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# From Dissertation To Book, Second Edition (Chicago Guides To Writing, Editing, And Publishing)

by but for its potential to reach more  
small readership, perhaps even a big or  
great editor has good connections and a  
eye, and something else, what might be  
use for news. An editor may hear about  
a book from many quarters before a schola

## FROM DISSERTATION

### TO BOOK

that dissertation is one the editor will  
have for serious consideration. The editor  
will have a book that, when published this  
is a **SECOND EDITION**, will appear  
the subject makes its way into the larger  
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manufactured. An editor is gambling that  
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is not only the best book on the subject  
first. As every editor knows, it  
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or something else, well. A first book  
chance for editor and author to build a  
relationship. It isn't an exaggeration  
that when an editor takes on a first book

William Germano



## Synopsis

When a dissertation crosses my desk, I usually want to grab it by its metaphorical lapels and give it a good shake. "You know something!" I would say if it could hear me. "Now tell it to us in language we can understand!" Since its publication in 2005, *From Dissertation to Book* has helped thousands of young academic authors get their books beyond the thesis committee and into the hands of interested publishers and general readers. Now revised and updated to reflect the evolution of scholarly publishing, this edition includes a new chapter arguing that the future of academic writing is in the hands of young scholars who must create work that meets the broader expectations of readers rather than the narrow requirements of academic committees. At the heart of *From Dissertation to Book* is the idea that revising the dissertation is fundamentally a process of shifting its focus from the concerns of a narrow audience—a committee or advisors—to those of a broader scholarly audience that wants writing to be both informative and engaging. William Germano offers clear guidance on how to do this, with advice on such topics as rethinking the table of contents, taming runaway footnotes, shaping chapter length, and confronting the limitations of jargon, alongside helpful timetables for light or heavy revision. Germano draws on his years of experience in both academia and publishing to show writers how to turn a dissertation into a book that an audience will actually enjoy, whether reading on a page or a screen. Germano also acknowledges that not all dissertations can or even should become books and explores other, often overlooked, options, such as turning them into journal articles or chapters in an edited work. With clear directions, engaging examples, and an eye for the idiosyncrasies of academic writing, *From Dissertation to Book* reveals to recent PhDs the secrets of careful and thoughtful revision—a skill that will be truly invaluable as they add "author" to their curriculum vitae.

## Book Information

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"You wrote your thesis, you earned your PhD degree. Now you have to publish your paper to advance your academic career. Although publishing is a must for professors (particularly those seeking tenure), it is not a straightforward process. . . . William Germano's aim with *From Dissertation to Book* is to help academics understand why their work might be rejected by publishers and how to make it more attractive to them." (Publishing Research Quarterly)

William Germano is dean of the faculty of humanities and social sciences and professor of English literature at the Cooper Union for the Advancement of Science and Art. Previously, he served as editor in chief at Columbia University Press and vice president and publishing director at Routledge. He lives in New York. Â

It is precise and to the point if you are revising your thesis for a book. It covers all needed areas of revision. It has helped me a lot.

This is a clear, refreshing take on being a scholarly writer. More than just giving good tips, Germano's words have given me more confidence as a writer.

This was well-written. I bought it as part of a bundle. While this was one of three books I read on the topic, I'm glad I took the time to look it over.

A

Clear and very helpful. A great resource that I have gone back to several times already.

Have not read the complete book yet but appears to be exactly what I expected for a required text for a class.

happy with the advice offered here.

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