

## **Request for Proposal**

### **Taking Freedom (Book Series)**

*Freedom is not something that anybody can be given. Freedom is something people take, and people are as free as they want to be. —James Baldwin*

#### **Organizations:**

SAGE Publishing / The Social Justice Foundation (TSJF)

*Pacific Standard Magazine*

Service Employees International Union (SEIU)

MIT Community Innovators Lab, Department of Urban Studies and Planning (CoLab)

#### **Contact:**

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#### **Series Description**

A series of books oriented toward laypeople to illustrate, demonstrate, explain, and investigate race and racism as complicated and dynamic structures intersecting political, economic, and social systems producing disparate, racialized, anti-Black realities/outcomes from theoretical, cultural, historical, and contemporary perspectives. The goal is for readers to better understand the essential nature of anti-Black racism and its connection to other forms of social exclusion in the United States. Additionally, a goal is to move readers to action in support of social justice outcomes. While the books will be based on robust academic theory and research, the writing style needs to be one that will connect with a general reader. Our approach will be to use a narrative approach to present these complex topics, much in the vein of the SAGE-funded magazine, *Pacific Standard*.

#### **Series Purpose**

The series will initially be used in education programs led by the Service Employees International Union (SEIU) with its members. Authors should envisage the books being used in seminars led by union officials in workplace breakrooms and similar environments.

#### **Proposal**

We are looking for proposals from writers interested in social justice issues. We would like for the series to engage with history, politics, and culture but also be able to interpret these large-scale issues through a storytelling lens. Please send a proposal, no longer than 750 words, as well as a selection of other relevant pieces you've written to our editorial

consultant, Jessica Myers. We are most urgently seeking a history and culture piece at the moment, but all topics are welcome.

### **Book Format**

Each title will likely print at a trim size of 5.5" × 8.5", with a four-color cover and a two-color interior. A Kindle digital version will also be produced. The extent will be around 72 pages maximum, to make each title a relatively quick read. This converts to a manuscript length of approximately 20,000 words.

Each title will use a standard template and will have a standard outline format to ensure consistency across the series. This will comprise the following:

1. **Introduction:** What are the key topics that this title will be addressing, and why are they important?
2. **History:** What historical background does the reader need to know to understand the issues?
3. **Impact:** Why do these issues matter to readers and the communities in which they live and work?
4. **Arguments (theory and research):** What are the key arguments, theory, and research that the reader needs to understand?
5. **Policy implications:** What are the policy implications that need to be addressed in order to create a more socially just society?
6. **Discussion and action points:** We will provide guidance on how to address the topic in group discussions.