



SBL POLICY ON PEER REVIEW

Peer review is a process undertaken by an academic publisher to maintain high academic standards in a given field of research. The goal of peer review is to identify the strengths and weaknesses of a work of scholarship and to assess its merit, method, and form.

The following policy reflects the SBL's commitment to ensuring that all book manuscripts submitted for publication to the Society receive the same fair and objective assessment by appropriately qualified individuals.

A monograph that has been solicited by a series editor or member of an editorial board may be peer reviewed and accepted based on a proposal, so long as that proposal conforms to SBL's detailed proposal guidelines. Authors of solicited monographs will be sent a letter of commitment to publish after peer review is completed. A contract will be issued upon receipt of a final and complete manuscript.

A monograph that is submitted to a series unsolicited should only be accepted on the basis of peer review of a final and complete manuscript.

Collections and anthologies typically are submitted in proposal form. Such proposals should undergo vetting by the series editorial board where possible, or by outside reviewers where no board exists. If the proposal receives a positive review, SBL will issue a letter provisionally accepting the manuscript. No contract will be issued until a final and complete manuscript has been received, reviewed by the editorial board, and approved for publication by the series editor.

SBL series editors should ensure that at least two readers have thoroughly reviewed a manuscript prior to accepting or rejecting it. Members of a series' editorial board may be counted as readers if the subject is in their area of expertise. In cases where two readers disagree, the series editor should seek a third, outside reader. If the subject is in the series editor's area of expertise, the series editor may "break the tie."

Double-blind peer review is encouraged whenever practical. Where it is not, single-blind peer review (in which the author is not aware of the identity of the readers) should be maintained. Because of their nature, the WAW and WGRW series are excepted from this policy.

Series editors and their boards are asked to apply the same rigorous standards to the submissions of senior scholars as to those of junior scholars.