

Call for Proposals

“Essays & Reviews” Section
Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences
Section Editors: Henry M. Cowles and Chitra Ramalingam

We are excited to introduce “Essays & Reviews,” a new section of *Historical Studies in the Natural Sciences*, and to solicit proposals that cross boundaries of discipline and form.

Traditionally, HSNS has run “Review Essays” that use one or more books on a topic in the history of science to make their own, original arguments. The “Essays & Reviews” section retains this important function and we are happy to receive and vet proposals of this sort. But, as many fields reconsider the gatekeeping function of academic journals in general and review sections in particular, we see this new section as an experiment with openness. To this end, we seek to develop pieces that stretch the meaning of “review” in content and form, taking up objects other than academic books and breaking down barriers between sub-fields and even disciplines. Experimentation is an opportunity to restock the toolkits of historians of science using perspectives from adjacent fields, such as literary studies, media theory, science education, and beyond. “Essays & Reviews” is also a response to urgent calls for political and ethical engagement. Our aim is to cultivate a space in which to repair scholarly communities, reimagine shared assumptions, and speak directly to matters of public concern.

With these aims in mind, we seek proposals for essays and/or reviews written by—and of interest to—scholars of science studies in the broadest sense. This means you! If there is a recent book or set of books around a theme that can be linked to the history of science (in terms of content, method, or analytical perspective), if you are interested in building an argument around non-books (e.g., websites, films, exhibitions), or if you have another idea, send us a pitch. Basically: if there is a topic you would like to analyze, either as a standalone intervention or to signal a larger project, we are eager to have a conversation and/or consider a proposal.

Logistically, proposals take the form of a short paragraph (with or without a tentative title, max 300 words) outlining the objects to be reviewed (with links, if applicable) and/or the intervention to be made, along with a statement about its relevance for the journal’s core audience of historians of science. Essays and reviews are generally 2,000–3,000 words, though we are happy to hear a pitch for something shorter or longer if the topic requires it. In lieu of a proposal, authors can also contact the editors directly to ask questions or brainstorm possibilities.

Send proposals or queries to Henry M. Cowles (cowles@umich.edu) and Chitra Ramalingam (chitra.ramalingam@yale.edu). Pieces appear on a rolling basis, and authors can generally expect publication between six months to a year after first submitting a complete draft.