

Shells & Pebbles – Instructions for authors

So you're considering writing for Shells & Pebbles. Great! Here is some basic information, the gist of which is that we are essentially open to anything. Still, it may be useful to you to know what kinds of things we have published in the past, and what you can expect from us when you send in a piece.

Types of contributions

We accept contributions from any genre. You can think about, for instance:

- A short research article
- A column or opinion piece about a controversy within the history of science.
- An essay or 'think piece' about an aspect of the field
- A personal story about your experience as a researcher, an anecdote about hunting for a particular source in a particular archive, or other scholarly adventures
- An interview
- A review or discussion of a book – which may also be a classic of the field, rather than a recent publication.

Language

We are open to articles in English or Dutch. We see ourselves as a bilingual blog: our website has its roots in the Dutch community of historians of science, and we want to be attractive to Dutch scholars if they feel more comfortable writing (or reading) in their native language. Therefore, we endeavor to publish regularly in both languages.

Form

Pieces of *any* length will be considered, though we may suggest shortening pieces down if we think them needlessly long or wordy. Usually, post lengths range between 1000 and 1500 words, with a lot of exceptions depending on genre. If you have a lot to say, you may consider writing a series of related posts.

Picture Guidelines

At Shells & Pebbles we believe that a picture can speak a thousand words. Pictures are an important part of our blog that help tell our stories, and help frame the readers point of view on a specific topic. However, since they have eloquence of their own, they need to put into context. With uploaded photos, we ask you to either explicitly refer to the photos throughout your narrative (if they actively support your argument), or to provide justification in the form of a caption in which you reflect or justify why you as the author chose these photos.

Format

We will format your article when uploading it. You make our work easiest by sending your text as a word document (not a pdf), with images as separate files, while providing indications in the text as to where to place those images. Pay attention to copyright issues

and provide source references for images. We need at least one image to feature on the front page.

Editing

We will read your piece carefully and will often respond to it with some questions or suggestions for changes. You will always have the final say over your own article. If after publication you find yourself wanting to correct or alter a minor point, you can let us know and we will update your piece accordingly.

Biography

Please send along a short autobiographical paragraph that we can attach at the bottom of your piece. You can include links to any websites or socials that you would like people to be aware of.

Use of AI

Shells & Pebbles is a blog for and by humans. We therefore strongly discourage the use of AI and will not publish texts that we suspect are written with AI.

Any questions? Please email us at theshellsandpebbles@gmail.com!