

**For potential authors of books published by Princeton Studies in Political Behavior: Explanation of the process**

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If you have a book idea in mind, the best thing to do is to send me a summary of it (a 'proposal'). I'd be glad to send an example.

Some authors are not ready to submit a book proposal officially to the press yet, but would like some informal advice from me. Sometimes that occurs when the authors have an idea for a book but have not yet written the book. I get questions such as: is this proposal ready to submit; is this book a good fit for the press or the series; how much of the book manuscript should be ready when sending the proposal to the press; how to improve the proposal; and so on. Simply indicate in your email to me that this material is for me only and lay out the questions you have or advice you'd like, and I won't circulate what you send me.

It's usually helpful if you also include relevant research pieces such as papers that you have completed on the way to the book manuscript. Again, if you're not ready for me to share these, just say so.

At some point, if you want to publish a book you will need to send an official book proposal to the political science editor at Princeton University Press, Bridget Flannery-McCoy, and officially to me, for consideration in the behavior series. You would include your updated CV and a few representative chapters from the book manuscript or articles that will form the basis of chapters. Her email is:  
Bridget\_FlanneryMcCoy@press.princeton.edu

You don't have to have the book written when you officially send a proposal, and in fact, some scholars have only produced relevant papers but no book manuscript when they submit a book proposal. But to first-time authors I recommend having a draft of most of the book manuscript when writing the proposal (a conclusion chapter, technical appendixes, and references can come later after a proposal is approved). Otherwise it's difficult for authors to know what to say in the proposal's chapter by chapter summary. If the book is already

mostly finished then it is difficult for authors to make necessary revisions. I can work with you to figure out your particular timing. (Book manuscript conferences are also useful — it's a way for authors to receive detailed feedback on a book before the official review process.)

There is a possibility of an advance contract based on the proposal and accompanying material, that is, before the full book manuscript is reviewed. Bridget would be the one to discuss that with you. She is also the person you would contact if you wanted to know if you can submit to PUP and to another press simultaneously.

If the press decides to review the full book manuscript, then Bridget will ask you to send it to her (please cc me). She would then send it to scholars we select for their expertise and judgement. They read the manuscript and write an anonymous review (the reviewers know who you are, but you do not know who they are). You get to read the reviews.

Bridget, in consultation with others at PU Press, decides whether the reviews are strong enough that the press should publish the book. If so, you would respond in writing and indicate which of the requested revisions you will do and which you won't (and why). I can work with you on this phase as well — say, if you have questions about how best to address criticisms. The board then has to approve a contract. If you sign, you commit to delivering the finished manuscript along the lines you had indicated in your response to the reviews. All books published in the political science list of the Press have to be approved by Bridget as the political science editor (in consultation with the Press members she consults with and with the external expert reviewers), and then by the PUP board.

For a book PUP is interested in to be published in the Princeton Studies in Political Behavior series, I would also have to approve it. Some books are published by the Press but not the series.

I also provide guidance as series editor on how to address the reviews and what edits might be advisable. I attempt to synthesize all the comments you receive rather than simply add an additional set of my own. I also provide a set of specific comments on the manuscript when authors find it useful. I like to work interactively with authors so that I know I am providing help you want rather than

standing in your way.

Sometimes it doesn't work out to publish with PU Press. It publishes many fewer political science books than say Cambridge University Press, by about 10 (300) to 1 (25-30). The Cambridge series in comparative politics alone publishes nearly 10 books a year, about a third as much as the entire PU press list in political science. The upside is that you get more attention and the selection into the PUP list sends an informative signal about your book's relative competitiveness. The downside is that it is more difficult to fit all the excellent books into PUP's list and PUP passes on many terrific books often based on the fact that it's recently taken on books on a similar topic.

Please don't hesitate to ask any questions. Glad to chat further at any point.