

Guidelines for *Historical Studies of the Natural Sciences* Special Issues

January 2020

Proposal Submission & Evaluation

Proposals for Special Issues of *HSNS* should contain the following elements:

1. A long abstract of the introductory essay describing the topic for the thematic issue and its significance (1000-1500 words).
2. A list of the contributors along with the titles and abstracts (300 words) for each of the research papers.
3. Brief professional biographies of the guest editor(s) (300 words) and authors (200 words).
4. A timeline outlining the:
 - Expected completion date of each paper
 - Proposed names of peer reviewers
 - Deadlines for receipt by the Guest Editor(s) of authors' revised text
 - Expected date of submission of the complete set of papers to *HSNS*

The primary content should be peer-reviewed research articles, but other types of content (e.g. shorter essays) may be permissible. Typically, we seek: (a) a substantive introductory essay from the Guest Editor(s) that clearly sets out the need or opportunity for the special issue and explains how all the contributions work together, and (b) a minimum of three research articles. We have also published Special Issues that contain a greater number of shorter essays. See, for example:

- Special Issue: "Revolutionary Politics and Biological Organization in Nineteenth-Century France and Germany," *HSNS* 47, no. 5 (2017), ed. Lynn K. Nyhart and Florence Vienne, containing an Introduction and three regular-length research articles: [link](#).
- Special Issue: "Histories of Data and the Database," *HSNS* 48, no. 5 (2018), ed. Soraya de Chadarevian and Theodore Porter, containing an Introduction and eleven short research essays: [link](#).
- Special Issue: "The Bonds of History," *HSNS* 17, no. 3 (2017), ed. Anita Guerrini, containing an Introduction, six essays, an Afterword, and a list of Mary Jo Nye's publications: [link](#).

Regardless of format, Special Issues are limited in size to no more than 60,000 words, including all images, captions, and footnotes.

Guest Editors are fully responsible for soliciting and commissioning content for the Special Issue. All articles will undergo a thorough peer review process as independent contributions, thus there is no guarantee that all articles will be accepted and published. We ask that when crafting their proposals Guest Editors be mindful regarding the diversity of their chosen contributors' gender, race, institutional affiliation, etc.

Guest Editor(s) should send their proposal as an e-mail attachment (preferably in one single .doc, .docx, .pdf or .rtf file), to the Managing Editor (Davinder Sidhu, HSNS@berkeley.edu) and the Chair of the Editorial Board (Erika Milam, emilam@princeton.edu).

Proposals will be discussed by the *HSNS* Editorial Board and feedback about the proposal will be related to the Guest Editor(s) by the EB Chair.

Special Issue Submission & Evaluation

If approved by the Editorial Board, the Guest Editor(s) will be invited to submit the full issue. The intended date of submission will be determined in advance by the EB Chair and Guest Editor(s).

Once the entire Special Issue has been received—including a draft of the Introduction and all of the article manuscripts—each individual contribution will undergo our normal peer review process. Although we review each of the contributions independently, the Editorial Board will wait until all of the contributions have been reviewed before providing feedback to the Guest Editor(s). This will allow the EB to evaluate both the intellectual coherence of the Special Issue and each of the manuscripts as stand-alone contributions. For the same reason, we require a draft introduction before undertaking the refereeing process, which serves as a guide for our editors in understanding the context of each individual piece.

Guest Editors will receive: (a) for each contribution: a recommendation from the Editorial Board—Accept, Accept conditional upon revisions, Revise and resubmit, or Do not publish—as well as individual Referee Reports and a Summary Review underscoring how to revise each submission for inclusion in *HSNS*, and (b) a Summary Review of the Special Issue as a whole.

If there are divergent reviews on individual contributions within the Special Issue, the Guest Editor(s) will need to decide how they would like to proceed—e.g. whether to break apart the special issue, wait until all of the contributions are adequately revised, or to submit the Special Issue elsewhere. Time to publication will depend on this decision, as well as the degree of revision required for each of the contributions.

Special Issue Production

Once the Special Issue (including each of its constituent parts) has been accepted, the Special Issue will be assigned a forthcoming issue in which their contribution will appear. Guest Editor(s) will be asked to sign a publication agreement that contains the deadlines for final article submission, copy-editing, and page proofs. The Guest Editor(s) and the contributors must be prepared to meet this publication schedule.