

Cambridge Scholars Publishing: Adapting your PhD thesis for publication

Some very notable scholarly works began life as a PhD thesis, and we are proud to continue and encourage that tradition. **Cambridge Scholars Publishing makes no charge to publish your adapted PhD thesis.**

You will need to make some changes before submitting a proposal and submitting a manuscript for consideration. Please read the following carefully and answer the questions in the checklist.

Corresponding Author Name:

Book Title:

“A thesis starts with a question, but a book starts with an answer”

AUDIENCE: you are communicating with people you don't know – peers and future scholars – NOT your supervisor and dissertation committee. Your book with Cambridge Scholars Publishing is written for scholars – of all kinds – in general, not a specific examination committee.

CHECK: Who is your audience? How will you adapt your book to meet their needs?

QUOTATIONS: normally fewer and shorter in a book, so take a look and cut numerous/long quotes

CHECK: Have you reviewed, amended and shortened quotations?

TITLE: A book title should be clear and descriptive, and is often shorter than a PhD title/subtitle. In any case, it is good practice to give an adapted work a different title.

CHECK: Have you re-titled your work? Is the title clear and descriptive, enabling readers to see what the book is about?



INTRODUCTION: You will almost certainly need an entirely new introduction. You will be explaining to your audience why you have written the book and what it will show ie why it's worth them reading it. Your introduction should show what's in the following chapters.

CHECK: Have you written a new introduction?

DESCRIPTION: A thesis will have an academic abstract, but a book needs an interesting and engaging description ('blurb') that will make it discoverable in online searches, and make it appealing to readers. Don't use the academic abstract.

CHECK: Have you written a new description of the book that will describe it and help sell it?

METHODOLOGY: You will be very unlikely to have a 'methodology' chapter in a book. While a PhD thesis needs to convince an academic committee of your rigorous approach, a book reader will be more interested in findings and implications. Discussions about methodology might be moved to an introductory chapter.

CHECK: Have you amended the 'Methodology' chapter?

LITERATURE REVIEW: A literature review will not normally have its own chapter in a book.

CHECK: Have you amended your literature review chapter? _____

LIMITATIONS: A thesis will often discuss the limitations of the research, and conclude by signposting 'further research'. This isn't usually needed in a book.

CHECK: Have you cut references to 'research limitations'? _____



REFERENCES AND CITATIONS: When you have amended your work, check your references to make sure that everything quoted is in your reference section. A bibliography/reference list in a book is normally much shorter than in a thesis.

CHECK: Have you checked that all citations in the text are picked up in reference lists? Have you shortened your reference list/bibliography?

THIRD PARTY MATERIAL AND PERMISSIONS: You do not need permission to include copyrighted material (photos, maps, diagrams and charts from other published works, etc.) in a PhD thesis, but you do in a book. *If you include them, you will need to get written permission before we can agree to publish.* So think about excluding them, or keeping them to a minimum.

CHECK: Have you either removed material requiring permissions, or got permission to use them in a published book?

YOUR OWN PEER REVIEW: Ask friends or colleagues to read your manuscript before sending it to us. If English is not your first language, ask a native English speaker to read the manuscript as well.

CHECK: Have you asked other people for their opinions? Give a few examples of changes you have made as a result.

CO-AUTHORSHIP: Think about getting someone else – maybe your supervisor – to add to your work and participate as a co-author. That can make a proposal and a manuscript stronger.

CHECK: Have you considered co-authorship?

