About the RGS-IBG Book Series

SERIES EDITOR:
David Featherstone, University of Glasgow, UK

The RGS-IBG Book Series only publishes work of the highest international standing. Its emphasis is on distinctive new developments in human and physical geography, although it is also open to contributions from cognate disciplines whose interests overlap with those of geographers. The Series places strong emphasis on theoretically-informed and empirically-strong texts. Reflecting the vibrant and diverse theoretical and empirical agendas that characterize the contemporary discipline, contributions are expected to inform, challenge and stimulate the reader. Overall, the RGS-IBG Book Series seeks to promote scholarly publications that leave an intellectual mark and change the way readers think about particular issues, methods or theories in all areas of human and physical geography and cognate disciplines.

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RGS-IBG Book Series

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Author guidelines

1 Overview
The first section of the proposal should consist of a summary overview (1500-2000 words). This should outline the book’s central argument, drawing upon and situating it in the context of the work of other academics, and indicating why such a publication is topical or relevant now. The overview should also include the intellectual scope of the book and some details on its empirical content and style. Please indicate your rationale for writing the book and how you see it making a contribution not just to your own particular area of work, but also to the field of geographical inquiry more generally. This really is the place to make the book’s intellectual contribution absolutely clear to the editors and the reviewers.

2 Contents
The second section of the proposal should consist of an outline of the book’s structure and content, with a detailed paragraph describing each chapter, and how it speaks to the main arguments of the manuscript (2000 words). These should not be discrete abstracts, but should instead make it clear how the chapter contributes to the overall intellectual aims of the book. This section will show the book’s development and structure. This might, of course, be provisional, but should demonstrate to reviewers that you know how the different chapters fit together to contribute to the book’s central theoretical, methodological and empirical contributions.

3 Readership
The third section of the proposal should consist of a realistic assessment of who is going to read the book and who is going to buy it (1000 words). Please try to be specific and stress the major markets, and remember, this is a research series, so the emphasis is on intellectual contributions as well as book sales. We are also keen for you to indicate the extent to which the book will be of interest beyond the discipline of geography.

4 Competing titles
The fourth section of the proposal should consist of a description of your book in relation to competing titles (1000 words). This should include: the author, title, publisher, and publication date of each competing title, alongside a comparison with your own book, in terms of strengths and weaknesses. Indicate what the unique features or focus of your book will be and why your book is better suited to the target readership than these titles. Simply listing competing books is not enough. This section should be organised thematically and should address the contribution of other books in relation to the specific value added of your own book.

5 RGS-IBG Book Series Criteria
A summary of how your book proposal fits with this particular series (500 words), given the Series objectives and philosophy in the opening paragraph.
6 Edited Books

The RGS-IBG Book Series encourages coherent and original research-led edited collections which make a substantial contribution to research on cutting edge themes. We expect proposals for edited collections to have the same depth and intellectual contribution as a research monograph. Proposals for edited books should be clearly-focused with specially commissioned chapters from named authors and the book, overall, must be as coherent and integrated as possible. In addition to the information detailed in 1-5 above, proposals for edited books must include:

- In the Overview – an indication of how the editors have selected the contributors and whether or not all the contributors have been approached and agreed (at least in principle) to write their chapter. How will the editors ensure a consistent standard/level for each chapter? Will individual book chapters be sent out to peer-review?

- The discussion of Contents must list the names, affiliations and chapter titles for each contributor. Editors should indicate how the individual chapters will be integrated – for example will there be a common structure/format that all contributors will be expected to adhere to? The book should include introductory and concluding chapters that pull together common themes or ideas from the individual chapters. As a guide, the book should consist of fewer, longer chapters that give contributors space to make their contribution rather than many short chapters. For example, 7 x 10,000 word ‘substantive’ chapters + introduction and concluding chapters (2 x 5000 words) is usually preferable to 14 x 5000 word chapters (please also see total word length guidelines given below).

- The timetable for completing the book should include deadlines for individual contributors to have sent chapters to the editors, for the editors and reviewers to read and referee chapters and, if necessary for contributors to revise and resubmit chapters.

- Will individual contributors be expected to submit finished illustrations with their text, and if so will there be a common format (recommended)? Or will the editors themselves adjust illustrations to meet a common set of criteria?

- What will the editors contribute to the book that will strengthen its coherence and overall impact?

7 Other relevant information

- Your timetable: what stage are you at now, and when do you hope to complete the manuscript?

- How long is the final manuscript likely to be? The maximum length of book that we will consider publishing is 120,000 words including contents lists, references and other peripheral text. However, this length of book is exceptional, and you should aim for <100,000 words.

- What number and kind of illustrations will you require? Will there be any unusual typographical requirements?

Please address your proposal to the RGS-IBG Book Series Editor: David Featherstone by email (David.Featherstone@glasgow.ac.uk)
What our authors say…

The RGS-IBG Book Series not only has an international reputation for publishing conceptually and empirically rich research, but it has also established an invaluable space for geography monographs. Titles in the series have long inspired and informed my own research and thinking, and are regularly on my reading lists for students. It was the first place I thought of when putting together my monograph, and I am really delighted that Rehearsing The State was published in the series. It’s been a real pleasure working both with the editors of the book series and with the staff at Wiley. The process from proposal submission through to production has been smooth, efficient and professionally handled at every stage. Having academic editors is becoming a rarity in contemporary publishing, and their guidance, alongside the detailed feedback from referees, made the whole experience both intellectually rigorous and wonderfully supportive. I can’t recommend the series highly enough to other authors.

Fiona McConnell, University of Oxford
Author of Rehearsing The State: The Political Practices of the Tibetan Government-in-Exile

I was first attracted to the series not only by its quality but also by recommendations given to me by some of the most high profile academics writing about geography today. The material in the book series is diverse, intellectually provocative and empirically rich. Each book is well produced in a careful and sympathetic way. Working with the RGS team has been extremely helpful in all areas - they are a very dedicated and professional outfit, and are also very good at being able to work with academics who are under a range of different pressures and constraints. I would certainly recommend the series to others as a way to showcase geographical academic work.

Nick Gill, University of Exeter
Author of Nothing Personal? Geographies of Governing and Activism in the British Asylum System

This is a well-respected book series that has good national circulation in geography and related disciplines. The process of book production was dealt with in an efficient and professional manner. We had excellent relations with the series editors and the staff at Wiley Blackwell were extremely supportive and listened carefully to our requests. We were impressed with the personal way the process was dealt with and felt the publisher was well-informed about our individual project. We would recommend this series to other authors because of the excellence of the finished product and the helpfulness and professionalism of the production team.

Jeff Warburton (Durham University) and Martin Evans (Manchester University)
Authors of Geomorphology of Upland Peat
The RGS-IBG Book Series has become one of the foremost publications for quality innovative and accessible geography monographs that reach beyond the discipline. I was attracted to the series because of this reputation, but also because of the excellent reviews shared by colleagues as previous authors. I wanted to work with a publisher that would put the manuscript through its paces and the academic editor and review process at RGS-IBG guaranteed that. From submission of the initial proposal through to their post publication engagement with the book the editorial team have been fantastic. The quality of the final publication has been greatly enhanced by the constructive discussion and care taken by the editorial team and referees, and the publication process was made incredibly smooth thanks to responsive and clear communication at every stage by Wiley Blackwell. I am very proud of the book, and have already recommended the RGS-IBG Book Series to future authors.

Philippa Williams, Queen Mary University of London
Author of Everyday Peace? Politics, Citizenship and Muslim Lives in India

Over the past decade or so, the RGS-IBG Book Series has established an international reputation as a leading publisher of theoretically innovative and empirically rigorous research in geography. I was absolutely delighted to publish my first book with the series and to have the space to develop a project in such depth and detail. The editorial team provided excellent guidance and constructive support at every stage of the process. Their encouragement and commitment to the project was invaluable and helped to shape the final book. The publication of research monographs is a vital part of what we do as geographers and I would strongly recommend the RGS-IBG Book Series to prospective authors.

Alexander Vasudevan, University of Nottingham
Author of Metropolitan Preoccupations

I was attracted to the RGS-IBG Book Series for a variety of reasons. First, it has established a good reputation by publishing some excellent work in the past that is recognized in and beyond geography. Second, it is a superb outlet for publishing research monographs. Third, the prices of the books are quite affordable, which is not the case for similar products of other publishers out there. The latter is particularly point important in a world where question of access to academic knowledge have moved to the forefront of the debate.

I really have to commend the various Series Editors! The Series has published high-calibre books since its inception. It has covered a broad range of topics in geography, without getting ‘lost in space’, since all books published are rigorously theoretically informed and often take a critical look at the some of the big questions of our time, from north-south trade relations over to the material politics of resource-extraction to the global information revolution. I am particularly delighted that the editors have been keen on supporting studies on regions neglected by many geographers, such as Africa, the Caribbean or Central Asia. This at least partly rebalances the geography of geographical knowledge production.

If you are interested in publishing a cutting-edge, theoretically informed research monograph with a critical outlook on some of the big questions of our time with a highly committed team, then the RGS-IBG Book Series is the right place for you!

Stefan Ouma, Goethe University of Frankfurt
Author of Assembling Export Markets
I was delighted that the RGS-IBG series published *In the Nature of Landscape: Cultural Geography on the Norfolk Broads*, not least as one of the starting points of the book was research published on the origins of the broads in 1960 through an earlier RGS research series. The current series is vitally important for geography in giving a space for the publication of research which is at once theoretically challenging and empirically rich. The editorial team provided excellent guidance and support to develop work along these lines. The refereeing process was especially supportive and constructive in this respect, and improved the finished book. I would certainly recommend the RGS-IBG book series to other prospective authors.

**David Matless, University of Nottingham**

Author of *In the Nature of Landscape*

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It would be hard to underestimate the importance of the RGS-IBG monograph series for the development of the discipline. Some commentators have argued that the academic monograph is in long-term decline, but the evident success of the series demonstrates that it is, at best, premature to draw this conclusion. I was particularly attracted to the series because it has played such a vital role in the development of research and scholarship in political geography over the last decade. A good part of the series’ success derives, I suspect, from the quality of the support given to authors. The editorial board and the series editors have promoted the publication of innovative work, while remaining alert to the interests of a broad readership. In my experience, their comments were both constructively critical and highly generative, and I am enormously grateful for their input. Numerous minor issues can emerge during the completion of any manuscript, but the editorial team of Wiley Blackwell were always responsive to my requests, and efficient in the best possible way. Navigating the final stages proved to be a pleasure.

**Andrew Barry, University College London**

Author of *Material Politics*

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The RGS-IBG monograph series offers precisely the kind of focus on scholarly quality that is too often compromised in today’s excessively market-led publishing business. The series stands out in its pursuit of academic excellence, its promotion of state-of-the-art geographic work to broad audiences within and beyond academia, and its support to authors. I chose the series for its reputation for quality, its global reach and, last but not least, the exemplary professionalism of the editorial response early on. At the end of the project, I can testify that the support continued throughout the review, production, and marketing process. Information moved quickly, editorial assistance was prompt and responsive, and my preferences concerning the form and content of the book always received full attention at Wiley. The series is vital for geography and fully deserves its reputation.

**Merje Kuus, University of British Columbia**

Author of *Geopolitics and Expertise*