. "Karl Marx said 'Howdy, people!' and drove away into the sunset." Please place commas and periods *inside* double-quotes (") and *outside* single-quotes (').

- Proofread your review carefully and double-check romanizations of foreign names and words (including diacritics), page references and other numeric data; please include a PDF file if there are characters and diacritics not supported by RTF.

- Please include full names for authors that you mention in your review. So: Karl Popper as opposed to Popper, Prasenjit Duara as opposed to Duara, Tony Judt as opposed to Judt, Lorraine Daston as opposed to Daston. (Unless it is an obvious case, e.g. Nietzsche, Marx, Darwin, Mao and so forth.)

- Please email your review and any private comments to your relevant **Field Editor** (@dissertationreviews.org email) and **info@dissertationreviews.org**. For a full list of our email addresses, please visit: http://dissertationreviews.org/about-us/editorial-board. **Please do not send your review directly to the dissertation author.**

- Reviews will be edited by the Dissertation Review Editor and a copy-editor for style and content.

- The following 3 items must be included at the end of the review: (1) Your Details, (2) Primary Sources, and (3) Dissertation Information. Please follow these guidelines and see the sample at the end of these Guidelines:

  1) Your full name as you would like it to appear in print
  2) Your departmental affiliation (Department or Faculty)

3) Your Institutional affiliation (University/College)
4) Your Email Address or Website

Example:

Jane Doe
Department of English
University of Somewhere
jdoe@usomewhere.edu

Primary Sources

List of most important primary sources (no more than 5) used in the study.

Example:

Primary Sources
Taishō Canon
Wenwu 文物
Nanjing Municipal Museum
Shike shiliao xinbian 石刻史料新編

Please include header "Primary Sources" in bold as shown.
One source per line, and no more than 5 in total.
For sources in non-Latin script, please include romanization and text in original script

Dissertation Information

University where degree was conferred. Year of degree conferral. Total number of pages. Primary Advisor(s): [Full name of primary dissertation advisor(s)].

Example:

Dissertation Information
University of California, Berkeley. 2007. 266pp. Primary Advisor: Wen-hsin Yeh.

Please include the header 'Dissertation Information' in bold as shown.

Thank you very much for sharing your time and expertise in providing your review, and thank you for your consideration in following these guidelines.

Sincerely,

Thomas S. Mullaney   Leon Rocha
Stanford University   University of Cambridge
Editor-in-Chief   Managing Editor

Sample Header

A review of *The Genesis of Image Worship: Epigraphic Evidence for Early Buddhist Art in China*, by Minku Kim.

Minku Kim's dissertation is an ambitious examination of how Buddhism and its practices first became established in China, a question that has occupied some of the most eminent scholars of Chinese history and religion over the past century. Kim focuses on the spread, between roughly 100 and 320 CE, of Buddhist material culture, by which he means not simply Buddhist objects or images, but Buddhist practices pertaining to these objects, most importantly image worship.

Although scholars have long noted that many Buddhist cultural

Sample Footer

Chinese Buddhist material culture in the second- and third-centuries. Even apart from the specifics of his theories, his dissertation will prove invaluable for having assembled together almost all the known material evidence from this period, and for having subjected it to careful, critical analysis concerning both its authenticity (in the case of inscriptions preserved in literary sources) and its precise significance for our understanding of the early spread of Buddhist image worship in China.

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Primary Sources
Taishō Canon
Wenwu 文物

Nanjing Municipal Museum
Shike shiliao xinbian 石刻史料新編

Mahao 麻浩 tomb 1 – Leshan 樂山

Dissertation Information
University of California, Los Angeles. 2011. 787pp. Primary Advisor: Lothar von Falkenhausen

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