

# How to Write a Book Proposal

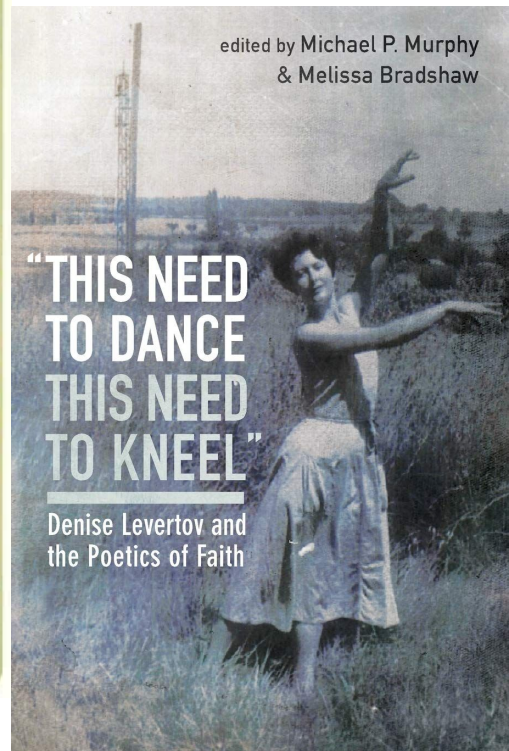
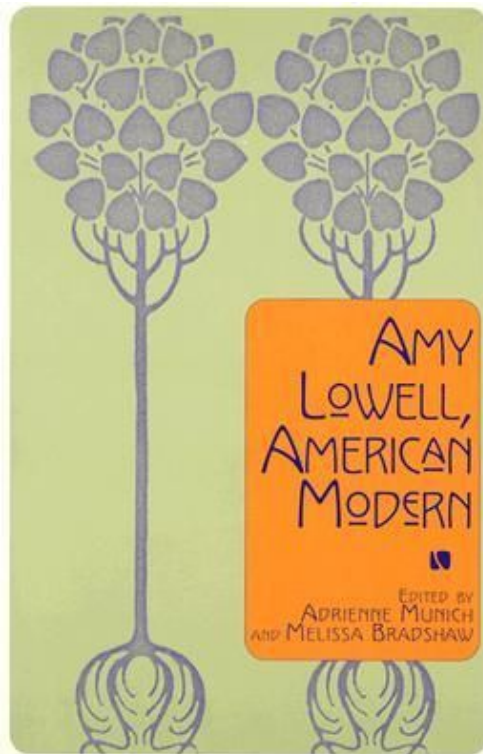
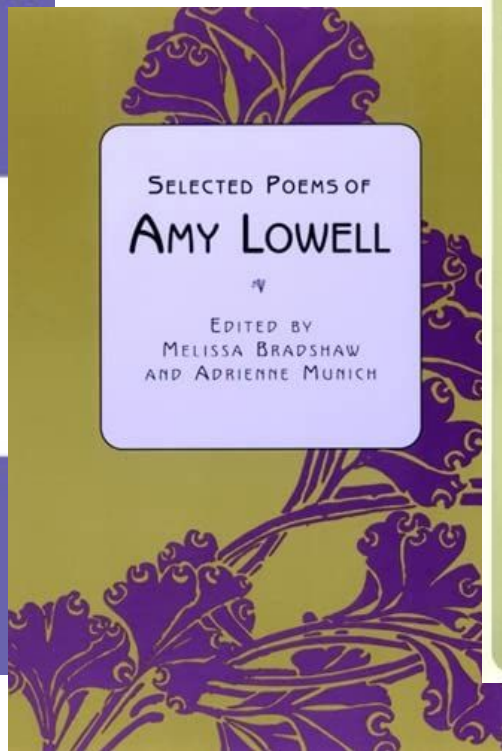
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# Amy Lowell DIVA POET



MELISSA BRADSHAW



edited by Michael P. Murphy  
& Melissa Bradshaw

**“THIS NEED  
TO DANCE  
THIS NEED  
TO KNEEL”**

Denise Levertov and  
the Poetics of Faith

Forthcoming: *Selected Letters of Amy Lowell*, Bloomsbury, 2025

# Why Write a Book Proposal?

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- Because you want to publish with an academic press
- Because you have an idea, but you're not sure if it's a book yet
- Because you have a couple of articles and you want to see if you can develop a through line for a full manuscript

# Why Writing a Book Proposal is HARD

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- Your idea might still be in the idea stage.
- Your idea has started to take shape and you have some things written, but you don't have an argument yet.
- This is the first big project you've written without a committee or an easily accessible intellectual community.
- You're trying to write a different kind of book than you've written before.

# Introductions

[Link to Google sheet](#)

# Parts of the Proposal

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1. Project Description
2. Chapter Summaries
3. Critical Context/Market Analysis
4. Practical Details (Manuscript Specifications and Schedule)

# How This Writing Group Will Work

# What each week will look like:

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1. In-depth introduction to specific part of the proposal or strategies/best practices for writing that part (15 min.)
2. Writing time (may include prompts to get you started, sharing drafts for peer review) (45 min.)



# 9 Weeks

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Week 1 (1/26) Introductions/Overview

Weeks 2 & 3 (2/2, 2/9) Project Descriptions

Weeks 4-6 (2/16, 2/23, 3/1) Chapter Summaries

Weeks 7 & 8 (3/15, 3/22) Market Analysis

Week 9 ( 3/29) Practical Details: ms. specifications, queries

*No meeting 3/8 for Spring Break*

**Questions? Concerns?**