

## ASA News, Spring 2021

### Pandemic Publishing Interview: University of Michigan Press' Ellen Bauerle

**1. How has the pandemic and the broad suspension of in person events impacted publishing?**

Peer reviewing has slowed down a bit, partly because many university libraries have limited the access to their collections, and partly because online teaching has been more time-consuming than in-person teaching. A few manuscripts in development have slowed for similar reasons: a few scholars who need to travel internationally currently can't do so. This will all eventually change, of course. The one benefit of the virtual conference is that I can more easily attend panels and sessions.

**2. What have been the publishing trends that you've seen over the last year? What trends are you most excited about?**

I'm impressed that scholars continue their important work despite the new rigors of teaching, and the social and political challenges they may face at their institutions and more broadly.

**3. Since we still aren't able to get together, how have book pitches changed and what should our members know about the process?**

The fundamental business of publishing hasn't really changed. Research continues; important scholarly work continues; credentialing continues. I expect to see, and am seeing, the same kinds of pitches I normally receive, in both quantity and quality. I would naturally prefer talking with prospective authors in person at the annual conference rather than through a screen, but that's temporarily how the world is getting its work done.

**4. What new projects are you working on that the African Studies community should be on the lookout for?**

I'm happy to say that our book series African Perspectives, edited in conjunction with the University of Michigan's African Studies Center, continues to grow rapidly in breadth and depth, despite the pandemic.