

# PoLAR Style Sheet

## In Other Words

Current as of 1-Dec-24

Congratulations on the publication of your book! PoLAR is excited to help you share your research with a broader academic *and* non-academic audience through the *In Other Words* feature. This style sheet is meant to assist you with the task of reframing your book to meet the goal of greater accessibility. The sheet also provides a non-exhaustive indication of the considerations that will inform the desk review process for your submission.

As you write, consider the following questions:

**How would you explain your book's key insights to your mother, neighbor, or college friend?**

Imagine an audience that is smart and generally interested in understanding why your book matters, but lacks the technical expertise you've built through training and research. What prior knowledge, values, or interests would you assume or not assume?

**What events or phenomena in the world are connected to topics or arguments in your book?**

Pointing to something recent or common or noteworthy *outside* academia is a good way to indirectly convey the relevance of your book for non-anthropologists and non-academics.

**What can you change about your prose style and language to make your book more accessible?**

Consider this an exercise in code-switching and ask yourself what the new code or register requires. Shorter sentences? Fewer allusions to other scholarship your audience may not be familiar with? Simpler words (e.g. *explain* instead of *elucidate* or *explicate*)? More words or slightly inexact words (e.g. *exchange* or *dialogue* instead of *dialectic*)?

Submission to *In Other Words* for 2025 issues meet the following criteria:

- They are written by the book's author;
- They describe and explain a book in legal or political anthropology with a publication date of 2019 (or later);
- They use simple, non-technical language;
- They are written for an intended audience that does not share the author's geographic or topical commitments, or even their anthropological training;
- They are between 500–750 words all-inclusive;
- They are free of notes or citations except to page numbers within the relevant book