



Eighteenth-Century Fiction Review Guidelines

Contents

Subject Matter and Scope	2
Peer Review Process	2
Appointment of Reviewers.....	2
Reviewer’s Responsibilities	2
Evaluating the Manuscript	2
Process	3
Queries.....	3



Subject Matter and Scope

Recognizing the fluid notions of fiction within the period, as well as the body of interdisciplinary work by scholars in the field, the [Eighteenth-Century Fiction \(ECF\)](#) editors seek submissions that conceive of "fiction" in a broad sense and expand the frameworks of critical, historical, and theoretical discussion. While its languages of publication are English and French, the journal publishes articles that cover all geographical territories.

Articles about the fiction of other languages are welcomed, and comparative studies are particularly encouraged. The editors consider submissions on late seventeenth-century or early nineteenth-century work and topics too, particularly when they are discussed in connection with some aspect of the eighteenth century.

Peer Review Process

ECF uses an anonymous peer-review process, meaning that neither the reviewers nor the authors know each other's identity. In addition, the reviewers are not aware of each other's identity. When a manuscript is considered for possible publication in the journal, the *ECF* Editors sends the essay to at least two outside peer reviewers. Not every manuscript is sent for outside peer review: sometimes the *ECF* Editor completes the review of submissions.

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Appointment of Reviewers

Manuscript reviewers are appointed by the *ECF* editors. Two reviewers are selected for each submission and are chosen based on expertise related to the content that is published in *ECF*. We appreciate the reviewers' willingness to fulfil their responsibilities in a timely and effective manner.

Reviewer's Responsibilities

Reviewers are invited to contact the *ECF* editors if they have any concerns about a manuscript or have any questions regarding potential conflicts of interest.

Reviewers must not cite the manuscript or refer to the work it describes before it has been published.

Reviewers must adopt a respectful and impartial attitude towards each manuscript under review.

Comments designed for the author should be expressed in clear, respectful, and objective terms.

Reviewers are not expected to correct deficiencies in style or mistakes in grammar. However, any observations related to these faults will be appreciated by the *ECF* editors.

Evaluating the Manuscript

As a reviewer for *ECF*, you are requested to evaluate each manuscript on the basis of its content as well as its relevance to the study of the eighteenth century.

Specifically, you are asked to rate:



- Overall importance to the field
- Appropriateness of the manuscript for *ECF*
- Quality of writing
- Usefulness of tables and figures, if those are included in the manuscript

The manuscript must be presented in clear and precise language that is grammatically correct and logically structured. Tables and figures must complement, not duplicate, the text and must clearly present accurate and comprehensible details. References should be accurate, appropriate, and thorough. Reviewers are selected on the basis of their professional knowledge and experience, and are expected to watch for the accuracy of the information and terminology used in papers related to their particular field.

Process

ECF strives to have the initial review back to authors as soon as possible (within 4 months) and usually provides authors a few months to revise the manuscript depending on the revisions. Reviewers will receive an invitation to review and will need to accept or decline the offer. Once the review assignment is accepted, the manuscript, accompanying information, and a due date will be available to you. When you are ready, please upload your review online via the link provided in the review assignment email. Reports may also be sent to ECF@mcmaster.ca.

The reviewer is also expected to make a recommendation to accept, accept with revisions, revise and resubmit, or reject the article. This includes considering the overall importance, appropriateness of the manuscript for *ECF*, and quality of writing. For the recommendation to revise and resubmit, or major revisions required: we prefer that you choose this recommendation only if you believe very strongly in the article's premise. If the editors follow this suggestion, the article is rejected in its present form, but the author is invited to revise it in response to the reviewers' comments. The editors may return the revised article to the original appraisers for their final assessment. Please let us know if you are willing to assess the revised article.

Thank you so much for your willingness to review an article. Not only are you helping the journal, but you are providing a professional development opportunity for the author(s) of the article you review.

Queries

Questions relating to any of the above details may be directed to the *ECF* editors by e-mail at ECF@mcmaster.ca.