

Publishing with *Steinbeck Review*

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SUBMISSION INFORMATION

Scholarly articles should generally be from twelve to twenty double-spaced pages in length, and notes (shorter intercalary articles) should generally be no longer than eight pages. Note that submissions must conform to the MLA Handbook for Writers of Research Papers in general, but we do incorporate some finer elements of Chicago Manual of Style, as shown below. Essays should show an awareness of the most recent developments in Steinbeck criticism and should be written so as to delight as well as to instruct. All critical and theoretical critical approaches are welcome. Poetry submissions should deal with themes or places associated with Steinbeck's life and works.

In a letter praising Dennis Murphy's novel, *The Sergeant*, John Steinbeck describes the style that the journal values most highly: the absence of "verbosity, ornamentation, and a lack of compactness." He praises the presence of a cohesive strand that "starts in one place and goes directly to its end without being distracted," concluding that such writing has "a great deal of truth and beauty." Potential contributors should closely examine the most recent issues of *Steinbeck Review* for examples of format and style. All essay submissions are subject to rigorous anonymous peer review and should be sent through the journal's online submission and peer review system at www.editorialmanager.com/steinbeck. Book review editor Daniel Rivers assigns book reviews, and he may be contacted at daniel.rivers@sjsu.edu.

ABSTRACTS

- Articles should be accompanied by an abstract of 150–200 words. Please see page 4 for guidelines.
- Submit 3–5 key words.

FIGURES

- Permissions must be granted for the use of figures or visuals.
- Tables, figures, appendixes, and photos must be submitted as separate files / documents from the article text.
- When providing images, charts, tables, and graphics, authors supply high-resolution (300 dpi) images with a width of at least 2.25 inches.
- Authors provide **alt text** to describe image content (for figures, charts, and tables) to ensure accessibility for individuals using screen readers. Please see the PSU Press Alt Text Guide on page 8 for further information on writing alt text.

NOTES

- All notes appear as endnotes.
- Notes follow text and precede Works Cited list.
- Do not use automated, linked notes. Superscripts in text must be set manually. Note numbers in Notes and Works Cited section should not be set in superscript. Set as numeral followed by a period.

NUMBERS

- Write out one to one hundred; 101+ written as numerals
- Large numbers should be written as numerals: 300,000
- There should be no commas in four-digit page numbers (e.g., “page 1014”).
- Inclusive number ranges: pp. 121–25
- This proviso also holds for years: “In the period 1939–1945 . . .”
- As per Chicago style, “the following are spelled out: whole numbers from one through one hundred; round numbers; and any number beginning a sentence” (Fifteenth edition, 9.3).
- Dates: Chicago style recommends U.S. style for dates—“commas before and after the year” (June 6, 2010, not British style of 6 June 2010).

PUNCTUATION

- Follow *Chicago Manual of Style* on ellipses: three spaced dots for an ellipsis; four spaced dots when a full sentence precedes the ellipsis. As per Chicago style, there should be no brackets around ellipses. Example of ellipsis: “Our Sister, Mother Earth,” St. Francis writes, “sustains and governs us, and . . . produces various fruit with coloured flowers and herbs” (113–14). Example of ellipsis at end of sentence: “Yes—the child is precious, but not so precious as the bearing of it. That is as real as a mountain. That is a tie to the earth. . . . It is a proof that we belong here, dear, my dear” (95).
- There should be no automated features whatsoever—no automated notes, dashes, ellipses, and the like. Note that a dash has no space before or after. Example of correct use of dash: “Voices of today, such as Pope Francis, and those of yesterday, such as St. Francis, Leopold, and Steinbeck, serve as an exquisite litany that speaks to the human conscience—reminding, prompting, and encouraging us to care for one another and the land.”
- As per Chicago style, capitalize when needed; do not use brackets to indicate changed capital. Chicago recommends silently uppercasing the beginning of quotations in cases where the quotation is syntactically separate from your own prose. Example: “As Richard Astro asserts, ‘The Great Tide Pool represents all that is natural in the world: beauty and ugliness, love and hate, life and death’” (111).
- Capitalize issue season: the Fall issue.
- As per Chicago style, academic titles should not be capitalized (e.g., Ann Masters is professor of literature at University of the Midwest).

WORKS CITED

- Authors may refer to the MLA style manual for rules for parenthetical citations and work cited entries, but below are several points of emphasis that authors should check prior to submitting their manuscripts.
- Please use parenthetical citations that reference a works cited list; notes and works cited should appear at the end of the text.
- **Titles:** Italicize the titles of books, plays, and periodicals; short stories and poems are to be put in quotation marks.

- For a multi-volume work, always state the complete number of volumes.
- To indicate page and volume number, a brief reference should be inserted, within parentheses, in the text itself. Use Arabic numbers, not Roman numerals, when giving volume numbers, followed by a colon and page numbers.

Translations

- Include translations for all quotations in languages other than English. Translations for individual foreign words, run-in quotes, and block quotes should be in parenthesis.
- In general, translations should be accompanied by the original quotation in the endnotes.

DISSERTATIONS AND PREVIOUSLY PUBLISHED MATERIAL

- Please do not send unedited dissertation chapters, which generally follow a formalized formula recognizable to anyone who has ever written one. If you believe your topic is potentially publishable, first read a scholarly journal such as Steinbeck Review to get a sense of style, organization, and focus. Then edit and rewrite your chosen chapter accordingly.
- Please do not submit previously published articles as we do not often publish reprints. We never accept articles previously published on online sites.

Tips for Writing an Abstract

An abstract allows readers to quickly and accurately identify the basic content of your article. It is an invaluable research guide because it is most often what potential readers use to decide whether your article is relevant for them.

Abstracts at a Glance:

- Condensed version of the article
- Highlights the major points covered
- Concisely describes the content and scope of the work
- Helps readers decide whether to read the entire article
- Provides readers with a preview of research
- Contains relevant keywords for searching and indexing

Many online databases, such as the Scholarly Publishing Collective, use both abstracts and full-text options to index articles. Therefore, abstracts should contain keywords and phrases that allow for easy and precise searching. Incorporating keywords into the abstract that a potential researcher would search for emphasizes the central topics of the work and gives prospective readers enough information to make an informed judgment about the applicability of the work.

An abstract is a self-contained piece of writing that can be understood independently from the article. It must be kept brief (approximately 150–200 words) and may include these elements:

- Statement of the problem and objectives (gap in literature on this topic)
- Thesis statement or question
- Summary of employed methods, viewpoint, or research approach
- Conclusion(s) and/or implications of research

Keep in Mind... Depending on your rhetorical strategy, an abstract need not include your entire conclusion, as you may want to reserve this for readers of your article. The abstract should, however, clearly and concisely indicate to the reader what questions will be answered in the article. You want to cultivate anticipation so the reader knows exactly what to expect when reading the article—if not the precise details of your conclusion(s).

Do

- Include your thesis, usually in the first 1–2 sentences
- Provide background information placing your work in the larger body of literature
- Use the same chronological structure as the original work
- Follow lucid and concise prose
- Explain the purpose of the work and methods used
- Use keywords and phrases that quickly identify the content and focus of the work
- Mimic the type and style of language found in the original article, including technical language

Do not

- Refer extensively to other works
- Add information not contained in the original work
- Define terms
- Repeat or rephrase your title
- Use first-person pronouns in abstract text (e.g., instead of “In this article, I outline,” use “This article outlines”).

Examples

The abstract should begin with a clear sense of the research question and thesis.

“While some recent scholars claim to have refuted the relevance of stylometric analysis for Plato studies, new technological advances reopen the question. This article uses two recently completed stylometric analyses of the Platonic corpus to show that advanced artificial intelligence techniques such as genetic algorithms can serve as a foundation for chronological assertions.”

It is often useful to identify the theoretical or methodological school used to approach the thesis question and/or to position the article within an ongoing debate. This helps readers situate the article in the larger conversations of your discipline.

“The debate among Watts, Koupria, and Brecker over the reliability of stylometry (2009) suggests that . . .” or “Using the definition of style proposed by Markos (2014), this article argues that . . .”

Finally, briefly state the conclusion.

“Through analyzing the results of Watts and Koupria’s genetic algorithmic stylometry, this article demonstrates that they provide solutions to roadblocks previously identified in stylometric analyses of the Platonic corpus for the purposes of developing a reliable chronology. These solutions . . .”

PSU PRESS ALT TEXT GUIDE

Penn State University Press is committed to making its publications accessible to the widest audience possible. The inclusion of alternative text (or “alt text”) will allow those using assistive technology to access the images and other graphic elements (such as tables, charts, graphs, and maps) in the digital formats of articles. Authors are encouraged to submit alt text (and where necessary, extended descriptions) for all images and other graphic elements in their manuscripts. Note: If sufficient information about the image is included in the caption or the text, alt text may be unnecessary.

General Guidelines for Composing Alt Text

Alt text should clearly and concisely describe the content and function of an image. Please limit the description to the most important elements of the image. In most cases a one- or two-sentence description, consisting of no more than 250 characters (not including spaces), should suffice. If more than 250 characters are needed to convey the content and function of an image, please provide an extended description in addition to the alt text.

Extended Description

For more complex images and graphic elements (such as graphs, charts, and maps), please provide an extended description with the necessary information. Any visible English text in an image must be transcribed in the extended description. Please note that images requiring an extended description must also have the shorter alt text.

Formatting and Submitting Alt Text

- Alt text should be submitted along with captions. The alt text for a figure should be set on a new line after the caption and should be preceded by <alt text>. An extended description, when necessary, should be treated in a similar manner, preceded by <extended description>. When drafting and formatting alt text, you should:
- capitalize acronyms so assistive technology reads them as separate letters and not words (e.g., US versus us);

- avoid complex symbols, such as brackets, quotation marks, dashes, ellipses, and mathematical symbols, as assistive technology does not treat all of these symbols consistently;
- write in complete sentences but avoid overly complex sentence structures.

For examples as well as additional information and resources, see [here](#).

Final Submission Checklist

- All authors and coauthors are listed in the submissions interface.
- At least one author has been designated as the corresponding author with contact details:
 - E-mail address
 - Affiliation
 - ORCID number has been provided (if you have one)
- Necessary funding statements have been provided, including funding organization name, the organization's DOI, and grant numbers if you have them.
- All necessary files have been uploaded. Submission must include:
 - Abstracts (150–200 words)
 - Keywords (3–5)
 - Separate image files (tiff, jpg, include relevant captions, not inserted into Word file)
 - All tables (including titles, description, footnotes)
- Ensure all figure and table citations in the text match the files provided.
- Journal policies detailed in submission guidelines have been reviewed and journal style guide has been followed.
- Manuscript has been checked for spelling and grammar.
- Manuscript and Notes and or Works Cited sections follow the most recent MLA Style guide (9th edition) for formatting and language.
- You have used endnotes and not footnotes.
- All references mentioned in the Works Cited list are cited in the text.
- If you only have 1 note or 1 work cited, the sections are called Note or Work Cited (not Notes or Works Cited).
- Permission has been obtained for use of copyrighted material from other sources (including the Internet and for image use). Please provide permission documentation to journal editor for images or long text excerpts under copyright.
- All figures have been provided as individual image files (not inserted into Microsoft Word) and are 300 dpi at a sizing of at least 2.25 inches wide.

- Alt text has been provided to describe provided for all supplied images, tables, and charts. See **PSU Press Alt Text Guide** in submission guidelines and reference more information [here](#).
- You have saved your article in a docx file format, not as a PDF or other file format.