



OÑATI INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTE  
FOR THE SOCIOLOGY OF LAW  
—  
INSTITUTO INTERNACIONAL  
DE SOCIOLOGÍA JURÍDICA DE OÑATI

Guidelines for Oñati Proposals

The proposal should contain:

- Abstract - setting out what the book aims to do and why, and how the editors will go about achieving this. The abstract should be one to two pages and is the editors' chance to really sell the book. It is also helpful to set out the book's main theme and discuss how each contributor will address this to tie the contributions together.
- Critical literature review – highlighting two or three competing books on the market and analysing the relationship between them and the planned book. This can be difficult for Oñati books due to their collaborative and cross-disciplinary nature, so it may be helpful to look at pre-existing books in the Oñati series that are similar. This will help to give us an idea of what the book is about and how we might market the book in the future.
- A full table of contents with a line or two for each chapter, setting out what the chapter will discuss. This should include a list of contributors and their affiliations.
- A discussion of the practical considerations of the book such as the proposed length and timeline for delivery.
- We would also like to see a draft of the introduction and a sample chapter.

Content guidelines:

The Oñati IISL enforces a number of minimum requirements to ensure a pre-review standard. For all submissions, authors must make sure that their text is written in correct academic English, and have it checked by a native English speaker with a good command of academic language use. A paper may be rejected purely on the basis of poor language.

The following guidelines apply:

- Topicality, both for empirical context and for theoretical implications of the issue.
- The funding institutions of the research that constitutes the content basis of the book must be named, and the methodology having informed the research must be stated.
- Articles must:
  - Attend to a common set of questions, ideally from different angles.
  - Cross-reference: be a tightly-knit work, and a well-argued presentation of a certain topic.
- Senior authors as well as younger scholars will ideally be represented in authorship.



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What happens next:

The proposal will be reviewed in-house by Hart and by the series editors and assessed to see whether it would work well as a book. The next step is to send the proposal out to readers – we would aim to receive two positive reviews but very occasionally and by exception we do contract on the basis of one very positive report. We ask readers to return their feedback within six weeks but this often ends up taking closer to two months. At this point we could issue a contract straight away based on positive feedback. However, the review process may be more involved and the readers may make suggestions as to how the proposal could be improved - we might ask the editors to address these suggestions before proceeding.