

Style Guide for Book Reviews
Dance Chronicle: Studies in Dance and the Related Arts
Updated: June 2022

General Format for Book Reviews

- Reviews should be scholarly in orientation and approximately 1200–1500 words. In the case of a review that addresses multiple books, your essay could be as long as 3000 words.
- Please include this information at the top of your review:

Book Review Title

Author Name

Author email (this will not be published; it is for the editing process)

Book Title: No Period at the End

By Author Name. ### pp. Illustrated.

City: Publisher, Year. \$28.95, \$22.95 paper.

ISBN 978-0-9908556-1-3, ISBN 978-0-9908556-1-3 paper.

Body of the review

Endnotes

Author bio (max. 150 words)

- No headings should be used in book reviews.
- Manuscripts should be submitted in Word doc format.
- Use Times New Roman, font size 12 for all text (including blockquotes and endnotes).
- Double-space *everything* (text, endnotes, block quotations, etc.).
- Left and right margins should be one inch, and text should be aligned left.
- Do not separate paragraphs with extra line spaces.
- *DC* uses the serial comma.

Citations

- *Dance Chronicle* follows the [*Chicago Manual of Style*](#) (CMS) in **all** matters.
- Embedded notes in book reviews: Within the text of a book review, use p. when including page numbers from a book being reviewed. This would be an example of a reference to pages in a reviewed book (p. 9) or (pp. 9–11).

- When referencing other texts besides the book being reviewed, use endnotes for the citations.

Editorial Suggestions

We have asked you to write this review because we respect your knowledge in this area of research. We hope that reviews can balance summary and description of the book's ideas with contextualization and analysis of the project. Readers of the journal may not have read the book, and the review can shed light on its interventions and argument. We honor a spectrum of approaches to reviewing.

Here are some questions you may want to consider as you read the book and write the review:

- What is the book's relationship with other scholarship in this area of study?
- Is it possible to situate this book among other publications?
- Does this book expand, shift, or challenge previous scholarship?
- How might this book deepen or redirect research and/or pedagogical practices?
- How can this book be useful for other scholars?
- Are there any approaches, frameworks, or considerations the author may have overlooked that could be important?

If a simple structure for the review would be helpful, here is a potential outline for reviewing a single authored book (which you can certainly ignore if you have other ideas):

- An intro paragraph that identifies the title of the book, the author, and the major argument, insights, and/or contribution of the book
- A sequence of paragraphs that map the structure, theoretical framework, methodological approach, and key terms of the project
- Paragraphs that point to some of the limitations
- Concluding paragraph framing who benefit from the book, how it relates to other publications in the field, how it shifts your own approaches/teaching, and/or questions that remain for further research

For an anthology review, we suggest (and please ignore if another structure would make more sense to you):

- An intro paragraph that includes the title and editor(s) and identifies the overall gesture, argument, and contribution of the anthology
- A paragraph that gives readers a sense of the volume as a whole and its sections
- Sequence of paragraphs that draw out the strong contributions
- Paragraphs that point to some of the limitations
- Concluding paragraph framing who benefit from the book and/or questions that remain for further research

In order to support dance studies as a field of inquiry, we encourage reviewers to inhabit a spirit of generosity when reviewing books, which does not preclude addressing

limitations, gaps, or oversights. *Dance Chronicle* is invested in approaches that address and challenge systemic exclusions and injustices.

Academic publishing is a field with almost no compensation. Reviewers are not paid for writing reviews, and editors are not paid for correspondence and editing. Please communicate with the editor if you would like an extension or cannot submit the review. This is a kindness that saves everyone time and worry. We hope that reviewing the book contributes to your knowledge of the field and informs your own research and writing.

For those that desire further suggestions for writing a review, *Dance Chronicle* highly recommends the guidelines provided by Wendy Laura Belcher: “Writing the Academic Book Review.” Los Angeles, CA: UCLA Chicano Studies Research Center. Last Modified 2015. Retrieved from <https://www.wendybelcher.com/writing-advice/how-to-write-book-review/>.

Sample Notes

Book

Pallabi Chakravorty, *Bells of Change: Kathak Dance, Women and Modernity In India*, (Calcutta, London, New York: Seagull, 2008), 25.

Brenda Dixon Gottschild, *Waltzing in the Dark: African American Vaudeville and Race Politics in the Swing Era*, (New York: Palgrave MacMillan, 1999), 25.

John Q. Perpener III, *African American Concert Dance: The Harlem Renaissance and Beyond*, (Chicago: University of Illinois Press, 2005), 25.

Chapter in edited book (from [CMS 14.107](#): Contribution to a multiauthor book)

Ruth A. Miller, “Posthuman,” in *Critical Terms for the Study of Gender*, ed. Catharine R. Stimpson and Gilbert Herdt (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2014), 325.

Journal article

Joellen A. Meglin and Lynn Matluck Brooks, “Where Are All the Women Choreographers in Ballet?” *Dance Chronicle* 35, no. 1 (2012): 1–7.

Websites (please use access dates for websites that can change)

1. “Timeline,” MoBBallet, accessed Jun 25, 2023, <https://mobballet.org/TimeLine2020/index.html>.
2. “Balkan Romani,” Endangered Languages, Alliance for Linguistic Diversity, accessed April 6, 2016, <http://www.endangeredlanguages.com/lang/5342>.
3. Bill de Blasio, “Mayor de Blasio Delivers State of the City Address,” NYC Mayor’s Office, streamed live on January 10, 2019, YouTube video, 1:22:40, <https://youtu.be/aZZYlpfZ-iA>.