

Call for Proposals
“Essays & Reviews” Section
Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences
Section Editors: Melinda Baldwin and Brigid Vance

1) Reviews and Essays

HSNS has long been a home for in-depth reviews (2000-3000 words) that use one or more books on a topic in the history of science to make their own, original arguments. We are excited to welcome proposals in that tradition, including reviews that consider objects other than books, such as digital resources, films, podcasts, exhibitions, and teaching tools.

We are also interested in essays that reflect upon theoretical issues relevant to a broad range of historians of science. Recent examples include “Wrenching Torque: On Being Professionally Nonbinary” by Beans Velocci and “How to Cure a Horse, or, the Experience of Knowledge and the Knowledge of Experience” by Melissa Reynolds.

Proposals for reviews or essays (~100-150 words) should include:

- A description of the object(s) to be reviewed, if applicable (with links, if digital)
- The intervention to be made
- The relevance for the journal’s core audience of historians of science

In lieu of a proposal, potential authors can also contact the editors directly to ask questions or brainstorm possibilities.

2) Guest-edited Special Section of Short Essays

We are also interested in proposals for guest-edited special sections of short essays focused around a topic relevant to practitioners in the history of science. Past special section themes have included “Dilemmas of Archival Objectivity,” “How to Be an Expert,” and the forthcoming “Pedagogy in the History of Science.” Every February “Essays and Reviews” section will be a special section, and we are willing to consider up to one more special section per year. Special sections should run around 6,000-8,000 words total; guest editors may divide that word count between 3-10 authors.

Proposals for a Special Section should include:

- A description of the theme and a short explanation of why it is of interest to a broad range of historians of science.
- An explanation of why this topic is suited to an “Essays and Reviews” special section, rather than a special issue of *HSNS* featuring research articles on a shared theme. (An “Essays and Reviews” special section should not be regarded as a shortcut around the usual *HSNS* special issue timeline or peer review process.)
- A list of at least 3 potential authors (including the guest editor(s), if they would like to contribute).

Send proposals or queries to both Melinda Baldwin (mbaldwin@umd.edu) and Brigid Vance (brigid.e.vance@lawrence.edu). Full-length reviews and essays that are not part of a special section appear on a rolling basis, and authors of full-length essays and reviews can generally expect publication between six months to a year after first submitting a complete draft. Timelines for special sections, including submission deadlines and planned publication dates, should be discussed with Melinda and Brigid.