

## Book Review Guidelines

The *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* is an accredited bi-annual scholarly journal published by the Institute for Strategic and Political Affairs (ISPA) in the Department of Political Sciences, University of Pretoria. Members of the editorial group are from the Department. The Journal has an International Advisory Board. The journal is a forum for scholarly exchanges, but at the same time seeks to engage in dialogue with practitioners, policy makers and civil society on issues related to social transitions and geostrategic matters in Southern Africa. Its focus includes domestic challenges as well as bi- and multilateral issues of importance for the region and the wider continent. A comparative perspective is welcome.

The Journal seeks to have a regular *book review section*, which presents relevant new publications. *Review essays* dealing with a particular thematic focus of relevance and reviewing several books are encouraged. They are considered as scholarly essays in their own right and are published ahead of the book review section with further cross references to other relevant literature and the topical debate. Like individual *book reviews*, they should have scholars, but also policy makers and practitioners in the particular field as target groups and readers.

All reviews are guided by academic standards, intellectual fairness and accuracy. They should refrain from overt polemics. While individual opinions and value judgments are welcome, these should be presented in measured tone and substantiated with arguments justifying the conclusions on the value of the publication under review. This is applicable also to overtly positive reviews, which should avoid to be viewed as unqualified praise. A review should also go beyond a mere factual summary of the content of a book and the contents of the book blurbs and cover texts, put the publication into the wider context of the current state of the art and reflect upon its scholarly as well as policy relevance.

Book reviews should on average have a length *between 700 and 1 200 words*. In exceptional cases they can exceed the upper limit. Depending on the substance and character of the publication, reviews can also be shorter and rather in the form of factual *annotations between 300 and 500 words*.

Reviewed titles should be cited as follows: Authors/editors name/first name, book title (in *Italics*), Place of publication and publisher, year of publication, pages. For example:

Frog, Padda/Tiger, Cheetah (eds), *The Survival of Nature's Diversity. Towards a non-Darwinist Perspective*. Olifantsdorp: Fauna Press 2012, 302 pp.

Citations in the review should add the page number in brackets (p 173). The reviewer should add his/her name and institutional affiliation at the end. We kindly request reviewers to submit their reviews within three months after receiving the review copy. The reviewed book remains with the reviewer, who also receives a complimentary copy of the published journal with his/her review.

The Journal invites potential reviewers to submit proposals for the review of books or suggest review articles. Communication concerning the review section should be addressed to the journal's *review editor* Dr Kgothatso Shai (strategic.reviewsa@up.ac.za)

## Subscription Information

Subscribers receive **two copies of the *Strategic Review for Southern Africa* (ISSN 1013-1108)** per annum

- ~ Published during May/June and November/December
- ~ Volume Number for 2018: 40
- ~ Issue Numbers: 1 and 2 (May/June and November/December)

All publications are in English.

**Subscription prices:** (Applicable to all subscribers as well as agents)

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