Guideline for Series Proposals for Language Science Press

May 20, 2014

1 Introduction

Language Science Press is keen to evaluate proposals for new book series in all areas of linguistics and neighboring fields. The following notes aim at helping you prepare a proposal that can be fully and rapidly assessed by the managing board. We kindly ask you to include the following aspects into your proposal, giving as specific information as possible. Your proposal should give the managing board a clear idea of the aims and scope of the proposed series. Proposal may vary in length. We expect proposals ranging between five to eight pages. Your initial submission should include a letter of introduction.

2 The proposed series in a nutshell

Please give the proposed title of the new series and describe the aims and scope of the proposed series briefly in two or three sentences.

3 Content and contribution of the series

Please give an explicit statement on the aims and scope of the book series, addressing also the following aspects.

What sub-discipline or sub-disciplines of linguistics will be covered? Which kind of topics would you like so see addressed in potential volumes?

Please explain how the proposed book series will fill a gap in existing publication programs for the scholarly community addressed by the series. Have there been new developments in the fields which have caused the need for a new series?

Please provide a brief list of keywords relating to the topics to be covered in potential volumes. It might also be worthwhile to comment on your choice of a title for the proposed series.

4 Readership

What is the main audience of the new book series? Does the series aim at academic specialists, at graduate or undergraduate students or at specialists in areas other than that of the editors or authors?

5 Competition

Please explain how the series differs from existing series in the area. What is its unique focus?

What is the existing competition? Please give details of the most relevant existing series in the area, providing publisher and editors. How does the proposed series relate to existing programs? How does it stand out from the competition?

6 Form of publications to appear in the proposed series

Which kind of publications will be included in the proposed series? Do you expect to publish monographs, edited books, textbooks, theses, handbooks and/or reference manuals?

How long will books be? Please give an approximate word count.

How many volumes do you expect to publish per year? Do you anticipate a limitation of the total number of books appearing in the series?

Will the proposed series accept only publications written in English, or do you expect to publish contributions written in other languages? If so, which languages other than English do you consider suitable for publications appearing in the proposed series? How do you plan to deal with possible difficulties arising with respect to publications in English authored by non-native speakers?

7 Editorial policies

Please give details on how you propose to administer the planned series. What role do you expect to play as editors, and what part do you plan to assign to the editorial board? Whom would you suggest as members of the editorial board?

As series editors you are responsible for ensuring the quality of each volume appearing in the series. In particular, it will be crucial that each proposed volume be commented on by at least two referees besides the series editor or editors. Please explain how you propose to accomplish this task. How do you propose to make editorial decisions?

Please specify how you project to approach potential authors or editors for future volumes in the proposed series. Do you plan to commission contributions on particular topics?

What lead time do you anticipate for each volume? How do you propose to ensure that editorial decisions and preparation of manuscripts will be accomplished in a timely manner?

8 About the editors

Please list for each editor present academic interests, position and professional affiliation, including a list of recent publications which are relevant to the area of the proposed series. If applicable, specifically mention previous editorial experience. We ask you to make sure to include the following details for each prospective editor: Name, mailing address, work phone, email. Please try to explain as specifically as possible in which respect you are the right editor or editors for the proposed series.

9 Proposed first volume or volumes of the series

Please give details on the proposed first volume or volumes of the planned series, including the following information: Provisional title, volume editor or editors (name plus affiliation), brief synopsis of the volume, provisional table of contents, and proposed schedule for completion of the typescript. It would be worthwhile to elaborate on how the planned first volume or volumes are intended to set the pitch for further contributions in the proposed series.

10 Languages

Please indicate the languages in which you will accept submissions and provide details about the expected readership, if you want to publish in languages other than English.

Language Scienece Press accepts submissions in English, German, French, Spanish, and Portugese, so series can choose to accept a subset of these languages.

11 Financial support

Currently we have nine series, for the enterprise to scale up, it is important that series editors take some responsibility and help as much as they can. De Gruyter requests camera ready copies or charges 1.500 for submissions to certain series. We do not charge any money but it is not possible to handle everything centrally.

Series are expected to deliver LaTeX manuscripts. We help series editors to set up the conversion workflow, but certain commitment and resources at the site of the series editors is required. Please state that you can provide manuscripts typeset in LaTeX and what other resources you can provide.

12   What we do not publish

We do not publish scholarly work in fields other than linguistics and neighboring fields. We do not publish books for the general reader, *festschriften*, unrevised dissertations, autobiography or fiction.

To discuss your series proposal, please contact Stefan Müller (Stefan.Mueller@fu-berlin.de) or Martin Haspelmath (haspelmath@eva.mpg.de).