

From the Editors

Periodically, we wish to thank in the pages of the *African Studies Review* the truly unsung heroes of our enterprise: those scholars who review manuscripts for us. As editors with our own specific areas of expertise, we could not possibly evaluate credibly the substance of most of the manuscripts submitted to our journal. Instead we rely on our reviewers.

The database of more than fifteen hundred reviewers has grown from its roots in the 1997 membership list of the African Studies Association. Over the years we have added hundreds of names on the recommendation of those on the list, who tell us in effect, "I cannot review this manuscript right now, but you should contact so-and-so." And we have deleted as many more, when contact details became obsolete. While the *African Studies Review* is published by the African Studies Association, we do not limit our database of reviewers to Association members.

If you would like to review manuscripts for the *African Studies Review*, kindly visit the journal's Web site at <http://www.umass.edu/anthro/asr/form.html>, and complete and submit the simple questionnaire.

When we decide to review a manuscript, we query our database of reviewers to match the topic, country(ies), and discipline of the manuscript with the expertise represented by our reviewers. We try not to ask any one reviewer to review more than one manuscript per year. To protect the integrity of the review process, we do not reveal to reviewers the name of the author of the manuscript, nor do we tell our authors who the reviewers are.

The results humble us. Time after time, with a passion for scholarship and a letter from us as their only thanks, reviewers write extraordinarily helpful reviews—helpful to us for making our decision, and helpful to authors as they go into the revision process. Consistently, our reviewers offer detailed and constructive suggestions for sources, organization, ideas, and revision. We share all our reviews with the manuscript authors, whether the manuscript is accepted for publication or not. In this way, authors, editors, and reviewers together support and advance the scholarship of African studies.

We are pleased to publically acknowledge our manuscript reviewers' good work by listing the names of the individuals who sent us manuscript reviews between January 1, 2003, and December 31, 2007. This list of 464 individuals represents a total of 844 reviews of 275 manuscripts.

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Mitzi Goheen

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