

## **Accessibility Conformance Report (VPAT® 2.5)**

### **Name of Product/Version:**

Sidestone Press – Electronic Publications in PDF

### **Report Date:**

26 February 2026

### **Product Description:**

Digital PDF editions of scholarly books published by Sidestone Press.

### **Contact Information:**

info@sidestone.nl

### **Notes:**

This report applies to PDF publications whose production process began on or after 26 February 2026. Publications initiated prior to this date may not conform to all criteria described below.

### **Evaluation Methods Used:**

PDF files are evaluated using:

- PDF Accessibility Checker (PAC)
- Manual inspection of document structure in Adobe Acrobat
- Internal review of tagging, alternative text, reading order, and metadata

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## **Applicable Standards**

This report covers conformance with:

- WCAG 2.1 Level A and Level AA
- EN 301 549 (where applicable to non-web documents)
- Revised Section 508 (via WCAG 2.1 mapping)

Level AAA has not been evaluated.

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## **WCAG 2.1 Level A Summary**

### **1.1.1 Non-text Content**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Alternative text is provided for meaningful images in new publications. Decorative elements are marked as artifacts.

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### **1.3.1 Info and Relationships**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Documents are structured using paragraph styles in InDesign and exported as tagged PDFs. Headings, paragraphs, lists, and tables are semantically tagged.

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### **1.3.2 Meaningful Sequence**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Logical reading order is maintained through structured tagging and verified during validation.

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### **1.4.1 Use of Color**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Color is not used as the sole means of conveying textual information.

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### **2.4.2 Page Titled**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Document titles and metadata are defined in PDF properties.

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### **2.4.3 Focus Order**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Reading order and tab order are aligned with document structure.

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### **3.1.1 Language of Page**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Document language metadata is set in PDF properties.

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### **4.1.1 Parsing**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Tagged PDFs are generated via structured export and validated using PAC.

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## **WCAG 2.1 Level AA Summary**

### **1.4.3 Contrast (Minimum)**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Text is presented in high-contrast combinations (e.g. black on white).

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### **1.4.5 Images of Text**

**Conformance Level:** Partially Supports

Some figures may contain embedded text. Alternative text descriptions are provided where feasible.

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### **2.4.6 Headings and Labels**

**Conformance Level:** Supports

Heading hierarchy is applied consistently via structured paragraph styles.

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### **3.1.2 Language of Parts**

**Conformance Level:** Partially Supports

Language shifts within documents may not always be individually tagged.

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## **Tables**

Tables are created using native InDesign table structures and exported as tagged PDF tables with header cells.

Due to current export limitations in Adobe InDesign, certain strict PDF/UA validation checks (e.g., explicit header scope metadata) may report warnings in complex cases, although structural relationships are programmatically defined and functional in assistive technologies.

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## **Known Limitations**

- Highly complex visual layouts may require additional manual remediation.
  - Certain PDF/UA technical requirements relating to table header associations may not be fully supported due to export engine limitations.
  - Legacy publications (prior to 26 February 2026 workflow adoption) may not contain alternative text for images.
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### **Backlist Titles**

Publications initiated prior to 26 February 2026 are not fully covered by this VPAT. Many legacy titles contain structured tagging and logical reading order but may lack alternative text or full validation compliance.

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### **Legal Disclaimer**

This Accessibility Conformance Report represents Sidestone Press's good-faith evaluation of its PDF publications based on internal testing and validation methods at the time of publication. Conformance may vary depending on specific assistive technologies and usage environments.