



## **Guidelines for Submitting a Book Proposal to the Walter Rodney Writing Prize**

**To be eligible to submit to the Walter Rodney Writing Prize you must:**

- **Be a citizen of an African or Caribbean country**
- **Identify as a woman or non-binary**
- **Be a first-time author (we will accept submissions from writers who have produced work for media publications. This must however be your debut book. Self-published authors qualify)**
- **Submit a proposal for a single-authored book (we will not consider submissions for edited collections or co-authored works)**

The following guidelines are designed to ensure that your proposal reaches us with as much relevant information as possible; the proposal you submit is the basis on which we judge a book's suitability, and it is what we will share with the judges. If we have the right information, the job of assessing the quality of your work and seeing how it fits the aims and mission of the Walter Rodney Writing Prize is that much easier.

### **PROPOSED TITLE AND SUBTITLE**

Although provisional at this stage, a good title is enormously helpful – and vital in the marketing of your book. It should be explicit, informative and descriptive; remember that this is how readers will find the book online, and in bibliographies and reference lists it may be the only indication of content.

### **RATIONALE**

A statement of aims –

1. The main argument and objective of the proposed book – how have the works and ideas of Walter Rodney influenced the development of your thinking and writing? How do you intend to demonstrate this influence within the proposed book? (please provide as much detail as possible here and throughout the proposal where relevant)
2. Why you feel it's needed and what drove you to write the book
3. Why you feel you are the right person to write it
4. What makes it particularly suitable for the Pluto list

In addition, **please clearly state what makes your book original in a concise list consisting of no more than three key points.** If you wish to expand on these points after the list, please do so.

## **SYNOPSIS AND TABLE OF CONTENTS**

Please provide:

1. A table of contents with chapter headings and (provisional) main subheadings (where appropriate).
2. A couple of paragraphs describing the content of each chapter. Taken together, these chapter descriptions should convey a clear sense of the book's coverage and argument.

## **FORMAT**

1. How long do you estimate that the manuscript will be (as a total word count, which should include notes and references and bibliography where appropriate)? Our preference would be for a manuscript of between 50,000 and 80,000 words.
2. Do you plan to incorporate black and white illustrations – line drawings, photographs, etc? Please bear in mind that we require authors to cover the cost of clearing any permissions involved and the supply of reproducible artwork. We cannot usually include colour illustrations as production costs are prohibitive.

## **DELIVERY**

When do you plan to submit the completed manuscript?

If you are awarded the grant you will be expected to complete the manuscript within a reasonable amount of time. You will have the opportunity to discuss and set a contractually-agreed manuscript delivery date with your Editor.

## **SAMPLE CHAPTER**

Please submit 2000 words (minimum) of a sample chapter for our consideration.

## **MARKET**

Identify as accurately as possible the intended market for your book, listing:

1. Main subject area(s) – i.e. which section of a bookshop would this book be sold in?
2. Main national markets for the book
3. Type and level of readership. If yours is an academic book, is it for school students, undergraduates or post-graduates? If it is written for professionals in a particular field, please describe that field and how the book would be used within it. If the book is for a non-specialist readership, please describe that readership in some detail and indicate how you think that readership can be reached. We welcome both academic and non-academic submissions.

## **REVIEW OF COMPETITIVE BOOKS**

Briefly review the competition:

1. What else is out there (author, title, publisher and year of publication).
2. How does your own proposal differ, what does it add to the field, how does it fill a gap?

We need to be able to place your work in a wider context, and to get a feel for where it fits. In comparing and contrasting the strengths and weaknesses of other titles, you can help us to highlight what makes your own work special.

## **AUTHOR**

Please supply an author biography. This should include a brief description of your educational and career history, and details of any previous work that is relevant to this book proposal. You may also want to share details of your links to various networks and organisations, including those who may wish to help with promotion of the book. Do supply any other information that you think is relevant and that you would like us to consider (e.g. blog, social media handles, conference and media appearances, etc.)

Please list your pronouns.

## **PROMOTION**

We ask that longlist and shortlist nominees make themselves available for some promotional work around the prize, while the winner of the prize can also expect promotion upon publication of their book. Activities will include attending the online prize ceremony, being available for interview, and attending a number of events to speak about the book, including a book launch that will likely take place online.

## **SUBMITTING YOUR PROPOSAL**

Please submit your proposal and sample chapter by email to [walterrodneypwritingprize@plutobooks.com](mailto:walterrodneypwritingprize@plutobooks.com) with the subject line WR WRITING PRIZE SUBMISSION.

Please label your attachments as follows: 'surname\_proposal', 'surname\_samplechapter'

Due to the volume of submissions we expect to receive we are unable to provide feedback on individual proposals that do not make the longlist or shortlist.