

A Guide to Book Reviewing for *AlterNative*

All reviews should comply with the guidelines for authors for *AlterNative*, available on our [author information page](#).

Formal Requirements and Approval Process

Each review should not exceed 1000 words. Each should begin by citing the book to be reviewed with full bibliography information including all author details, publication date, full title including any subtitle, place of publication, publisher, number of pages, ISBN number. For example:

Decolonizing methodologies: Research and Indigenous peoples. Smith, Linda (1999). London: Zed Books Ltd, pp. 224. ISBN: 9781856496247.

Please do not use footnotes and if you reference to other titles in the review, add the full reference in a reference list at the end. Please also include a glossary in which you list all Indigenous and non-English words in alphabetical order and add translations.

After you have submitted your review, we will consider it for publication and will contact you with a final decision and, if accepted, a publication date. We may suggest some changes and will provide appropriate deadlines.

Content of Your Review

A good book review is guided by a discussion of the engaged debate; it should position the book in its field of literature and give a few points of information on the authors' background. It should be neither an uncritical advocate of the book by offering an overly meticulous summary without analysis, nor should it take the book that is to be discussed as an occasion for presenting the reviewer's own views on a theme or topic. The reviewer should highlight key passages or chapters with direct quotes from the book's text including page number, as follows: "... (p. 64). While a review may be positive or negative in its judgement of the book, we do not welcome reviews that comment on the author's character.

AlterNative acknowledges the long history of harmful Western research practices that have appropriated Indigenous knowledges and cultures and been enormously damaging to Indigenous peoples and communities. As such, please consider the following questions in writing your review:

- What is the standpoint from which the author speaks in relation to Indigenous peoples? Does the author respect Indigenous ways of knowing, being and doing on an equal basis with the knowledge-ways of the West?
- How does the author describe Indigenous peoples and knowledges? Does the author employ language that implicitly assumes that Indigenous systems are inferior to Western systems (for example by describing Indigenous knowledges, cultures and

histories using terms such as: irrational, primitive, unscientific, naïve, simple, folklore, stone age, or pre-history)

- To the extent that this can be determined, what was the research process for producing the work and was that process ethical? For example, if the work being reviewed includes Indigenous knowledge such as a cultural narrative, the issues to be considered include whether the rights of Indigenous knowledge-holders have been protected (for example, do they hold copyright in their narrative) and what (if any) benefits the knowledge-holders and/or their communities derive from the research. Some jurisdictions will have best practice guidelines for research relating to Indigenous peoples that give an indication of the issues in relation to research – for example, in Australia, the [Australian Institute of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Studies Guidelines for Ethical Research](#), the [Te Ara Tika](#) guidelines in New Zealand, or in Canada, the SSHRC [Aboriginal Research Statement of Principles](#).

Queries and Further Information

For all further queries, to be considered as a book reviewer or to suggest a book you would like to review, please contact us on editors@alternative.ac.nz. Please provide some biographical information, including organisation, Indigenous affiliation and research interests, in your email.