

COMMENTARY

GETTING STATELESSNESS PUBLISHED: PATHWAYS TO PUBLICATION FOR EARLY CAREER RESEARCHERS IN THE FIELD OF STATELESSNESS STUDIES

BARBARA VON RÜTTE*

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I INTRODUCTION

The field of statelessness studies is coming of age.¹ Over the last decade, a growing number of young scholars have been working on questions relating to statelessness and citizenship in different disciplines, from diverse perspectives and in various parts of the world, as this Special Issue demonstrates.² Many of these young statelessness scholars have recently completed their doctoral research and are about to publish their work. At the same time, quite a number of significant contributions

* Barbara von Rütte is a postdoctoral researcher at the Institute for European Global Studies, University of Basel. Her first monograph based on her PhD has been published with Brill Nijhoff in 2022: Barbara von Rütte, *The Human Right to Citizenship: Situating the Right to Citizenship within International and Regional Human Rights Law* (Brill Nijhoff 2022).

¹ On the development of statelessness studies, see Maria Jose Recalde-Vela, Sangita Jaghai-Bajulaiye and Caia Vlieks, 'The State of Statelessness Research: 5 Years Later' (2019) 24(2) *Tilburg Law Review* 139; Lindsey N Kingston, 'Expanding Statelessness Scholarship: The Value of Interdisciplinary Research and Education' (2019) 1(1) *Statelessness & Citizenship Review* 165; David Baluarte, 'The Arrival of "Statelessness Studies"?' (2019) 1(1) *Statelessness & Citizenship Review* 156.

² For a critical evaluation of the existing academic literature on statelessness, see Jozefien Boone, 'A Power Imbalance in Academic Scholarship on Statelessness: A Thematic Analysis of the Academic Literature on Statelessness from 2014 Onwards' (2023) 5(1) *Statelessness & Citizenship Review* 76.

to the field are based on the doctoral research of statelessness scholars.³ Nevertheless, publishing can be difficult in a field like statelessness or citizenship which is so broad and interdisciplinary in character but, at the same time, highly specialised. Access to publication is even more difficult for early career researchers and, as the study by Jozefien Boone has shown, for scholars with lived experience of statelessness and scholars from the Global South.⁴ Hence, the question of how research on statelessness and citizenship can be published has been raised within the Global PhDs on Statelessness ('GPS') network.

This commentary discusses the pathway to publication for research on statelessness and citizenship by doctoral and early career scholars based on a 2021 seminar on academic publishing organised by the GPS network,⁵ as well as on my own experience with publishing my first monograph.⁶ It is directed at early career researchers in the field of statelessness studies with the aim of providing them with pathways for publishing their doctoral research.⁷ This commentary focuses on the procedure for publishing a book in the form of a traditional monograph, which is clearly distinguishable from the publishing of an academic article.

II FROM THESIS TO BOOK

After the end of their doctoral studies, most PhD scholars will want to or, according to some university regulations, be obligated to publish the results of their doctoral research. For many scholars, depending on the academic and disciplinary tradition, this still means publishing a monograph. In particular, within the humanities and social sciences, which include statelessness studies, writing a monograph is still very common. Some scholars must publish a book that is similar to the original PhD manuscript within a certain deadline in order to earn their degree, whereas others will take years to fully rewrite their thesis into a completely different book. The preferred option depends on university regulations, the disciplinary and national academic traditions, the publisher's requirements and individual inclinations. Additionally, while the thesis manuscript provides the basis for a book, the manuscript itself is not the book that will be published. Most publishers will not accept PhD manuscripts for publication without substantive

³ See, eg, Laura van Waas, *Nationality Matters: Statelessness under International Law* (Intersentia 2008); Kelly Staples, *Rethorising Statelessness: A Background Theory of Membership in World Politics* (Edinburgh University Press 2012); Bronwen Manby, *Citizenship and Statelessness in Africa: The law and politics of belonging* (Wolf Legal Publishers 2015); Tendayi Bloom, *Noncitizenism: Recognising Noncitizen Capabilities in a World of Citizens* (Routledge 2018); Mai Kaneko-Iwase, *Nationality of Foundlings: Avoiding Statelessness among Children of Unknown Parents under International Nationality Law* (Springer 2021); Christian Prener, *Denationalisation and Its Discontents: Citizenship Revocation in the 21st Century* (Brill Nijhoff 2022). These include books that have been reviewed for this Special Issue: Caia Vlieks, *Nationality and Statelessness in Europe: European Law on Preventing and Solving Statelessness* (Intersentia 2022); Julija Sardelić, *Fringes of Citizenship: Romani Minorities in Europe and Civic Marginalisation* (Manchester University Press 2021); Salomon Oseghale Momoh, *Statelessness Determination Procedures and the Right to Nationality Nigeria in Comparative Perspective* (Routledge 2022).

⁴ Boone (n 2) 77.

⁵ The seminar 'A Session on Publishing' with Dr Eve Hayes de Kalaf, Dr Christina Clark-Kazak and Dr James Milner took place virtually on 19 August 2021.

⁶ My perspective reflects that of a legal scholar of the Global North with access to certain privileges, such as access to funding for linguistic editing as a non-native English speaker and support for open access publication.

⁷ As Boone pointed out in her contribution, there is a lack of know-how in writing a scholarly publication: Boone (n 2) 81.

revisions. It is therefore necessary to carefully revise the thesis, implement feedback from supervisors and the thesis committee, and streamline the argument in order to develop a manuscript that is ready for publication.⁸

For scholars in the field of statelessness studies, as for any scholar more generally, it might be helpful to think about your future audience when revising your manuscript. Do you write for academics or practitioners, or for a broader audience? Is your book clearly situated within one discipline or do you address an interdisciplinary audience? Do you aim to react or contribute to a particular debate? Does your topic overlap with other fields such as migration, area studies or international relations, or the study of a particular group affected by statelessness? These questions will help you determine the style and format of your book, identify other books in the field that might serve as a model, indicate which language might be the best choice for your book and provide ideas for possible publishers.

III THE CHOICE OF PUBLISHER

Finding a publisher is the next step towards publication. There is a large variety of publishers. The choice of publisher equally depends on different factors, such as your discipline, the language and length of the manuscript, the audience you would like to reach and personal preferences. In the Anglo-Saxon world, academic books are often published by university presses; Oxford University Press ('OUP') and Cambridge University Press ('CUP') are among the most prestigious. Both OUP⁹ and CUP¹⁰ have published books on statelessness and citizenship in the past.

⁸ For a helpful companion in this process, see William Germano, *From Dissertation to Book* (2nd edn, University of Chicago Press 2013).

⁹ See, eg, Michelle Foster and Hélène Lambert, *International Refugee Law and the Protection of Stateless Persons* (Oxford University Press 2019); Ayten Gündoğdu, *Rightlessness in an Age of Rights* (Oxford University Press 2015); Alison Kesby, *The Right to Have Rights: Citizenship, Humanity, and International Law* (Oxford University Press 2012); Lindsey N Kingston, *Fully Human: Personhood, Citizenship, and Rights* (Oxford University Press 2019).

¹⁰ See, eg, Diego Acosta, *The National versus the Foreigner in South America: 200 Years of Migration and Citizenship Law* (Cambridge University Press 2018); Yael Berda, *Colonial Bureaucracy and Contemporary Citizenship* (Cambridge University Press 2022); Elizabeth F Cohen, *Semi-Citizenship in Democratic Politics* (Cambridge University Press 2009); Alice Edwards and Laura van Waas (eds), *Nationality and Statelessness under International Law* (Cambridge University Press 2014); Sara Wallace Goodman, *Immigration and Membership Policies in Western Europe* (Cambridge University Press 2014); Wendy Hunter, *Undocumented Nationals: Between Statelessness and Citizenship* (Cambridge University Press 2019); Helen Irving, *Citizenship, Alienage, and the Modern Constitutional State: A Gendered History* (Cambridge University Press 2017); Martha S Jones, *Birthright Citizens: A History of Race and Rights in Antebellum America* (Cambridge University Press 2018); Noora Lori, *Offshore Citizens: Permanent Temporary Status in the Gulf* (Cambridge University Press 2019); Robtel Neajai Pailey, *Development, (Dual) Citizenship and Its Discontents in Africa: The Political Economy of Belonging to Liberia* (Cambridge University Press 2021); Caroline Sawyer and Brad K Blitz (eds), *Statelessness in the European Union: Displaced, Undocumented, Unwanted* (Cambridge University Press 2011); Mohammad Shahabuddin, *Minorities and the Making of Postcolonial States in International Law* (Cambridge University Press 2021); Margaret R Somers, *Genealogies of Citizenship: Markets, Statelessness, and the Right to Have Rights* (Cambridge University Press 2008); Ana Tanasoca, *The Ethics of Multiple Citizenship* (Cambridge University Press 2018).

Manchester University Press,¹¹ Harvard University Press,¹² Princeton University Press¹³ and Edinburgh University Press¹⁴ are university presses that have also repeatedly published on citizenship and statelessness. Commercial publishers, that is, publishers that are not affiliated to academic institutions and have a for-profit business model, are another option. International commercial publishers that have published books on statelessness and citizenship in the past include, for example, Brill Nijhoff,¹⁵ Intersentia,¹⁶ Hart Publishing¹⁷ and Routledge.¹⁸

As Jozefien Boone has shown, these large publishing houses can be more difficult to access for researchers from the Global South and scholars with lived experience of statelessness due to lack of funding or academic affiliations, institutional settings and language barriers.¹⁹ This creates a power imbalance in scholarship, results in a lack of perspectives and excludes voices that are necessary to understand the complex questions around statelessness.²⁰ Making publishing more accessible for researchers from the Global South is a crucial task for publishers, universities and researchers in the Global North. Authors writing in a

¹¹ See, eg, Rainer Bauböck, *Democratic Inclusion* (Manchester University Press 2018); Tendayi Bloom and Lindsey N Kingston (eds), *Statelessness, Governance, and the Problem of Citizenship* (Manchester University Press 2021); Anne-Marie Fortier, *Uncertain Citizenship: Life in the Waiting Room* (Manchester University Press 2021); Sardelić (n 3).

¹² See, eg, Mira L Siegelberg, *Statelessness: A Modern History* (Harvard University Press 2020); Ayelet Shachar, *The Birthright Lottery: Citizenship and Global Inequality* (Harvard University Press 2009).

¹³ See, eg, Linda Bosniak, *The Citizen and the Alien: Dilemmas of Contemporary Membership* (Princeton University Press 2006); Yossi Harpaz, *Citizenship 2.0: Dual Nationality as a Global Asset* (Princeton University Press 2019); Mahmood Mamdani, *Citizen and Subject: Contemporary Africa and the Legacy of Late Colonialism* (Princeton University Press 2018).

¹⁴ See, eg, Philip Cole, *Philosophies of Exclusion: Liberal Political Theory and Immigration* (Edinburgh University Press 2000); Staples (n 3).

¹⁵ See, eg, Ernst Hirsch Ballin, *Citizens' Rights and the Right to Be a Citizen* (Brill Nijhoff 2014); Katia Bianchini, *Protecting Stateless Persons: The Implementation of the Convention Relating to the Status of Stateless Persons across EU States* (Brill Nijhoff 2018); Alfred M. Boll, *Multiple Nationality and International Law* (Martinus Nijhoff 2007); Sandra Mantu, *Contingent Citizenship: The Law and Practice of Citizenship Deprivation in International, European and National Perspectives* (Brill Nijhoff 2015); Prener (n 3); Ricky van Oers, *Deserving Citizenship. Citizenship Tests in Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom* (Brill Nijhoff 2013); Olivier Vonk, *Nationality Law in the Western Hemisphere: A Study on Grounds for Acquisition and Loss of Citizenship in the Americas and the Caribbean* (Brill Nijhoff 2014); Ineta Ziemele, *State Continuity and Nationality: The Baltic States and Russia: Past, Present and Future as Defined by International Law* (Martinus Nijhoff 2005).

¹⁶ van Waas (n 3); Vlieks (n 3).

¹⁷ See, eg, William E Conklin, *Statelessness: The Enigma of the International Community* (Hart Publishing 2014); Eric Fripp, *Nationality and Statelessness in the International Law of Refugee Status* (Hart Publishing 2016); Bronwen Manby, *Citizenship in Africa: The Law of Belonging* (Hart Publishing 2018);

¹⁸ See, eg, Alessandra Annoni and Serena Forlati (eds), *The Changing Role of Nationality in International Law* (Routledge 2013); Samantha Balaton-Chrimes, *Ethnicity, Democracy and Citizenship in Africa: Political Marginalisation of Kenya's Nubians* (Routledge 2016); Bloom (n 3); Tendayi Bloom et al (eds), *Understanding Statelessness* (Routledge 2017); Sabyasachi Basu Ray Chaudhury and Ranabi Samaddar (eds), *The Rohingya in South Asia. People Without a State* (Routledge 2018); Rup Kumar Barman, *The Enclaves of the India-Bangladesh Border. History, Statelessness and Bilateral Relations* (Routledge forthcoming); Roberto G Gonzales and Nando Sigona, *Within and Beyond Citizenship: Borders, Membership and Belonging* (Routledge 2017); Jane Anna Gordon, *Statelessness and Contemporary Enslavement* (Routledge 2020); Christine Hobden, *Citizenship in a Globalised World* (Routledge 2021); Momoh (n 3); Victoria Redclift, *Statelessness and Citizenship: Camps and the Creation of Political Space* (Routledge 2013).

¹⁹ Boone (n 2) 79ff.

²⁰ Boone (n 2) 80. See also Aleksejs Ivashuk, 'Tackling Statelessness: The Fundamental Importance of Stateless People's Voices' (2022) 70 *Forced Migration Review* 13.

national language or focusing on a particular national context might also consider the option to publish with a local publisher.²¹ These publishers might reach a smaller audience but, depending on the context, they can still be a valuable option. Think about the debate and market to which you would like to contribute, key works by other authors that are important for your own research and books that are similar to the one you would like to publish — this will help you to identify the right publisher for your book.

Research in the field of statelessness studies is often interdisciplinary in nature.²² This is another factor that can make it more difficult to have your work published, especially as an early career researcher.²³ However, today most publishers are open to publications with an interdisciplinary perspective or approach, especially university presses. Moreover, interdisciplinary books have the advantage of speaking to a broader audience.

Another option, in particular for interdisciplinary books, is to publish in a series. Most publishers have book series focusing on a particular topic. Series have the advantage of a targeted, specialised audience, and unite groups of authors working on similar topics, rather than in a specific discipline. Additionally, series are edited by dedicated editors that usually work in the field itself and are more familiar with current relevant debates. To my knowledge, there is currently no series dedicated to statelessness in particular. This might be due to the fact that the field of statelessness studies is still relatively young. However, it might have something to do with statelessness studies being an interdisciplinary field that is closely linked to other themes, such as citizenship, migration and refugee studies, which feature more prominently amongst book series. Hence, book series focusing on, for example, migration, citizenship, minorities, human rights and the development of and questions surrounding statehood could well accommodate a book dealing with statelessness. Most large publishing houses have series that might be willing to consider manuscripts based on doctoral research on statelessness for publication.²⁴

IV THE BOOK PROPOSAL

Once the publisher of choice is found, you have to write the book proposal. The book proposal aims to convince an editor to publish your book. Many publishers provide guidance on the information that should be included in a book proposal. Generally, the proposal should outline the rationale for the book and its main theme, argument and significance. Furthermore, the book proposal normally sets out the contribution the book aims to make and its place within the existing body

²¹ For examples in the German context, see Manuela Sissy Kraus' book: *Menschenrechtliche Aspekte der Staatenlosigkeit* [Human Rights Aspects of Statelessness] (Pro Universitate Verlag 2013); Sükür Uslucan, *Zur Weiterentwicklungsfähigkeit des Menschenrechts auf Staatsangehörigkeit: Deutet sich in Europa ein migrationsbedingtes Recht auf Staatsangehörigkeit an — auch unter Hinnahme der Mehrstaatigkeit?* [On the Further Development of the Human Right to Citizenship: Is there a Migration-Related Right to Citizenship in Europe – even if Multiple Nationalities are Accepted?] (Duncker & Humblot 2012).

²² Kingston (n 1).

²³ Boone (n 2) 78ff.

²⁴ See, eg, the following series: *Explorations in Development Studies* (Routledge); *International Refugee Law Series* (Brill Nijhoff); *Immigration and Asylum Law and Policy in Europe* (Brill Nijhoff); *Forced Migration Studies Collection* (Lived Places Publishing); *Oxford Studies in Migration and Citizenship* (Oxford University Press).

of literature. For that purpose, the book proposal should include a brief review of the existing literature, including potentially competing titles that might appeal to the same audience, to show the editor that there is a market for the book, as well as a statement of the changes that are proposed from thesis to book. Books dealing with statelessness or citizenship matters have the advantage of speaking to a broad, interdisciplinary audience. Beyond statelessness studies, they are potentially readable for an audience interested in other topics, such as migration, refugees and displacement, citizenship, belonging, minorities, discrimination, human rights, international law, statehood, democracy, colonial and decolonial contexts, and so on. Moreover, they can attract readers from a variety of disciplinary backgrounds, including law, political science, political theory, sociology and anthropology, history, international relations and even geography. Finally, many books in the field of statelessness will be useful, not only to an academic audience, but also to practitioners, governments, civil society and international organisations. This broad potential outreach and the close links between statelessness studies and its sister discipline, citizenship studies, demonstrate that there is a large and receptive market which makes books on statelessness attractive for publishers.

V THE BOOK CONTRACT

Once a publisher is interested in your book, you will negotiate the book contract. This contract details the obligations between the publisher and the author, and usually touches upon aspects such as deadlines and delivery dates, length of the manuscript, publication process and form of publication, as well as questions concerning copyright, royalties and other forms of compensation. At this stage, both the publisher — in particular, the editor in charge of the book — as well as the author share the goal of publishing the book. This shared aim should be kept in mind when negotiating the book contract. Technically, all aspects of the contract are subject to negotiation. In practice, negotiations will most likely focus on the question of deadlines, length and compensation. For young scholars, it may be preferable to negotiate a higher number of complimentary copies of a book rather than higher royalties in order to directly promote the book by sending it to potential readers.

VI PUBLISHING OPEN ACCESS

Another excellent option to expand the potential reach of a book is to publish it open access. The idea behind open access publishing is that research that is largely produced with public funding should also be accessible freely so that everyone has unrestricted access to this knowledge without barriers.²⁵ In practice, publishing open access means that the book can be downloaded for free, usually in addition to a traditional printed book that can be purchased. Today, many publishers provide the option to publish a book open access. Equally, many universities and national funding agencies support open access by covering the costs of

²⁵ On the importance of open access pertaining to the right to science, see Raffaella Kunz, 'Opening Access, Closing the Knowledge Gap? Analysing GC No 25 on the Right to Science and its Implications for the Global Science System in the Digital Age' (2021) 81(1) *Zeitschrift für ausländisches und öffentliches Recht und Völkerrecht* [Heidelberg Journal of International Law] 23.

publication, including book publication charges.²⁶ In the field of statelessness studies, publishing open access seems all the more important in order to decentralise that research and make it universally accessible.²⁷ Opening up access to statelessness scholarship for everyone, including practitioners, non-governmental organisations, persons with lived experience and scholars in the Global South without potent academic affiliation presents an opportunity to mitigate some of the power imbalance within statelessness studies.²⁸

VII CONCLUSION

Over the last decade, scholarship on statelessness has grown. More publications concerning statelessness and citizenship are being published, amongst them monographs based on doctoral research. Despite the growing interest in the field, publishing doctoral research on statelessness can be challenging. For instance, the field is still relatively small, can cover a variety of issues from broad theoretical puzzles to small-scale case studies of different situations or communities, and is often interdisciplinary in nature, which can make it difficult to identify a suitable target audience and a fitting publisher. For early career researchers, it can be even more difficult to secure the first book contract, especially for scholars in the Global South. The research done by young researchers, however, promises diverse and innovative perspectives on statelessness and citizenship that deserve to be published and read by a broad international community.²⁹

²⁶ For example, in the United Kingdom, many universities participate in a program lead to facilitate open access publications. Authors affiliated with the Association of Dutch Universities are eligible to have funding for open access publications. See, eg, ‘Information for Authors from the Netherlands’, *Brill* (Web Page, 1 December 2019) <<https://brill.com/page/419120>>, archived at <<https://perma.cc/32UQ-YB47>>. In Switzerland, the Swiss National Science Foundation obliges research that received public funding to publish the results open access and covers book processing charges: see ‘Open Access to Publications’, *Swiss National Science Foundation* (Web Page, 10 August 2023) <<https://www.snf.ch/en/VyUvGzptStOEpUoC/topic/open-access-to-publications>>, archived at <<https://perma.cc/D5SM-376S>>. In Australia, the Australian Research Council (‘ARC’) equally has an open access policy which applies to all output from ARC-funded research. See ‘Open Access Policy’ (Australian Research Council, September 2021) <<https://www.arc.gov.au/about-arc/program-policies/open-access-policy>>, archived at <<https://perma.cc/NYG2-WY4B>>. At the European level, Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition Europe promotes open science and open scholarship and collaborates with national governments to support open access. See, eg, Budapest Open Access Initiative, ‘Read the Declaration’, *BOAI* (Web Page, 14 February 2002) <<https://www.budapestopenaccessinitiative.org/read>>, archived at <<https://perma.cc/U8DG-CRFA>>.

²⁷ Haqqi Bahram, ‘Towards a Stateless Standpoint Epistemology’ (2021) 3(1) *Statelessness & Citizenship Review* 113.

²⁸ Boone (n 2) 79ff.

²⁹ Some of these promising voices can be read on Peter McMullin Centre on Statelessness, ‘Critical Statelessness Studies Blog’, *Melbourne Law School* (Web Page, 2023) <<https://law.unimelb.edu.au/centres/statelessness/resources/critical-statelessness-studies-blog>>, archived at <<https://perma.cc/9FVC-DK4J>>.