

Guidelines for Authors

Reviews – Checklist

Recommendations for the Structure of a Review

The SOM readership is diverse so please use clear and concise language, avoiding technical vocabulary when possible.

Please provide brief information about the author at the beginning of the review.

As a general rule, support your statements with quotations from the book or provide page number references.

Some Helpful Questions to Ask

Non-fiction

- What is (are) the main thesis (theses) of the book?
- To what extent does the book address the current state of research on the topic? How does it expand on this state of research? Is the approach to the topic unusual or original?
- How is the evidentiary basis of the book's argument developed (qualitative or quantitative)? Is the selection of data conclusive?
- Is the writing style understandable and the structure coherent?
- Has the author already published in this field? Does the work build on the author's previous publications?
- Does the author represent a particular position in the field? Does he/she belong to a specific scientific or political movement?
- Is the argument presented on the topic conclusive? Which aspects are missing or remain unaddressed? Is there an unusually critical or uncritical stance on certain aspects of the topic?
- What are the overall strengths and weaknesses of the book?
- Who is the target audience for the book?

Fiction

- Name the most important characters in the plot; three to four sentences on this topic are sufficient.
- Name and describe the most important elements and conflicts
- Is the novel autobiographical or does it contain autobiographical elements?
- Is it a historical novel or does it refer to history?
- Are the characters in the novel believable?
- Does the author reach you emotionally with their work?
- Does the title of the novel reveal itself from the content?
- Is the era in which the novel is set evident from the plot?
- Does the story build suspense effectively?
- What makes the book worth reading?
- What do you criticise about the work?
- Who is the author's target audience?
- How does this work fit into the current literature from Southeastern Europe?

Length

Reviews must not exceed 4,000 characters including spaces, collected volumes must not exceed 5,000 characters incl. spaces.

Essential Information:

Please include the following information at the beginning of the main text, in the following order:

- First and last name of the author or publisher (ed./eds.)
- Title of the reviewed publication
- Place of publication: publishing house and year of publication, number of pages, if required, publication series in brackets (=...) ISBN or ISSN code
- First and last name as well as place of work of the reviewer
(e.g., *Review: Frauke Mustermann, Kiel*)

Text Formatting:

- Font: Times New Roman, 12 pt, single spacing
- No automatic or manual hyphenation
- Left-aligned, no justification
- No indents at the beginning of paragraphs or tab-stops at the beginning of a new line • Use blank lines between paragraphs
- Please use special characters where necessary (e.g., Chişinău) but transcribe Cyrillic or Greek characters.

Spelling and Gender-Neutral Language

Please be consistent in using either British or American English spelling. Please use gender-neutral language: avoid generic masculine expressions such as “man” and “he” when referring to all genders and instead use expressions such as “people” and “they”.