

# Community Development: Journal of the Community Development Society

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## Guidelines for Preparing Book Reviews

### Content:

Book reviews are intended to help readers determine the contribution that a book or other work might make to their teaching, practice or research. A book review should not simply describe the content of the book (such as number of chapters, pages, etc.); rather, it should provide some analysis to help readers understand how it fits into the literature on the topic. At the same time, the limited space for the book reviews does not allow a detailed exposition or literature review of the topic. Our audience is the membership of the Community Development Society and others who might be reading the *Journal* in their library or a colleague's office, including academics, practitioners, and students.

We don't want to remove the originality of the book reviews and make them all fit the same mode. However, the following questions can provide guidelines for the review. These questions should be considered as guides, rather than mandatory.

- What is (are) the thesis or main point(s) of the work? *State in a paragraph or two describing the work sufficiently that readers can assess whether they might be interested.*
- What new direction(s) does the work add to the literature, and why are these points important to community development researchers and practitioners? *Be specific on one or two issues.*
- What several points or aspects of the work make the greatest or unique contributions or interested you most? Why are they important?
- How will your work or practice be affected by having read this work? *Will these changes be lasting modifications?*
- Would you recommend this work to colleagues? Why or why not? *This should be done in a positive or constructive manner.*

### Style:

Please edit the review carefully before submitting it. Edit for accuracy and readability. If quotations or page citations are used, please check carefully against the book for accuracy of spelling, punctuation, and numbers. After sending you the book, the editors cannot check for accuracy. Use a single space after punctuation marks at the end of each sentence. If you have questions, use the *Publication Manual of the American Psychological Association (4<sup>th</sup> Edition)* as a reference.

### Length:

Your review should be 500 to 1,000 words, or about three double-spaced typewritten pages. Send your review in an MSWord document via email to the book review editor at [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu).

**Format:**

AUTHOR LAST NAME, FIRST NAME. *Title of book*. (Place of publication: Publisher, year of publication, Number of pages.).

For example: SILVERMAN, ROBERT (ed.). *Community Based Organizations: The Intersection of Social Capital and Local Context in Contemporary Urban Society*. (Detroit, Michigan: Wayne State University Press, 2004, 217 pp.).

Reviewed by YOUR NAME, Title (optional), Institution (optional), Location  
For example: Reviewed by JANE DOE, Extension Specialist, West Virginia  
University Extension Service

AND

*Your mailing address and email address (I will remove this information before the review is published).*

**Deadline:**

Please submit your **completed book review via email** by: \_\_\_\_\_  
to Anne Heinze Silvis at [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu)

**Questions?**

Contact Anne at [asilvis@illinois.edu](mailto:asilvis@illinois.edu)