



Guidelines for Book Reviewers

Language

Book reviews may be submitted in German or English. To reach a wide readership, we prefer reviews in a complementary language, i.e. German for English books, English for German books.

Length

The length of your contribution may be between c. 2000 and 8000 words (including references).

Citations

References in the book reviews are welcome. Citing the book you are reviewing, a footnote (⁵ P. 124–133) is sufficient. Citing other works, please follow the general guidelines of Archaeologia Austriaca.

Audience: A book review's purpose is to benefit those who might not presently have time to read the book but who nevertheless would like to learn about the topic. You have been invited to review a book in your field and the readers are not expected to have the same level of knowledge. You may need to give background information for scholars outside your specialisation.

Content

Please be sure to write a review, not just a summary or excerpt. Do explain the content of the book and offer an insight of the book's value. Set it into context with other books of the same topic, compare it to previous works. Comment on the scope and scale of the work. Explain whether it met the expectations evoked by the blurb. A good review is richly informative, and gives insightful supplementary information to the book itself.

1. Introduce the topic the book covers and explain its background. Please aim at including answers to the following questions:
 - What is the book about?
 - What is the scope?
 - What is the book's intention?
 - Which audience is it aimed at, students, other researchers, general public?
 - Who is/are the author/s and their professional setting?
2. Give a broad outline of themes and chapters in the book. It is not necessary to accurately repeat the index or give page ranges. Give an idea of the author's thesis and how it is developed. With edited collections of essays, give some idea of individual contributions, but feel free to focus on the most significant or worthwhile.
3. Describe how the author approaches his or her topic, and which methods and sources are used. Comment on the scholarly quality, the rigor of the research, the soundness of methods, the line of argument and the readability of the text. Analyse the book's strengths and weaknesses and give examples of each.
4. Discuss the book's place in the field. How is it different to other books on the same or similar topic? Relate to other works in the fields and the discipline more broadly.

Fairness

Critically comment on the author's opinions, and contrast them with your own. Do not critique the author for having written a book different from the one you would have written. Make sure to remain friendly and be fair – critique the work, not the person.

We will send a copy of your review to the authors of the book and invite them to reply. If they wish to comment, there will be room for a reply in the online version of Archaeologia Austriaca. Ideally, this will lead to interesting discussions.