



**From Researcher to Author**  
**The IEL Collective Writing and Publications Workshop**  
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# Monographs Track

- ❑ Moving from 'Researcher' to 'Author'
- ❑ Thesis vs Monograph
- ❑ Writing Plan
- ❑ Motivations
- ❑ Place of the Legal Monograph
- ❑ Thinking of the Stages
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  - Post-Contract
- ❑ Post-Contract: What Happens Now ?
- ❑ Resources & Further Support



Source: [Simson Petrol on Unsplash](#)



## Moving from 'Researcher' to 'Author'



- ▶ Transition from writing to present your research for a specific audience (supervisors & examiners) to meet an assessment criteria (to be awarded a PhD) to writing for a broader, global audience (academic & non-academic community) to disseminate your ideas
- ▶ Difference in writing for assessment/examination and writing for publication:

*rationale/ purpose*  
*audience/ readership*  
*structure*  
*style*



# Thesis versus Monograph

## Thesis

- ▶ Definition: Document submitted for assessment and award of a degree
- ▶ Test for academic examination, certain features necessary for demonstrating mastery in the subject, meet criteria for 'original contribution to knowledge'
- ▶ Target audience: supervisors & examiners
- ▶ Structure of thesis is lengthy, includes many technical, disciplinary and institutional requirements (eg methodology & methods, literature review, jargon & extensive references/ bibliography), also fragmented
- ▶ Thomson: thesis structured around a question & how you get to an answer

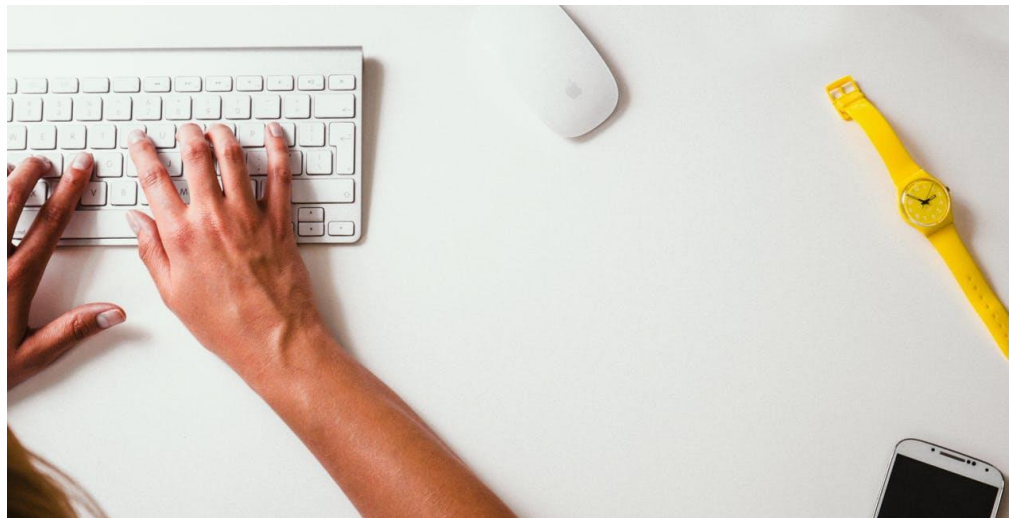
## Monograph

- ▶ Definition: Detailed, written study of a specialised subject
- ▶ Text to disseminate ideas, present research and persuade readers of your arguments
- ▶ Target audience: broader readership, both specialist and public/ layperson
- ▶ Structure of a monograph more succinct and accessible, must contain an overarching narrative or a 'plot' or 'throughline' that 'pulls the reader through the text' (Germano, 2013)
- ▶ Thomson: monograph should start with the answer and why it is an important field of study and how it fills a gap in scholarship



# Writing Plan: What, Who, When, How, Where ?

- ▶ What will you write ? Articles ? Monograph ? Both ?
- ▶ Who will you write for ? Community of scholars ? Policymakers ? Public ? Access?
- ▶ When will you publish ? Articles before monograph ? Monograph before articles ? Blogs ? Policy papers ?
- ▶ How will you publish ? Order of publication, revisions necessary ?
- ▶ Where will you publish ? Which journals ? Which publishers ?
- ▶ Considerations: Professional, personal, timescales, existing commitments, funding requirements



## Motivations: Why a Book ?



- ▶ Institutional requirement
- ▶ Professional requirements
- ▶ Funding requirement
- ▶ Dissemination of research to a broader audience
- ▶ Career development
- ▶ Job prospects
- ▶ May as well do it



# Legal Monographs

- ▶ Monographs still have a place in legal scholarship
- ▶ Standard-bearer for law (cf economics)
- ▶ Nature of legal research changed – moving away from strictly doctrinal to contextual, theoretical, empirical, interdisciplinary, global
- ▶ Reception of monographs dependent on jurisdiction, different disciplinary expectations
- ▶ Monographs distinct from publication of these wholesale



Source: [James Bold on Unsplash](#)

# Thinking of the Stages

## Pre-Contract

- Finding a Publisher
- Book Proposal
- Editorial and Peer Review Process
- Contract

## Post-Contract

- Restructuring & rewriting
- Copyediting
- Submission
- Publication & dissemination





# Publishers

- ❑ Choosing a publisher: depends on content, audience/ market, professional considerations, access, 'fit' between publisher requirements and personal/professional concerns
- ❑ Canvas thoughts from supervisors, mentors, colleagues, other authors/ academics
- ❑ Contacting a publisher: make contact first, sound out commissioning editors (eg at conferences)
- ❑ Do your homework/ research



Source: [Peter Lewicki on Unsplash](#)

- ▶ University presses: Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, Princeton University Press
- ▶ Large publishing houses: Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan, Brill
- ▶ Independent publishers: Edward Elgar, Bloomsbury (incorporating Hart), Intersentia, Pluto Press, Zed Books
- ▶ Alternatives: Counterpress (<https://counterpress.org/>)

# Book Proposal: Aim

- ▶ Marketing your ideas to the publishers: manuscript must have *readability* and *marketability*
- ▶ Marketing yourself to the publishers: awareness of yourself as an author, demonstrate the potential to make that transition from researcher to author
- ▶ Key points: know your book, know your audience, know your competition, remove jargon, demonstrate viability



- ❑ Statement of Aims/ Description of a Book:  
identify the space that your book will be occupying/  
filling gaps/ unique selling point/ novelty of approach
- ❑ Book Organisation/ Manuscript Information: word  
length, how many chapters, how many already written,  
timescales for completion, illustrations, etc
- ❑ Market/ Audience: who is the book aimed at, who will  
buy it (academics, policymakers, teachers, students,  
libraries), geographical interest ?
- ❑ Competition: assessment of competing titles  
(strengths/weaknesses), identify gap in market your  
book will fill or contribute towards
- ❑ About the Author: why you are the right person to  
write, attach a CV
- ❑ Copyrights and third party material if applicable
- ❑ Writing samples: chapters from the PhD
- ❑ Table of Contents

## Book Proposal: Requirements

Theses-based proposals usually  
require additional information:

- ❑ Full manuscript
- ❑ External examiners reports
- ❑ Assessment from the author  
as to how they will respond to  
the examiners' reports & how  
they will convert theses into  
monograph

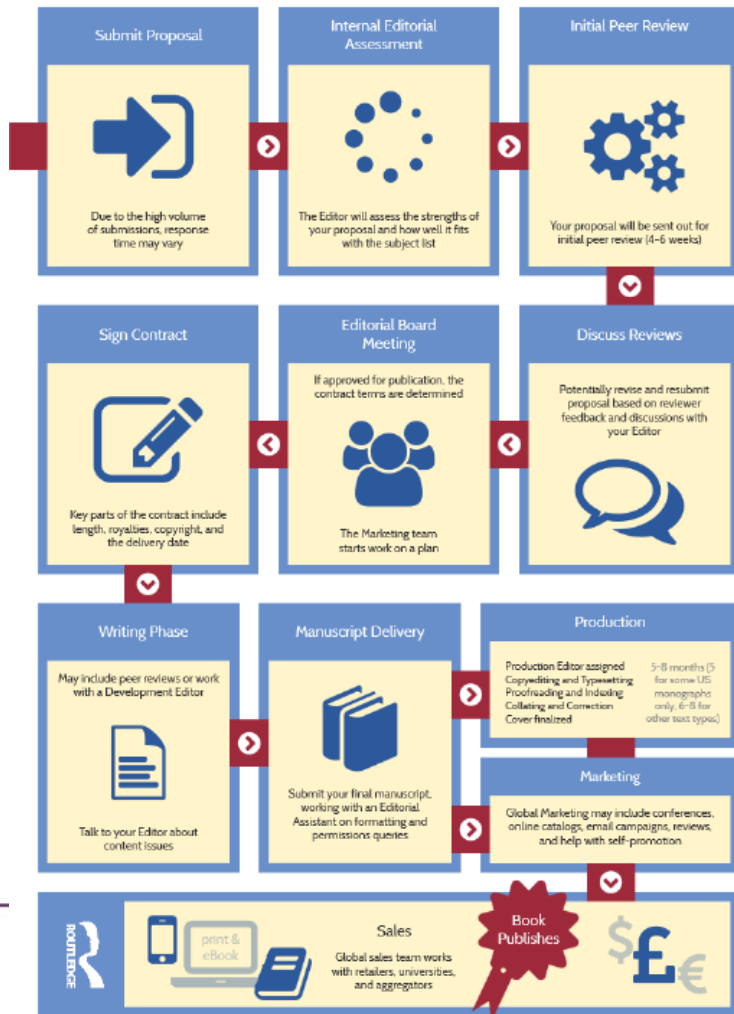
## Book Proposal: Links

- ❑ [Bloomsbury-Hart](#)
- ❑ [Cambridge University Press](#)
- ❑ [Edward Elgar](#)
- ❑ [Oxford University Press](#)
- ❑ [Palgrave Macmillan](#)
- ❑ [Routledge](#)



Source: [Susan Yin on Unsplash](#)

# Editorial Process



# Editorial Process

Source: [Routledge](https://www.routledge.com)

- ▶ See Editorial Process
- ▶ Have a writing plan with timelines for rewriting and revision of the theses
- ▶ See Slide 4 on difference between theses and monograph
- ▶ Structural and stylistic reorganisation as crucial as substantive revisions
- ▶ Focus on key areas for making the monograph accessible and readable but also commercially viable: book title & subtitle, remove jargon, have a 'throughline'/ storyboard narrative, eliminate references to theses, chunk up sections, focus on introductory chapter and conclusion, consistency in style
- ▶ Get colleagues to read drafts & give feedback
- ▶ Check publisher housestyle & submission requirements

## Post-Contract: What Happens Now?



# Reminder !

## Checklist 1: Dissertation vs. Book

<u>Dissertation</u>	<u>Book</u>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fulfills an academic requirement</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Fulfills a desire to speak broadly</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audience: one's dissertation committee</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Audience: thousands of people you don't know</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Rehearses scholarship in the field</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Has absorbed scholarship in the field, and builds on it</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Length: unlimited</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Length: strategically controlled for marketability</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Dependent on quotations, often in blocks</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Quotes others judiciously</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Hides the authorial voice</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creates and sustains an authorial voice</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structure demonstrates analytic skills</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Structure demonstrates the throughline</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examples are numerous, repetitive</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Examples are well chosen and move the story forward</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Few, long chapters</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Several chapters of readable length</li></ul>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Stops</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Concludes</li></ul>



Source: Germano, 2013.



## Resources & Further Support



- ❑ William Germano (2013), **From Dissertation to Book, Second Edition**, 2<sup>nd</sup> edition, University of Chicago Press
- ❑ William Germano (2016), **Getting It Published: A Guide for Scholars and Anyone Else Serious about Serious Books**, 3rd edition, University of Chicago Press
- ❑ Paul Silvia (2007), **How to Write a Lot: A Practical Guide to Productive Academic Writing**, APA Life Tools
- ❑ Gina Wisker (2015), **Getting Published: Academic Publishing Success**, Palgrave Macmillan
- ❑ Pat Thomson's Blog: <https://patthomson.net/>
- ❑ Palgrave Macmillan's Early Career Hub: <https://www.palgrave.com/us/book-authors/your-career/early-career-researcher-hub>