# ***parallax***

# Guidelines for Issue Proposals

***parallax*** is a journal of critical cultural theory, broadly defined, that publishes themed issues of new research. Each issue is organised and edited by a Guest Editor (or a team of Guest Editors) under the guidance of the parallax editorial team (Executive and Associate Editors) according to a formal agreement setting out a detailed timeline and the Guest Editor’s responsibilities throughout the process.

The present document provides potential Guest Editors with information and guidelines regarding the preparation of a formal issue proposal. Completed proposals should be submitted in the form of a Word document as an email attachment.

Please email proposals to [***parallax*** at parallax@leeds.ac.uk](mailto:parallax@leeds.ac.uk).

## General Considerations

***parallax*** publishes themed issues each of which proposes a lively exploration of a topic of some importance to contemporary debates in cultural theory. In this sense, each issue is a ‘special issue’, a curated whole staging a discussion that should aim to offer more than simply the sum of its parts.

An issue typically contains between 6-9 articles, plus an introduction, and while there is no maximum word count, an issue will generally have between 50,000 and 60,000 words. On occasion, ***parallax*** publishes a pair of thematically linked issues: in this case, each issue must be a meaningful ensemble, and the link between the two issues must be explained in the proposal.

***parallax*** sometimes considers issues that derive from academic conferences or colloquia; in such cases, this must be made clear in the proposal. However, each issue of ***parallax*** must have its own internal logic and necessity, rather than simply serving as the record of a conference panel. Conference-based proposals must include an argument for the coherence of the selection of articles that will comprise the issue.

## Proposal content

While there is no set word limit for issue proposals, they should include the following information:

### Proposed Title

### Guest Editor names and institutional affiliations

### Synopsis

The Synopsis should describe the project and make a case for its significance. It can include references, but it must be condensed and to the point, no more than a page or so in length. There is no fixed template, but in addition to describing the proposed theme or organising principle in some detail, a strong Synopsis might:

* Sketch the academic landscape within which the project will sit, and its genesis if relevant;
* Set out the project’s critical framework or theoretical commitments, its political/intellectual stakes;
* Offer a sense of what the issue will contribute to the field of research into which it will intervene.

### Contributors, titles and abstracts of proposed articles

If the contributors have already been identified (for example, if the issue derives from a conference that has taken place), the proposal should include a list of contributors with their institutional affiliations and short bios if appropriate, along with the titles of their articles and paragraph-length descriptions of each article, including of the issue introduction. These paragraphs can be written in the form of abstracts and should include the approximate word count of the articles.

If the contributors have not yet been identified, a list should be included of potential contributors with their institutional affiliations and short bios if appropriate.

## Before acceptance

The editorial team assess issue proposals in terms of several general criteria:

* Coherence and clarity: while the articles in an issue can vary greatly in approach, method or style, they must address a shared problem, have a shared starting point or critical horizon, a shared corpus or theme that can be clearly articulated in the proposal.
* Topicality: there are no pre-defined limits to the range of themes ***parallax*** can explore, but each issue must contribute to or engage with current debates in critical cultural theory. There is a good deal of latitude to this requirement, and issues that take us off the beaten path of the latest trends in contemporary theory can be particularly exciting, but the proposal should make a case for why this project needs to be published now.
* Originality: parallax only publishes new research (though occasionally we will publish a new English translation of a piece originally published in another language).
* Creative approaches: parallax supports critical-creative projects in cultural theory. While it is not a requirement, we are open to considering proposals that challenge the norms of traditional academic writing in ways that engage non-trivially with the content of the debate in question.

Before accepting an issue proposal, the editorial team will often request clarification from the potential Guest Editor and may work with them at some length in the hopes of arriving at a Synopsis that formulates a shared understanding of the proposed issue’s theme.

However, there is no guarantee that this process will lead to an agreement: ***parallax*** formally accepts an issue only after the title, Synopsis and contributor list (firm or provisional) have been agreed upon and the Guest Editor has been informed of this in an acceptance letter.

## After acceptance

When an issue has been accepted, the ***parallax*** editorial team work closely with the Guest Editor throughout the entire process to publication. However, it is the Guest Editor who is responsible for all aspects of constituting and preparing the issue for publication in accordance with a detailed pre-arranged timeline.

These responsibilities include:

* recruiting and communicating with the issue’s authors (list to be agreed with the parallax editorial team);
* editing their submitted manuscripts;
* organising the peer review process and following through with the authors on any corrections deemed necessary;
* obtaining all required publication rights; and
* preparing the complete manuscript for submission in strict accordance with the parallax formatting and style guidelines, as well as overseeing the correction of page proofs.

Unless the list of contributors is already set, the Synopsis will form the basis for a Call for Papers. This can propose a list of possible themes, problematics or research domains for articles. It must set a deadline for the submission of articles or article proposals (to be agreed with the editorial team) and give the Guest Editor’s contact details for this purpose.

All Calls for Papers will be announced on the [***parallax*** website](https://www.tandfonline.com/action/newsAndOffers?journalCode=tpar20).