

## **Advances in Community Psychology: The Book Series of the Society for Community Research and Action**



### **Guidance for Prospectus Outline**

Your book proposal should be consistent with the following format, which covers information that publishers find essential in evaluating the project for publication consideration.

The mission of the Society for Community Research and Action Book Series is to create a publication venue that a) highlights the contributions of the field of community psychology and, more generally, community action research and practice, b) integrates current knowledge on pressing topics and priorities for the field, and c) offers a foundation for future directions in research and practice. Ideally, information presented in the series should be timely (i.e., on the cutting edge of pressing issues), integrative (i.e., offering a comprehensive look at a given area informed by multiple vantage points), and generative (i.e., providing a platform on which future research and practice pursuits can build). These three criteria will inform decisions regarding publishing priorities from year to year.

All submissions are evaluated with attention to the relevance to the Book Series mission.

The following considerations are part of any good proposal:

1. **Need.** Why is the book being written? Why do people need information and guidance on the topic at this time? How is the topic of increasing rather than passing or declining importance?
2. **Purpose.** What is the book designed to accomplish? How does it meet the need you have identified?
3. **Contribution.** What new is offered? In what ways would the book add to current knowledge and practice related to community research and action?
4. **Related Competing Books.** Please list the author, title, and publisher of the main related and competing books; describe why they are not adequate to meet the need you have identified; and tell how your book would differ or advance knowledge in the area.
5. **Intended Audiences.** Be specific and describe the primary, secondary, and other audiences with respect to field/discipline (e.g., community psychology, social work, community development, public health) and setting (e.g., community-based organizations, universities, research institutes)
6. **Uses.** What would the book help the audiences to do, understand, improve, carry out, and so on? Distinguish between the uses for the practitioner audiences and the uses for the academic audiences or whatever other distinction is most meaningful.
7. **Community Orientation.** How is the book tied to essential community research and action-related topics? How does it relate to people-in-context and collaborative/participatory approaches? How does it relate to other principles like a focus on systems, an attention toward prevention, empowerment, strengths, values, evaluation diversity, and social justice?
8. **Potential Textbook Adoptions.** In addition to sales to individual practitioners, academics, and policy makers SCRA books may also be intended for use as textbooks in college and university courses and organizational and government training. If your book would have such textbook or training use, please describe the level, titles, and average enrollment of courses for which it would be appropriate, the kinds and approximate number of institutions with such courses, and competing textbooks.

9. Alternative Title Possibilities. Along with your current working title, please suggest several alternative titles. The title should clearly communicate to all audiences the topic, purpose, and utility of books.

10. Knowledge Base. What is the research or experience base for the information in the book? Briefly describe any special studies, empirical data collection, or other previous work relevant to this book.

11. Outline of Contents and Chapter-by-Chapter Description. Provide a brief abstract about the purpose and contents of each chapter, giving specific details and examples as well as general statements. Also explain the logic of the book's organization. For sole/co-authored books, including a draft introductory chapter is also desirable although not required.

For edited books, we are not accepting shorter, edited books/monographs. It is particularly critical that the edited book "tells a story", that it is more than a loosely collected set of chapters. Integration is best accomplished by careful planning during the very first considerations the author(s) makes when developing the idea. In this section (11), a plan should be included regarding how the editors will encourage such coherence and how they will communicate with chapter authors and review chapters prior to completion. Editors are free to create their own strategies in working with authors, but we would recommend a) reviewing a draft outline of each chapter; b) reviewing early drafts to provide input; c) providing a clear timeline for draft submissions and adhering to the timeline; d) having authors review each other's chapters to encourage dialog, exchange and coherence. An edited book should have at least one introductory chapter that clearly frames the purpose and content of the book (and demonstrates its consistency with the Series' mission). The book should also have a concluding chapter that encourages integration and future work in the area. These can be authored by the editors or by those they appoint, but should serve to structure the book as a whole. The Editor(s) should provide a complete introductory chapter – at least in draft form – to their respective authors. They should provide each author with guidance regarding the specific chapter to be written. While reviewing the chapters will undoubtedly lead to re-working of an introduction and conclusion, the editors should begin with a clear enough conceptualization to purposefully guide the process.

12. Special Materials. Briefly mention the purpose and approximate number of tables, figures, forms, supplements, appendices, and any other special materials to be included.

13. Length. How many double-spaced, typewritten pages do you anticipate the manuscript will be?

14. Timetable. What schedule is envisioned for preparing sample chapters (if not already included), the complete draft manuscript, and revisions of the manuscript?

14. Sample Chapters. Do not wait until the manuscript is completed to submit the plan. Instead, submit the plan with two or three sample chapters. If you would like some feedback before you prepare the sample chapters, send the plan without them, and we will offer an initial reaction. We prefer to learn of projects in their early stages to point out potential challenges and offer editorial suggestions. Of course, if the manuscript is nearly completed, then send three copies of the available manuscript (the manuscript will be kept confidential and protected).

15. Other Publishers. Has the manuscript been sent to other publishers for consideration? If so, which ones? Note that SCRA has no objection to your informing other publishers that we are considering the proposal.

16. Background Information. Please attach your complete vita, resume, or biography detailing your professional and educational background, including prior publications. If there are secondary or contributing authors, please include a brief 200 word biography on them as well.

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