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Book Review Submission Process

Thank you for agreeing to review a book for Seminar: A Journal of Germanic Studies. The following guidelines have been developed to provide some focus and direction for all Seminar book reviewers, and to ensure that reviews follow a consistent format.

Reviewers are usually selected from our database of academics or experts whose research interests coincide with the book in question. Colleagues interested in reviewing books are urged to contact the Book Review Editor, at seminar.bookreview@cautg.org, and send information as to their current research interests.

Seminar does not publish unsolicited book reviews.

Review Requirements and Style Guide

Please submit your review as a Microsoft Word file, in 12-point serif font (i.e. Times New Roman), single spaced, with no space between paragraphs. Please indent after the first paragraph and align flush left and ragged right.

Word Limit

It is recommended that book reviews not exceed 1200 words.

Coverage/Structure

Please do not structure your review as a chapter by chapter analysis. Rather, write your comments and personal opinions about the book as a whole, highlighting particular areas of interest to illustrate your points. If you enjoyed the book, or thought the text was commendable, communicate your views in a way that will also make others want to read it. This approach should also be applied to edited collections.

Other Points to Consider

If you are reviewing a new edition of a book, it is a good idea to compare it with the previous version. The preface generally offers some guidance about what has been added, deleted, changed, and outlines if the references have been updated.
If the book is illustrated, comment on the illustrations. Do they relate well to the text?

If the book features an index, does it fulfill its purpose?

Indicate the type of audience that would be interested in the book you are reviewing.

In rare instances, a reviewer may feel the material is not worth reviewing. If this is the case, please contact the Book Review Editor to determine next steps.


**Other Style & Format Guidelines**

*Seminar* follows *MLA Style Manual* (8th edition) and the Oxford English Dictionary. The journal adheres to British/Canadian spelling conventions but uses the -ize rather than -ise forms (e.g. analyze).

- Please keep quotations from the reviewed book to a minimum and brief, using the following format: “quotation” (page number only).
- If possible, avoid quotations from other works entirely. If a quotation from another book is absolutely necessary to your review, please provide its Works Cited information at the end of your review. *Seminar* uses the *Modern Language Association Handbook* (8th edition).
- We ask that German-language works be cited in the German original, as *Seminar* readership can be assumed to have reading knowledge of German.
- Use double quotation marks, except for quotations within quotations.
- The journal discourages use of discursive endnotes and requests that they be limited to a few if any. Footnotes are not allowed.
- Use an en-dash for date and page ranges, and an em-dash (without spaces on either side of it) as an interrupter.
- Use only one space after periods, commas, colons, and semicolons. *Seminar* uses the Oxford comma.
- Use hard returns at the end of paragraphs only. Let your software make line breaks (word wrap), and do not add extra line spaces between paragraphs.

**Additional Elements for Submission**

**Copyright Agreement**

Prior to publication of the review, book review authors will be expected to sign a copyright agreement. Reviews published in *Seminar* become the property of the Canadian Association of University Teachers in German (CAUTG) and may not be published elsewhere, in whole or in part, without written permission.
Information on Reviewed Publication

Please provide the following publication information at the beginning of the review and indent the second and all subsequent lines:

Author (first name and last name). *Title*. Series and Editor (if applicable). City of publication: Publisher, Year. Page length. Illustrations. Price (publication format). ISBN.

Following are some examples of appropriately formatted publication information:


Author of Review

Reviews should end with the reviewer’s name (all capitals, Times New Roman, 10-point font), comma, and institutional affiliation (in italics, Times New Roman, 12 point font). For example:

CHRISTINA KRAENZLE, York University

Subject Matter and Scope

The first issue of Seminar appeared in the spring of 1965, sponsored jointly by the Canadian Association of University Teachers of German (CAUTG) and the German Section of the Australasian Universities Language and Literature Association (AULLA). This collaborative sponsorship has continued to the present day, with an essentially Canadian scholarly journal and a Canadian editor and publisher. Managerial and editorial decisions are the responsibility of the editor and/or the Canadian Editorial Committee.

Seminar was edited by Professor Robert Farquharson (University of Toronto) from 1965 to 1970. From 1970 to 1980, Michael S. Batts (UBC) was the Editor. He was succeeded by Professor Heinz Wetzel (University of Toronto) from 1980 to 1985, followed by Patrick O'Neill (UBC, Queen's) from 1985 to 1990, Professor Rodney Symington (University of Victoria) from 1990 to 2002 and Professor Raleigh Whiting (University of Alberta) from 2002 to 2011. Professors Karin Bauer and Andrew Piper (McGill University) co-edited Seminar as a team from 2011 to 2016, with Karin Bauer continuing from 2016 to 2017 as the sole editor. 2017 brought the transition to the current editorial team, Professors Carrie Smith (University of Alberta) and Markus Stock (University of Toronto).

The first annual volume contained 132 pages, but the size has grown over the years, approaching 400 pages in a year of four average-sized issues, and exceeding that when special issues are published. The normal publishing schedule is four issues per year of 96 pages each, with each issue generally consisting of 4-5 articles and 4-6 book reviews. The early 2000s then saw a proliferation of “Special Theme Issues,” which often alternate with general issues.

Queries

What is a DOI?

A DOI is an article's unique identifier, registered with CrossRef [FAQ on CrossRef here: https://www.crossref.org/faqs/] and used to create a persistent link to the article—even if the article moves. (A journal might switch from one online hosting service to another, for example; the URL will change, but the DOI link will follow it.) A reader using the online version of an article’s reference list can click on any DOI link to immediately get to the cited source; a reader using the print version can be sure of finding exactly the right article by searching the DOI instead of the author(s) or article title. Each of our online articles has its own DOI, which can be used to link back to it from other documents that cite it; including DOI links in our reference lists is the other end of that process (sort of like using recycled paper as well as recycling used paper). The more citations include DOIs, the more researchers will use them, which ultimately will drive more readers to our content.

Questions relating to any of the above details may be directed to Seminar’s Book Review Editor.

Thank you so much for your willingness to review a book and for your interest in Seminar.