Goodbye, My Havana

**The Life and Times of a Gringa in Revolutionary Cuba**

**Anna Veltfort**

Set against a backdrop of world-changing events during the headiest years of the Cuban Revolution, *Goodbye, My Havana* follows young Connie Veltfort as her once relatively privileged life among a community of anti-imperialist expatriates turns to progressive disillusionment and heartbreak. The consolidation of Castro’s position brings violence, cruelty, and betrayal to Connie’s doorstep. And the crackdown that ultimately forces her family and others to flee for their lives includes homosexuals among its targets—Connie’s coming-of-age story is one also about the dangers of coming out. Looking back with a mixture of hardheaded clarity and tenderness at her alter ego and a forgotten era, with this gripping graphic memoir Anna Veltfort takes leave of the past even as she brings neglected moments of the Cold War into the present.

“Veltfort’s memoir of a rare life’s triumphs and tragedies stands out for its nuanced portrayal.”

—Publishers Weekly

This Atom Bomb in Me

**Lindsey A. Freeman**

*This Atom Bomb in Me* traces what it felt like to grow up suffused with American nuclear culture in and around the atomic city of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. As a secret city during the Manhattan Project, Oak Ridge enriched the uranium that powered Little Boy, the bomb that destroyed Hiroshima. Today, Oak Ridge contains the world’s largest supply of fissionable uranium. The granddaughter of an atomic courier, Lindsey A. Freeman turns a critical yet nostalgic eye to the place where her family was sent as part of a covert government plan. Through memories, mysterious photographs, and uncanny childhood toys, she shows how Reagan-era politics and nuclear culture irradiated the late twentieth century.

“*A beautiful and haunting memoir. An evocative, quietly probing account.*”

—Publishers Weekly

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136 pages, 2019
9781503606890 Paper $18.00 $14.40 sale

240 pages, 2019
97815036010491 Paper $24.00 $19.20 sale
Poetic Thinking Today
An Essay
Amir Eshel
Thinking is much broader than what our science-obsessed, utilitarian culture often takes it to be. More than mere problem solving or the methodical comprehension of our personal and natural circumstances, thinking may take the form of a poem, a painting, a sculpture, a museum exhibition, or a documentary film. Exploring a variety of works by contemporary artists and writers who exemplify poetic thinking, this book draws our attention to one of the crucial affordances of this form of creative human insight and wisdom: its capacity to help protect and cultivate human freedom. In an era characterized by the global reemergence of authoritarian tendencies, Amir Eshel writes with the future of the humanities in mind, urging the acknowledgment and cultivation of poetic thinking.

“This book should be required reading for defenders of the humanities in our current political moment.”
—Lital Levy, Princeton University

240 pages, 2019
9781503610514 Paper $22.00  $17.60 sale

The Long Public Life of a Short Private Poem
Reading and Remembering
Thomas Wyatt
Peter Murphy
Thomas Wyatt didn’t publish “They Flee from Me.” It was written in a notebook, maybe abroad, maybe even in prison. Today it is in every poetry anthology. How did it survive? That is the story Peter Murphy tells—in vivid and compelling detail—of the accidents of fate that kept a great poem alive across 500 turbulent years. From the deadly, fascinating circles of Henry VIII’s court to the contemporary classroom, The Long Public Life of a Short Private Poem also introduces us to a series of worlds. We meet antiquaries, editors, publishers, anthologizers, and critics whose own life stories beckon. And we learn how the poem came to be considered, after many centuries of neglect, a model of the “best” English has to offer.

“Beautifully written and utterly original.”
—John Guillery, New York University

272 pages, 2019
9781503609280 Paper $28.00  $22.40 sale

Ordinary Unhappiness
The Therapeutic Fiction of David Foster Wallace
Jon Baskin
Jon Baskin examines the fiction at the center of Wallace’s oeuvre, placing those works in conversation with a philosophical tradition that includes Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard, and Cavell, among others. What emerges is a Wallace who not only speaks to our postmodern addictions but who seeks to address a quiet desperation at the heart of our modern lives.

“An original, fearless reading of Wallace.”
—James Wood, Harvard University

200 pages, 2019
9781503609303 Paper $22.00  $17.60 sale

Shakesplish
How We Read Shakespeare’s Language
Paula Blank
Drawing on translation theory and linguistics, Paula Blank investigates how and why Shakespeare’s language strikes us, by turns, as beautiful, funny, sexy, or smart, showing how, far from being the fossilized remains of an older idiom, Shakespeare’s English is also our own.

“Shamelessly fun to read.”
—Julia Reinhard Lupton, University of California, Irvine

232 pages, 2018
9781503607576 Paper $24.00  $19.20 sale
The Implicated Subject
Beyond Victims and Perpetrators
Michael Rothberg

When it comes to historical violence and contemporary inequality, none of us are completely innocent. Arguing that the familiar categories of victim, perpetrator, and bystander do not adequately account for our connection to injustices past and present, Michael Rothberg offers a new theory of political responsibility through the figure of the implicated subject. The Implicated Subject builds on Rothberg’s previous influential work on memory to engage in reflection and analysis of cultural texts, archives, and activist movements from such contested zones as transitional South Africa, contemporary Israel/Palestine, post-Holocaust Europe, and a transatlantic realm marked by the afterlives of slavery. As these diverse sites of inquiry indicate, the processes and histories illuminated by implicated subjectivity are legion in our interconnected world. An array of globally prominent artists, writers, and thinkers speak to this interconnection and show how confronting our own implication in difficult histories can lead to new forms of internationalism and long-distance solidarity.

288 pages, 2019
9781503609594 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

The Connected Condition
Romanticism and the Dream of Communication
Yohei Igarashi

The Romantic poet’s intense yearning to share thoughts and feelings often finds expression in a style that thwarts a connection with readers. Yohei Igarashi addresses this paradox by reimagining Romantic poetry as a response to the beginnings of the information age, and the result is a radical reframing of major poets and canonical poems. Considering Samuel Taylor Coleridge as a stenographer, William Wordsworth as a bureaucrat, Percy Shelley amid social networks, and John Keats in relation to telegraphy, Igarashi reveals a shared attraction and skepticism toward the dream of communication. Bringing to bear a singular combination of media studies, the history of communication, sociology, rhetoric, and literary history, The Connected Condition shows that the Romantic poets have much to teach us about living with the connected condition and the fortunes of literature in it.

“Brilliant, nuanced, and elegantly written.”
—Alan Liu, University of California, Santa Barbara

256 pages, 2019
9781503610040 Cloth $60.00 $48.00 sale

Text Technologies
A History
Elaine Treharne and Claude Willan

The field of text technologies is a capacious analytical framework that focuses on all textual records throughout human history, from the earliest periods of traceable communication—perhaps as early as 60,000 BCE—to the present day. At its core, it examines the material history of communication: what constitutes a text, the purposes for which it is intended, how it functions, and the social ends that it serves.

This coursebook can be used to support any pedagogical or research activities in text technologies, the history of the book, the history of information, and textually based work in the digital humanities. Text Technologies: A History will enable students and teachers to generate multiple lines of inquiry into how communication—in its production, form and materiality, and reception—is crucial to any interpretation of culture, history, and society.

222 pages, 2019
9781503603844 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
A Violent Peace
Race, U.S. Militarism, and Cultures of Democratization in Cold War Asia and the Pacific
Christine Hong
This book offers a radical cultural account of the midcentury transformation of the United States into a total-war state. As the Cold War turned hot, writers—including James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and W.E.B. Du Bois—discerned in U.S. domestic strategies to quell racial protests and urban riots the same logic of racial counterintelligence structuring America’s devastating hot wars in Asia. Hong examines the centrality of U.S. militarism to the Cold War cultural imagination. She assembles a transpacific archive—including war writings, Japanese accounts of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, black radical human rights petitions, Filipino novels on guerrilla resistance, and Marshallian critiques of U.S. human radiation experiments—and places these materials alongside U.S. government documents to theorize these works as homologous responses to unchecked U.S. war and police power.

UNESCO and the Fate of the Literary
Sarah Brouillette
A case study of one of the most important global institutions of cultural policy formation, *UNESCO and the Fate of the Literary* demonstrates the relationship between such policymaking and transformations in the economy. Focusing on UNESCO’s use of books, Sarah Brouillette identifies three phases in the agency’s history and explores the literary and cultural programming of each. She charts a trajectory that might appear to be one of triumphant success—literary tourism and festival programming can be quite lucrative for some people—but is also, under a different light, a story of decline.

“In her probe of UNESCO’s transformations, Brouillette skewers the complacency of the reading class. Readers of this book will be enlightened, troubled, and perhaps mortified by their participation in the consolations of the literary world. Her analysis is both necessary and devastating.”

—Wendy Griswold, Northwestern University

Provisional Avant-Gardes
Little Magazine Communities from Dada to Digital
Sophie Seita
Arguing against the notion that the avant-garde is dead or confined to historically “failed” movements, this book offers a more dynamic theory of avant-gardes. *Provisional Avant-Gardes* focuses on the medium of the little magazine—from early Dada experiments to feminist, queer, and digital publishing networks—to understand avant-gardes as provisional, heterogeneous communities. Sophie Seita models a new methodology for writing about avant-garde practice across time, one that is applicable to other artistic and non-artistic communities and that speaks to contemporary practitioners and scholars alike. In the process, she addresses fundamental questions about form and politics, and what we consider to be literature and art.

“Sophie Seita’s marvelously detailed examination of avant-garde and contemporary little magazines lays bare the infrastructures of innovative poetry. Her case studies are as exemplary as they are illuminating.”

—Charles Bernstein, author of *Pitch of Poetry*
Vicious Circuits
Korea’s IMF Cinema and the End of the American Century
Joseph Jonghyun Jeon

In December of 1997, the International Monetary Fund announced the largest bailout package in its history, aimed at stabilizing the South Korean economy in response to a major credit and currency crisis. Vicious Circuits examines what it terms “Korea’s IMF Cinema,” the decade of cinema following that crisis, to consider the transformations of global political economy at the end of the American century. It argues that the cinema that emerged after South Korea’s worst-ever economic crisis was preoccupied with economic phenomena. As the quintessentially corporate art form, film in this context became an ideal site for thinking through the global political economy in the transitional moment of American decline and Chinese ascension.

“Jeon’s critique [is] truly dazzling; he has mastered the art of scalar leaps and dives.”
—Los Angeles Review of Books

NEW IN PAPERBACK
The Work of Art in the Age of Deindustrialization
Jasper Bernes

In this novel account of the relationship between postindustrial capitalism and postmodern culture, Bernes argues that art and literature not only reflected transformations in the workplace but anticipated and may have contributed to them as well, providing some of the terms through which resistance to labor was expressed.

NEW IN PAPERBACK
The Experimental Imagination
Literary Knowledge and Science in the British Enlightenment
Tita Chico

Challenging the “two cultures” debate, this book tells the story of how literariness came to be distinguished from science as a source of truth about the natural and social worlds. Chico shows that early science relied on literary knowledge to present its experimental findings and contends that science was made intellectually possible because its main discoveries and technologies could be articulated in literary terms.
Phonopoetics
The Making of Early Literary Recordings
Jason Camlot
Phonopoetics tells the neglected story of early “talking records” and their significance for literature, from the 1877 invention of the phonograph to some of the first recorded performances of modernist works. The book challenges assumptions of contemporary criticism by taking the recorded, oral performance as its primary object of analysis and by exploring the convergences between audio recording technologies, media formats, generic forms, and the institutions and practices surrounding the literary. Jason Camlot explains the literary significance of these voice artifacts by analyzing early promotional fantasies about the phonograph as a new kind of speaker and initiatives to deploy it as a pedagogical tool to heighten literary experience. Through interpretations of a great variety of voices and media, his history offers an unusual perspective on the transition from the Victorian to Modern periods and sheds new light on our own digitally mediated relationship to the past.

248 pages, 2019
9781503605213 Cloth $55.00 $44.00 sale

Close Reading with Computers
Textual Scholarship, Computational Formalism, and David Mitchell's Cloud Atlas
Martin Paul Eve
Most contemporary digital studies are interested in distant-reading paradigms for large-scale literary history. This book asks what happens when such telescopic techniques function as a microscope instead. The first monograph to bring a range of computational methods to bear on a single novel in a sustained fashion, it focuses on the award-winning and genre-bending Cloud Atlas (2004). Published in two very different versions worldwide without anyone taking much notice, David Mitchell's novel is ideal fodder for a textual-genetic publishing history, reflections on micro-tectonic shifts in language by authors who move between genres, and explorations of how we imagine people wrote in bygone eras. Though Close Reading with Computers focuses on but one novel, it has a crucial exemplary function: author Martin Paul Eve demonstrates a set of methods and provides open-source software tools that others can use in their own literary-critical practices.

272 pages, 2019
9781503609365 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

The Birth and Death of Literary Theory
Regimes of Relevance in Russia and Beyond
Galin Tihanov
Until the 1940s, when awareness of Russian Formalism began to spread, literary theory remained almost exclusively a Russian and Eastern European invention. The Birth and Death of Literary Theory tells the story of literary theory by focusing on its formative interwar decades in Russia. Ranging from Formalism and Bakhtin to the legacy of classic literary theory in our post-deconstruction, world literature era, Galin Tihanov provides answers to two fundamental questions: What does it mean to think about literature theoretically, and what happens to literary theory when this option is no longer available? Asserting radical historicity, he offers us a time-limited way of reflecting upon literature—not in order to write theory’s obituary but to examine its continuous presence across successive regimes of relevance.

“This is intellectual history at its best.”
—Michael Wachtel, Princeton University

272 pages, 2019
9780804785228 Cloth $60.00 $48.00 sale
Two Studies of Friedrich Hölderlin
Werner Hamacher
Edited by Peter Fenves and Julia Ng
Translated by Julia Ng and Anthony Curtis Adler

These essays show how Hölderlin enacts a radical theory of meaning that culminates in a unique and still groundbreaking concept of revolution, one that begins with a revolutionary understanding of language. The product of an intense engagement with both Walter Benjamin and Jacques Derrida, they present Werner Hamacher’s major attempts at developing a critical practice commensurate with the immensity of Hölderlin’s late writings. Readers will not only come away with a new appreciation of Hölderlin’s poetic and political-theoretical achievements but will also discover the motivating force behind Hamacher’s own achievements as a literary scholar and political theorist.

An introduction and afterword provide further information about these studies and the academic and theoretical context in which they were composed.

“A fitting tribute to Werner Hamacher.”
—Susan Bernstein, Brown University

104 pages, 2019
9781503609266 Paper $16.00  $12.80 sale

Creation and Anarchy
The Work of Art and the Religion of Capitalism
Giorgio Agamben
Translated by Adam Kotsko

Creation and the giving of orders are closely entwined in Western culture, where God commands the world into existence and later issues the injunctions known as the Ten Commandments. The arche, or origin, is always also a command, and a beginning is always the first principle that governs and decrees. This is as true for theology, where God not only creates the world but governs through continuous creation, as it is for the philosophical and political tradition according to which beginning and creation will together form a strategic apparatus without which our society would fall apart. Creation and Anarchy aims to deactivate this apparatus through a patient archaeological inquiry into the concepts of work, creation, and command. Exploring every nuance of the arche in search of an an-archic exit strategy, it points to a philosophical thought that might overthrow both the principle and its command.

104 pages, 2019
9781503609266 Paper $16.00  $12.80 sale

Before Trans
Three Gender Stories from Nineteenth-Century France
Rachel Mesch

In Before Trans, Rachel Mesch recovers a more complex history of gender identity by examining the lives of three French writers who expressed their gender in ways that did not conform to nineteenth-century notions of femininity. Jane Dieulafoy, Rachilde, and Marc de Montifaud were each involved in a lifelong effort to articulate a sense of selfhood that did not precisely align with the conventional gender roles of their day. Their intricate, personal stories provide vital historical context for our own efforts to understand the nature of gender identity and the ways in which it might be expressed.

“Before Trans is an exceedingly well-written, layered, and compelling account of three overlapping gender-variant biographies. These stories have never been told together, and Rachel Mesch’s beautiful braiding of their lives and loves, their desires and disappointments, offers a fresh and original take on trans history.”
—Jack Halberstam, author of The Queer Art of Failure

344 pages, May 2020
9781503606739 Cloth $30.00  $24.00 sale
9781503606739 Paper $24.00  $19.20 sale
Iconoclasm As Child’s Play
Joe Moshenska

During the Reformation, rejected sacred objects were not always burned or broken; they were sometimes given to children as toys. Play is usually seen as free and open, while iconoclasm, even to those who deem it necessary, is violent and disenchanting. What does it say these two activities were sometimes one and the same? Drawing on a range of artifacts, artworks, and texts, as well as on ancient and modern theories of iconoclasm and of play, Moshenska argues that this type of iconoclasm has the potential to alter our understanding of the threshold between the religious and the secular, the forms and functions of play, and the nature of historical transformation and continuity.

“This profoundly learned and beautifully written book is the best study of play since Huizinga’s Homo Ludens and even surpasses that landmark work. Endlessly supple yet always sharp, it grows out of one historical epoch to range far afield, from antiquity to our contemporary moment.”
—Gordon Teskey, Harvard University

272 pages, 2019
9780804798501 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

Giving Way
Thoughts on Unappreciated Dispositions
Steven Connor

In a world that promotes assertion, agency, and empowerment, this book challenges us to revalue a range of actions and attitudes that have come to be disregarded or dismissed as merely passive. Mercy, resignation, politeness, restraint, gratitude, abstinence, losing well, apologizing, taking care: today, such behaviors are associated with negativity or lack. But the capacity to give way is better understood as positive action, at once intricate and demanding. Moving from intra-human common courtesies, to human-animal relations, to the global civility of human-inhuman ecological awareness, the book’s argument unfolds on progressively larger scales. At a time when civility is on the wane, Giving Way offers a powerful defense of this versatile human capacity to deflect aggression into sociability and to exercise power over power itself.

“This book is a bold, wide-ranging, and highly original work—a dazzling exercise in what Connor dubs cultural phenomenology.”
—Rita Felski, University of Virginia

248 pages, 2019
9781503610835 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

The Peculiar Afterlife of Slavery
The Chinese Worker and the Minstrel Form
Caroline H. Yang

The Peculiar Afterlife of Slavery explores how antiblack racism lived on through the figure of the Chinese worker in US literature after emancipation. Drawing out the connections between this liminal figure and the formal aesthetics of blackface minstrelsy in literature of the Reconstruction and post-Reconstruction eras, Caroline H. Yang reveals the ways antiblackness structured US cultural production during a crucial moment of reconstructing and re-narrating US empire after the Civil War. Examining texts by major American writers in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries—Harriet Beecher Stowe, Bret Harte, Mark Twain, Ambrose Bierce, Sui Sin Far, and Charles Chesnutt—Yang traces the intertwined histories of blackface minstrelsy and Chinese labor. Her bold re-reading of these authors’ contradictory positions on race and labor sees the figure of the Chinese worker as both hiding and making visible the legacy of slavery and antiblackness.

304 pages, April 2020
9781503612051 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
Giving Form to an Asian and Latinx America
Long Le-Khac

This book reveals the intertwined story of contemporary Asian Americans and Latinx through a shared literary aesthetic. Their transfictional literature creates expansive imagined worlds in which distinct stories coexist, offering artistic shape to their linked political and economic struggles. Read together, Asian American and Latinx literatures convey astonishing diversity and untapped possibilities for coalition within the U.S.’s fastest-growing immigrant and minority communities. As the U.S. population approaches a minority-majority threshold, we urgently need methods that can look across the divisions and unequal positions of the racial system. Giving Form to an Asian and Latinx America leads the way with a vision for the future built on panethnic and cross-racial solidarity.

“Long Le-Khac expertly demonstrates how aesthetic form can reveal solidarities within and across ethnic and racial differences.”

—Crystal Parikh, New York University

264 pages, March 2020
9781503612181 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

The Border and the Line
Race, Literature, and Los Angeles
Dean J. Franco

Los Angeles is a city of borders and lines, from the freeways that transect its neighborhoods to streets that slash from the ocean to downtown, creating both ethnic enclaves and pathways for interracial connection. Examining neighborhoods in east, south central, and west L.A.—and their imaginative representation by Chicana, African American, and Jewish American writers—this book investigates the moral and political implications of negotiating space. Through the central conceit of “the neighbor,” it considers how the geography of racial identification and interracial encounters are represented and even made possible by literary language.

“Dean Franco’s vibrant prose and dexterous analysis make The Border and the Line a significant contribution to the study of U.S. ethnic literatures. So much more than a regional case study, this book gifts us a comparative imaginary as far-reaching as it is urgently needed.”

—Keith Feldman, University of California, Berkeley

224 pages, 2019
9781503607774 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

Reading Israel, Reading America
The Politics of Translation between Jews
Omri Asscher

Asscher explores how translation shapes readings of Israeli literature in the United States and American Jewish literature in Israel.

256 pages, 2019
9781503610934 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

The Converso’s Return
Conversion and Sephardi History in Contemporary Literature and Culture
Dalia Kandiyoti

Steeped in diaspora, Sephardi, transamerican, Iberian, and world literature studies, The Converso’s Return enriches our understanding of history, genealogy, and collective memory.

320 pages, August 2020
9781503612433 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

Tubercular Capital
Illness and the Conditions of Modern Jewish Writing
Sunny S. Yudkoff

Winner of the 2018 Salo Wittmayer Baron Book Prize, sponsored by the American Academy for Jewish Research

Tubercular Capital tells the story of Yiddish and Hebrew writers whose lives and work were transformed by a tuberculosis diagnosis, reconsidering the foundational relationship between disease, biography, and literature.

256 pages, 2018
9781503605152 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

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9781503605152 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale
The Chinese Deathscape
*Grave Reform in Modern China*
Edited by Thomas S. Mullaney

In the past decade alone, more than ten million corpses have been exhumed and reburied across the Chinese landscape. In this digital volume, three historians of China, Jeffrey Snyder-Reinke, Christian Henriot, and Thomas S. Mullaney, chart out the history of China’s rapidly shifting deathscape. Each essay grapples with a different dimension of grave relocation and burial reform in China over the past three centuries.

Black Quotidian
*Everyday History in African-American Newspapers*
Matthew F. Delmont

*Black Quotidian* explores everyday lives of African Americans in the twentieth century. Drawing on an archive of digitized African-American newspapers, Matthew F. Delmont guides readers through a wealth of primary resources that reveal how the Black press popularized African-American history and valued the lives of both famous and ordinary people.

Constructing the Sacred
*Visibility and Ritual Landscape at the Egyptian Necropolis of Saqqara*
Elaine Sullivan

Utilizing 3D technologies, *Constructing the Sacred* addresses ancient ritual landscape from a unique perspective to examine development at the complex, long-lived archaeological site of Saqqara, Egypt. Sullivan focuses on how changes in the built and natural environment affected burial rituals at the temple due to changes in visibility.

Feral Atlas
*The More-Than-Human Anthropocene*
Edited by Anna L. Tsing, Jennifer Deger, Alder Keleman Saxena, and Feifei Zhou

Convening over one hundred researchers, *Feral Atlas* offers an original and playful approach to studying the Anthropocene. Focused on the ways that human interventions give rise to feral ecologies, the editors explore the structures and qualities that lie at the heart of these feral phenomena.