Peer Review Policy Statement

*a/b: Auto/Biography Studies* is a journal of scholarship dedicated to expanding the discourse on life narrative in all its diverse forms. The journal publishes academic essays that build from a theoretical framework of autobiography studies as they explore life narratives and the relationship between life narrative and other disciplines.

*a/b* adheres to a strict policy of double-blind, peer-review to ensure best practices in scholarly research and publication. Our Peer Reviewers play an integral role in maintaining these high standards by reviewing blinded manuscripts and advising the Co-Editors on publication of submitted essays. The journal’s peer review process is outlined below.

**Initial Manuscript Evaluation**

All submitted essays are screened by the Co-Editors prior to being entered into the peer review process. Essays rejected at this stage typically are not in line with the aims and scopes of the journal. Essays that pass through this stage are then entered into the peer review process.

**Peer Review Process**

Editorial Assistants at *a/b* facilitate the peer review process by assisting with blinding essays and corresponding with potential peer reviewers. Once blinded, essays are shared with two experts within the field for double-blind peer review, in which both the Reviewer and the Author remain anonymous throughout the process.

**Peer Review Reports**

Each Peer Reviewer receives a rubric, which includes assessment of

- Significance of Subject
- Quality of Research and Arguments
- Connection to conversations in the field
- Relationship to Theoretical Contexts
- Standard of Academic Writing

Reviewers also make one of the following recommendations to the Editors:

- Accept as is
- Accept with significant revision
- Reject with the suggestion of resubmitting after major revision
- Reject

Additionally, reviewers are asked to provide significant commentary for authors and are also provided space to make comments intended solely for the editors. Reviewers are not asked or expected to make any copyediting comments.

**Expected Timeframe**

*a/b* attempts to move each submission through the review process within three to four months, including:

- Receipt of Submission
- Initial Manuscript Evaluation
- Entering Essay into the Peer Review System
Occasionally, we receive contradicting Reviewers’ reports and need to ask for a third reader, which does delay the process. Additionally, the process may slow down during academic recesses when potential reviewers are away from their offices.

Decision Making Process
Based upon two or more readers’ reports, the Co-Editors are responsible for making the decision regarding acceptance or rejection each essay and for communicating this decision to the submitter. At the completion of the peer review process, each submitter receives a formal letter from the Editors that includes notes from the Peer Reviewers.

Becoming a Peer Reviewer
If you would like to become a Peer Reviewer for a/b: Auto/Biography Studies please contact Rícia Anne Chansky atricia.chansky@upr.edu and ask to be added to our Reviewer Database. Please include a list of your current areas of research in the email and attach a current CV. The benefits of becoming a Peer Reviewer for a/b include access to the most current research in the field and recognition in an annual issue of the journal. We are also happy to provide you with a formal letter of recognition that may be used as a part of your professional development portfolio.