

## **The Peer Review Process at Southern Illinois University Press**

Peer review, which allows expert scholars to point out the strengths and weaknesses of proposals and manuscripts that a university press is considering for publication, is an integral part of scholarly publishing. Manuscripts submitted to Southern Illinois University Press undergo a thorough acquisitions assessment and a serious peer review process. Every manuscript that SIU Press publishes requires recommendations to publish from two peer reviewers or a series editor and a peer reviewer; final approval is determined by the press's editorial board. Some books published by the press may undergo two sets of review: one at the proposal stage and another when the complete manuscript draft is available. Authors benefit from input at both stages.

We carefully choose our anonymous reviewers for their depth of knowledge and for their care in reading proposals and manuscripts and reporting their assessments with consideration and respect. While the readers know the identity of authors, the authors are not told the names of the reviewers, a situation that helps protect the integrity of the process. While we solicit names of possible peer reviewers from potential authors, we may or may not ask those suggested people to review the manuscript. Comments by peer reviewers may be collated and redacted as necessary to provide coherent feedback for the author and to protect the anonymity of the reader. Authors are asked to fully address and respond to the reviewers' criticisms and concerns. If concerns or recommendations and necessary revision are significant, there may be a second round of review for a proposal or manuscript. Some projects may be declined after peer review, either because of the insurmountable objections of the readers or the inability of an author to make the required revisions.