*Toronto Journal of Theology*

Book Review Guidelines

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# Book Review Process

Thank you for agreeing to review a book for the [*Toronto Journal of Theology (TJT)*](http://www.utpjournals.com/tjt/tjt.html). The following guidelines have been developed to provide some focus and direction for all [*TJT*](http://www.utpjournals.com/tjt/tjt.html) book reviewers. Please note that [*TJT*](http://www.utpjournals.com/tjt/tjt.html) does not accept unsolicited book reviews.

[*TJT*](http://www.utpjournals.com/tjt/tjt.html) uses an online peer-review system called [PRESTO](http://tjt.presto.utpjournals.com/jmanager/users/login) where authors, peer reviewers, and book reviewers can submit articles, evaluations, and book reviews online. When your book review is ready for submission, you will submit it through the [PRESTO](http://tjt.presto.utpjournals.com/jmanager/users/login) interface.

The Book Review Editor selects reviewers based on their expertise in relation to the content of the book.

Some frequently asked questions have been included for your reference on page 3 of this document.

# Review Format

Begin the review with the reference of the book, following the format used in the list of books received of a previous issue or the online list of available books. Follow with the name of the author of the review, and the affiliation or place of residence.

The format is as follows. Please include the author, title of the book, publisher information (city, state, name of publisher, date of publication), page count, price, and ISBN.

## Example of Format

Dale C. Allison Jr. *The Historical Christ and the Theological Jesus.*Grand Rapids, MI; Wm. B. Eerdmans, 2009.Pp. x + 126.Paper, US$16.00.ISBN 978-0-8028-6262-4.

## Word Limit

Reviews should be no longer than 750 words in length. It is necessary to insist that reviews be kept within the specified word limits. Since our space is limited, it may be necessary to edit severely or return reviews which exceed the limit. If the reviewer feels that the book under review deserves more extensive treatment, s/he should communicate with the departmental editor before submitting the review.

# Additional Elements for Submission

Our goal is to publish reviews that are critical, creative and courteous. In general, a review should include a précis of the positions taken in the book, the methods employed, and a critical evaluation, both positive and negative, of these. Reviewers may also wish to relate the book under consideration to other literature dealing with the same topic. Comments on the quality of translation, typography, binding should not be given disproportionate attention. Personal polemics should be avoided, and reviews are not the place to promote one's own favourite views.

Do not forget to indicate your full name, accreditation, and affiliation at the end of your review. Please also include your e-mail address at the end of your review, so that we can send page proofs directly to you, prior to publication.

## Style

Avoid titles and honorifics (Dr., Prof., Fr., Sr., Rev.). The author should be referred to by his/her surname, except in the first reference, where the author's usual given name(s) or initials are indicated (e.g., David Tracy or C.F. Evans).

Page references should be preceded by "p." or "pp." and a space (Do not use "f." and "ff.") Footnotes will not be printed; if you refer to another book, the reference with full bibliographical data should be enclosed within parentheses. E.g., "A similar thesis has been proposed recently by Gerd Theissen (The Gospels in Context [Minneapolis: Fortress, 1991] 31-50)."

Quotations in foreign languages should be rendered in English, unless the original language is relevant to the point under consideration.

Greek, Hebrew, Coptic, etc., should be transliterated in accordance with common conventions.

## Collections or Festschriften

Books which are collections or Festschriften should be reviewed in the following manner. All articles contained in the book should be listed with exact titles (in the original languages) and comprehensive page numbers (e.g., pp. 189-211 or pp. 211-19). The reviewer may comment on the work as a whole or on individual articles for clarification or evaluation.

## Contact Information

Please complete all fields of the [PRESTO](http://tjt.presto.utpjournals.com/jmanager/users/login) registration section. Only upon acceptance will we ask you to unblind the information in your review. **At that point, we will ask you to please add your full name, institutional affiliation, and e-mail address at the bottom of your review document so that the editorial and production teams may contact you at a later date regarding your submission.**

# Queries

**Q**: Should I focus my review on any particular areas of the book?

**A**: Please do not structure your review as a chapter by chapter analysis. Rather, write your comments and personal opinions about the book as a whole, highlighting particular areas of interest to illustrate your points. If you enjoyed the book, or thought the text was commendable, communicate your views in a way that will also make others want to read it.

If you are reviewing a new edition of a book, it is a good idea to compare it with the previous version. The preface offers some guidance about what has been added, deleted, changed, and outlines whether the references have been updated.

If the book is illustrated, comment on the illustrations. Are they clear, do they relate well to the text?

Does the index really fulfill its purpose?

Indicate the type of audience that would be interested in the book you are reviewing.

**Q**: *Do I have to read the whole book?*

**A**: In short, yes. It is helpful for the reader to have an outline of the key themes, and/or arguments, and overall perspective of the book. For a detailed, accurate, informative, and critical review read more closely.

To start gaining the overall perspective, have a good look at the book’s table of contents and the chapter headings, read a few pages to sample the author’s style, read a chapter on an area you know a great deal about, as well as a chapter you know less about to see whether it is explained clearly.

**Q**: *Can I keep the book once I have completed my review?*

**A**: Yes! This book will become the property of the reviewer upon receipt of a satisfactory review.

**Q**: *What do I do if I feel the book is not worth reviewing?*

**A**: On the rare occasion, a reviewer may feel the material is not worth reviewing. If this is the case, please contact the Book Review Editor, whose information is below, to determine next steps.

Thank you so much for your willingness to review a book and your interest in [*TJT*](http://www.utpjournals.com/tjt/tjt.html).

Questions relating to any of the above details may be directed to the [*TJT*](http://www.utpjournals.com/tjt/tjt.html) Editorial Assistant at brett.potter@mail.utoronto.ca.