

## **New Historical Perspectives (NHP)**

### **Author Workshops**

The NHP Author Workshops have been designed to help early career researchers turn good manuscripts into high quality books. A small group of experts in the field will read the manuscript, and then they will discuss it at a workshop which will normally be chaired by one of the Convenors of the NHP series. Also present will be the author's Contact Person (a member of the Editorial Board). The Author Workshop is intended to be an exciting and intellectually rewarding experience for all participants, and will normally take half a day.

The workshop will take place after a proposal has gone through peer review, been accepted for publication by the NHP Editorial Board, and the author has undertaken as much revision and rewriting as possible. Authors will be encouraged to present manuscripts for the workshop when they are advanced but still require work. We hope that workshops will not require major revisions, but instead will help first-time authors turn an advanced draft into an even better final draft. The role of experts is to help authors to improve the structure and argument of their book manuscript. They may also provide feedback on the content and writing of the text.

The Chair (NHP Convenor) of the workshop will liaise with the Executive Secretary of the RHS in arranging the time and place of the workshop, and inviting experts to participate. The Chair will distribute this document and copies of the author's manuscript to workshop participants, ideally one month in advance of the workshop. The Chair will explain how the workshop works, and will ask each expert to provide a brief summary of key points one week before the workshop, identifying the value of the text as an intervention in key debates and as a result whether new sections are required or existing material should be dropped. If this exchange with the outside reviewers throws up contradictory advice, the Chair should seek to reconcile the conflicting positions ahead of the workshop.

The Contact Person will liaise with the author to ensure that by the time of the Author Workshop the manuscript will be close to completion, but still open to revisions designed to enhance the quality of the published book. The Contact Person will secure a copy of the manuscript at least one month before the workshop, and will send this to the Chair for distribution to workshop participants. Readers will not copy-edit the manuscript (although a degree of editing will be appreciated by authors), but instead will focus on ways the author might improve the intellectual content of the manuscript. This may involve suggestions to cut or add material, and change the structure and order. Above all, they will discuss the overall significance of the work, and ways in which the author can present their argument and its historiographical significance to the best effect.

At the workshop the Chair will introduce all participants and then ask the author to introduce the manuscript and its key arguments and conclusions. A general discussion will follow, along with discussion of each chapter or section of the manuscript. When practical an RHS administrator will assist in taking notes of the discussion. Following the workshop, the Early Career author will draft a note of key advice provided and decisions taken about revisions. He or she will send this to the Contact Person and the Chair for distribution to all workshop participants and to the Editorial Board. Following final revisions, the Contact Person and the Series Convenors will check the final submission, which will then go forward to IHR for publication.