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READING JOHN MILTON

How toPersist in Troubled Times

STEPHEN B. DOBRANSKI

A CAPTIVATING BIOGRAPHY THAT CELEBRATES THE AUDACIOUS, INSPIRING LIFE AND WORKS OF JOHN MILTON, REVEALING HOW HE SPEAKS TO OUR TIMES.

John Milton is unrivalled—for the music of his verse and the breadth of his learning. In this brisk, topical, and engaging biography, Stephen B. Dobranski brushes the scholarly dust from the portrait of the artist to reveal Milton’s essential humanity and his unwavering commitment to ideals—freedom of religion and the right and responsibility of all persons to think for themselves—that are still relevant and necessary in our times.

Milton’s epic poem, Paradise Lost, is considered by many to be English poetry’s masterpiece. Samuel Johnson, not one for effusive praise, claimed that from Milton’s “books alone the Art of English Poetry might be learned.” But Milton’s renown rests on more than his artistic achievements. In a time of convulsive political turmoil, he justified the killing of a king, pioneered free speech, and publicly defended divorce. He was, in short, an iconoclast, an independent, even revolutionary, thinker. He was also an imperfect man—acrimonious, sometimes mean. Above all, he understood adversity. Afflicted by blindness, illness, and political imprisonment, Milton always sought to “bear up and steer right onward” through life’s hardships.

Dobranski looks beyond Milton’s academic standing, beyond his reputation as a dour and devout purist, to reveal the ongoing power of his works and the dauntless courage that he both wrote about and exemplified.

Stephen B. Dobranski is Distinguished University Professor at Georgia State University and the editor of the journal Milton Studies. His books include Milton’s Visual Imagination (2015), Readers and Authorship in Early Modern England (2005), and a new edition of Paradise Lost (2022). He lives in Atlanta, Georgia, with his wife and their daughter.

“Reading John Milton is an erudite and lively guide both to Milton’s turbulent life and his riveting writings and makes a powerful case for the excitement of engaging with him in our contemporary moment.”

—Joe Moshenska, author of Making Darkness Light: A Life of John Milton

“This contemporary, informed, accessible introduction to Milton’s life is the one book I might share with literally anyone who cares about language and literature. Dobranski reminds us that Milton was a public intellectual, and offers him back to us.”

—Wendy Furman-Adams, coeditor of Riven Unities: Authority and Experience, Self and Other in Milton’s Poetry

“Ingeniously organized around a biographical core, this full-throated celebration of the work and thought of John Milton heartily commends him to readers of our own age.”

—Thomas N. Corns, coauthor of John Milton: Life, Work, and Thought

SEPTEMBER 2022 328 pages | 6x9
41 halftones
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Biography
WHAT DOES THE TERM "READING" MEAN? MATTHEW RUBERY’S EXPLORATION OF THE INFLUENCE NEURODIVERGENCE HAS ON THE WAYS INDIVIDUALS READ ASKS US TO CONSIDER THAT THERE MAY BE NO ONE DEFINITION.

In this alternative history of reading Matthew Rubery tells the stories of “atypical” readers and the impact had on their lives by neurological conditions affecting their ability to make sense of the printed word: from dyslexia, hyperlexia, and alexia to synesthesia, hallucinations, and dementia. Rubery’s focus on neurodiversity aims to transform our understanding of the very concept of reading.

Drawing on personal testimonies gathered from literature, film, life writing, social media, medical case studies, and other sources to express how cognitive differences have shaped people’s experiences both on and off the page, Rubery contends that there is no single activity known as reading. Instead, there are multiple ways of reading (and, for that matter, not reading) despite the ease with which we use the term. Pushing us to rethink what it means to read, Reader’s Block moves toward an understanding of reading as a spectrum that is capacious enough to accommodate the full range of activities documented in this fascinating and highly original book.

Read it from cover to cover, out of sequence, or piecemeal. Read it upside down, sideways, or in a mirror. For just as there is no right way to read, there is no right way to read this book. What matters is that you are doing something with it—something that Rubery proposes should be called “reading.”

“This fascinating, important book will be of interest to anyone who cares about reading.”
—Paul Armstrong, author of Stories and the Brain

“This is a fascinating, innovative, and skillful book which presents its deep research and learning fluently and lightly. Thought-provoking, timely, and moving, Reader’s Block is essential reading for those interested in disability studies and the history of the book.”
—Sophie Ratcliffe, author of The Lost Properties of Love

“A thoughtful and timely survey of neurodivergent readers’ singular, complex, sometimes fraught relationship with the written word.”
—Daniel Tammet, author of Every Word is a Bird We Teach to Sing

Matthew Rubery is Professor of Modern Literature at Queen Mary University of London. He is the author of The Untold Story of the Talking Book (2016) and co-editor of Further Reading (2020).
THE CULTURE TRANSPLANT
How Migrants Make the Economies They Move To a Lot Like the Ones They Left
GARETT JONES

A PROVOCATIVE NEW ANALYSIS OF IMMIGRATION’S LONG-TERM EFFECTS ON A NATION’S ECONOMY AND CULTURE.

Over the last two decades, as economists have uncovered the best predictors of national prosperity around the world, one of their repeated findings has been that cultural factors are robust predictors of economic performance. In The Culture Transplant, Garett Jones documents the cultural foundations of cross-country income differences, and draws on recent research showing that immigrants bring economically important cultural attitudes that persist for decades, even centuries, in their new national homes. And since a nation’s citizens shape a nation’s culture, its government, and its behavioral norms, that means migration will shape the rules of the game for a nation’s economy. So it is, Jones demonstrates, that the cultural traits migrants bring to their new homes have enduring effects upon a nation’s economic potential and proximate causes of both poverty and future prosperity.

Built upon mainstream, well-reviewed academic research that hasn’t pierced the public consciousness, The Culture Transplant will appeal to a broad range of readers at the intersection of cultural anthropology and economics. The book offers a compelling refutation of an unspoken consensus that a nation’s economic and political institutions are overwhelmingly exogenous to migration, that migration policy can be discussed without considering whether migration will, over a few generations, have substantial effects on the economic and political institutions of a nation. Dispelling myths of causation and assimilation, Jones reveals it’s not just the cultural traits or ancestral success, but also deep roots of institutional quality and good governance that fosters prosperity from migrants.

Garett Jones is Associate Professor of Economics at the Center for Study of Public Choice, George Mason University. His is the author of 10% Less Democracy: Why You Should Trust Elites a Little More and the Masses a Little Less (Stanford, 2020) and Hive Mind: How Your Nation’s IQ Matters So Much More Than Your Own (Stanford, 2015).
UNDESIRABLES
A Holocaust Journey to North Africa

AOMAR BOUM,
Illustrated by NADJIB BERBER

In this gripping graphic novel, a Jewish journalist encounters the horrors of the Holocaust in North Africa.

In the lead-up to World War II, the rising tide of fascism and antisemitism in Europe foreshadowed Hitler’s genocidal campaign against Jews. But the horrors of the Holocaust were not limited to the concentration camps of Europe: antisemitic terror spread through Vichy French imperial channels to France’s colonies in North Africa, where in the forced labor camps of Algeria and Morocco, Jews and other “undesirables” faced brutal conditions and struggled to survive in an unforgiving landscape quite unlike Europe. In this richly historical graphic novel, historian Aomar Boum and illustrator Nadjib Berber take us inside this lesser-known side of the traumas wrought by the Holocaust by following one man’s journey as a Holocaust refugee.

Hans Frank is a Jewish journalist covering politics in Berlin, who grows increasingly uneasy as he witnesses the Nazi Party consolidate power and decides to flee Germany. Through connections with a transnational network of activists organizing against fascism and anti-Semitism, Hans ultimately lands in French Algeria, where days after his arrival, the Vichy regime designates all foreign Jews as “undesirables” and calls for their internment. On his way to Morocco, he is detained by Vichy authorities and interned first at Le Vernet, then later transported to different camps in the deserts of Morocco and Algeria. With memories of his former life as a political journalist receding like a dream, Hans spends the next year and a half in forced labor camps, hearing the stories of others whose lives have been upended by violence and war.

Through bold illustrations that convey the tension of the coming war and the grimness of the Vichy camps, Aomar Boum and Nadjib Berber capture the experiences of thousands of refugees through the fictional Hans, chronicling how the traumas of the Holocaust extended far beyond the borders of Europe.

Aomar Boum is Maurice Amado Chair in Sephardic Studies in the Departments of Anthropology, Near Eastern Languages and Cultures, and History at the University of California, Los Angeles.

Nadjib Berber is an American-Algerian comic artist. He worked as a political cartoonist for the Algerian press (African Revolution, El Djoumhouria).
Deftly solving critical but intractable national and global problems was the leitmotif of George Pratt Shultz’s life. No one at the highest levels of the United States government did it better or with greater consequence in the last half of the 20th century, often against withering resistance. His quiet, effective leadership altered the arc of history. While political, social, and cultural dynamics have changed profoundly since Shultz served at the commanding heights of American power in the 1970s and 1980s, his legacy and the lessons of his career have even greater meaning now that the Shultz brand of conservatism has been almost erased in the modern Republican Party.

This book, from longtime New York Times Washington reporter Philip Taubman, restores the modest Shultz to his central place in American history. Taubman reveals Shultz’s gift for forging relationships with people and then harnessing the rapport to address national and international challenges, under his motto “trust is the coin of the realm”—as well as his difficulty standing up for his principles, motivated by a powerful sense of loyalty that often trapped him in inaction. Based on exclusive access to Shultz’s personal papers, housed in a sealed archive at the Hoover Institution, In the Nation’s Service offers a remarkable insider account of the behind-the-scenes struggles of the statesman who played a pivotal role in unwinding the Cold War.

Philip Taubman is a consulting professor at Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation. Before joining CISAC, Mr. Taubman worked at the New York Times as a reporter and editor for nearly 30 years, specializing in national security issues, including intelligence and defense policies and operations. He is author of The Partnership: Five Cold Warriors and Their Quest to Ban the Bomb (2012) and Secret Empire: Eisenhower, the CIA, and the Hidden Story of America’s Space Espionage (2003).
RACE IN THE MACHINE
A Novel Account
QUINCY THOMAS STEWART

AN INTELLIGENT MACHINE BUILT TO STUDY METHODS OF SOCIAL WARFARE STRUGGLES TO UNDERSTAND AND COMMUNICATE THE LIVED EXPERIENCE OF RACE.

In a narrative full of social significance and poetically decorated with monks, vampires, and mythical statistics, Race in the Machine presents a world where the stories we use to explain race all simultaneously exist, within and around us, dictating our interactions and innermost beliefs.

The nameless protagonist, an enigmatic social mechanic at Nearbay Institute, living in a population of socially connected intelligent machines, encounters a simple query in the context of an introductory lecture: “What exactly is race? And what is it in the context of the social machine?” This prompt guides the protagonist along a twisting intellectual tale surrounding a series of experiments that explore: How many racists does it take to create systems of inequality? What role do non-racists actors play in upholding them? How is bias learned? How does it spread?

The narrator develops a distinct understanding of race through the figurative bending of time, dreams of a “race code,” and by confronting a series of mysterious communications that remain just outside comprehension. Over the course of this journey, the answers to important questions about racial inequality quietly emerge for the protagonist. Scholarly encounters with both antagonistic colleagues and unexpected allies culminate when the hero is forced to reach a devastating conclusion about themself and the world.

Stirring and luminous, Race in the Machine deftly oscillates between the allegorically simplified and the impossibly complex to weave an utterly unique and nuanced portrait of race in the modern world.

Quincy Thomas Stewart is Associate Professor of Sociology at Northwestern University. He has published on quantitative methods, mathematical demography, and racial and ethnic inequities. Formerly, he was a Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research at the University of Michigan and an Associate Professor of Sociology at Indiana University.

“Stewart’s imaginative writing is best described as David Foster Wallace meets W.E.B Du Bois. Using a novel literary device, Stewart breathes fresh life into the computational sociology of race and racism. This book is a subtle, introspective work that captivates the reader through an Afrofuturist exploration of scientific methodology, social inequity and the human condition.”

—Damon Centola, University of Pennsylvania
HINGE POINTS
An Inside Look at North Korea’s Nuclear Program
SIEGFRIED S. HECKER, with ELLIOT A. SERBIN

North Korea remains a puzzle to Americans. It is difficult for the general reader to assess the real danger North Korea and its current enigmatic leader, Kim Jong Un, pose. How did North Korea, one of the poorest and most isolated countries in the world, in the crosshairs of every U.S. administration during the past 30 years, progress from no nuclear weapons in 2001 to a threatening arsenal of 30 to 50 weapons in 2021? Hinge Points posits that the conventional wisdom that America’s good faith diplomatic efforts were circumvented by the North’s repeated violations of diplomatic agreements is neither true nor helpful. The book takes a different look at the problem, one of critical introspection that combines rigorous analysis of political and technical developments.

Based on his visits to North Korea and an in-depth analysis of the political and technical developments there, Hecker argues that decisions should have been based on technically informed risk/benefit analysis seeking to manage the risks as best as possible, instead of trying to drive them to zero. Hinge Points reviews common-mode failures of the three administrations, including a needlessly heavy reliance on Beijing, ineffective utilization of sanctions as a policy tool, the lack of a holistic approach to peace on the Korean Peninsula, and the failure to properly prioritize and recognize the seriousness of the North Korean nuclear threat. The book describes the political landscapes in the Bush, Obama, and Trump administrations that led to “hinge points,” and provides detailed assessments of North Korea’s nuclear and missile programs at those times to demonstrate how Washington’s response missed the mark, leading to the crisis we face today.

Siegfried S. Hecker is Professor Emeritus in the Department of Management Science and Engineering and Senior Fellow Emeritus at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI) at Stanford University. He was co-director of Stanford University’s Center for International Security and Cooperation from 2007-2012. From 1986 to 1997, he served as the fifth Director of the Los Alamos National Laboratory.
When Indian leaders first took control of their government in 1947, they proclaimed the ideals of national unity and secular democracy. Through the first half century of nation-building, leaders could point to uneven but measurable progress on key goals, and after the mid-1980s, dire poverty declined for a few decades, inspiring declarations of victory. But today, a vast majority of Indians live in a state of underemployment and are one crisis away from despair. Public goods—health, education, cities, air and water, and the judiciary—are in woeful condition. And good jobs will remain scarce as long as that is the case. The lack of jobs will further undermine democracy, which will further undermine job creation. *India is Broken* provides the most persuasive account available of this economic catch-22.

Challenging prevailing narratives, Mody contends that successive post-independence leaders, starting with its first Prime Minister, Jawaharlal Nehru, failed to confront India’s true economic problems, seeking easy solutions instead. As a popular frustration grew, and corruption in politics became pervasive, India’s economic growth relied increasingly on unregulated finance and environmentally destructive construction. The rise of a violent Hindu nationalism has buried all prior norms in civic life and public accountability.

Combining statistical data with creative media, such as literature and cinema, to create strong, accessible, people-driven narratives, this book is a meditation on the interplay between democracy and economic progress, with lessons extending far beyond India. Mody proposes a path forward that is fraught with its own peril, but which nevertheless offers something resembling hope.

_Ashoka Mody_ is an economic historian at Princeton’s School of Public and International Affairs. Formerly, he worked at the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. He is the author of *EuroTragedy: A Drama in Nine Acts* (2018), and his writing appears often in outlets such as *Financial Times, Project Syndicate*, and *Bloomberg View*.

“This book is the most sustained, accessible, and trenchantly argued alternative account of India’s political economy and democratic crisis that I have seen in many years. Engaging and well written, it tells a striking and disturbing story. A major achievement.”
—Thomas Blom Hansen, Stanford University

“A compellingly readable history of Indian politics and economics since independence. This is a magisterial account of how any democracy, even the world’s largest, can be destroyed from within. Based on immense scholarship, it also uses great storytelling. Hard to put down!”
—Angus Deaton, Nobel Laureate in Economics
HOW TO LIVE AT THE END OF THE WORLD

Theory, Art, and Politics for the Anthropocene

TRAVIS HOLLOWAY

ASSESSING THE DAWN OF THE ANTHROPOCENE ERA, A POET AND PHILOSOPHER ASKS: HOW DO WE LIVE AT THE END OF THE WORLD?

The end of the Holocene era is marked not just by melting glaciers or epic droughts, but by the near universal disappearance of shared social enterprise: the ruling class builds walls and lunar shuttles, while the rest of us contend with the atrophy of institutional integrity and the utter abdication of providing even minimal shelter from looming disaster.

The irony of the Anthropocene era is that, in a neoliberal culture of the self, it is forcing us to consider ourselves as a collective again. For those of us who are not wealthy enough to start a colony on Mars or isolate ourselves from the world, the Anthropocene ends the fantasy of sheer individualism and worldlessness once and for all. It introduces a profound sense of time and events after the so-called “end of history” and an entirely new approach to solidarity.

How to Live at the End of the World is a hopeful exploration of how we might inherit the name “Anthropocene,” narrate it, and revise our way of life or thought in view of it. In his book on time, art, and politics in an era of escalating climate change, Holloway takes up difficult, unanswered questions in recent work by Donna Haraway, Kathryn Yusoff, Bruno Latour, Dipesh Chakrabarty, and Isabelle Stengers, sketching a path toward a radical form of democracy—a zoocracy, or a rule of all of the living.

“A magnificent achievement. Beautifully written and of our time.”
—Peg Birmingham, editor of Philosophy Today

“A powerful and generative text that will help the reader negotiate these disorienting times.”
—Dipesh Chakrabarty, author of The Climate of History in a Planetary Age

“Holloway offers us a narrative of human history, art, and politics capable of shaping the beginning of a new and more collective world.”
—Anthony Morgan, editor of The Philosopher

Travis Holloway grew up queer and working class in a rural factory town affected by free trade and globalization. He is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at SUNY Farmingdale and a poet and former Goldwater Fellow in Creative Writing at NYU.
LETHAL INJECTION AND THE FALSE PROMISE OF HUMANE EXECUTION

AUSTIN SARAT

WITH A HISTORY MARKED BY INCOMPETENCE, POLITICAL MANEUVERING, AND SECRECY, AMERICA’S “MOST HUMANE” EXECUTION METHOD IS ANYTHING BUT.

From the beginning of the Republic, this country has struggled to reconcile its use of capital punishment with the Constitution’s prohibition of cruel punishment. Death penalty proponents argue both that it is justifiable as a response to particularly heinous crimes, and that it serves to deter others from committing them in the future. However, since the earliest executions, abolitionists have fought against this state-sanctioned killing, arguing, among other things, that the methods of execution have frequently been just as gruesome as the crimes meriting their use. Lethal injection was first introduced in order to quell such objections, but, as Austin Sarat shows in this brief history, its supporters’ commitment to painless and humane death has never been certain.

This book tells the story of lethal injection’s earliest iterations in the United States, starting with New York state’s rejection of that execution method almost a century and a half ago. Sarat recounts lethal injection’s return in the late 1970s, and offers novel and insightful scrutiny of the new drug protocols that went into effect between 2010 and 2020. Drawing on rare data, he makes the case that lethal injections during this time only became more unreliable, inefficient, and more frequently botched. Beyond his stirring narrative history, Sarat mounts a comprehensive condemnation of the state-level maneuvering in response to such mishaps, whereby death penalty states adopted secrecy statutes and adjusted their execution protocols to make it harder to identify and observe lethal injection’s flaws.

What was once touted as America’s most humane execution method is now its most unreliable one. What was once a model of efficiency in the grim business of state killing is now marked by mayhem. The book concludes by critically examining the place of lethal injection, and the death penalty writ large, today.

Austin Sarat is William Nelson Cromwell Professor of Jurisprudence and Political Science and Chair of Political Science at Amherst College. He is the author, most recently, of Gruesome Spectacles: Botched Executions and America’s Death Penalty (Stanford, 2014) and The Death Penalty on the Ballot (2019).

“This book does more to unmask lethal injection’s everyday cruelty than any other book that I know. Sarat writes with clarity and compassion, and anyone interested in justice would be well advised to read his words.”
—Sister Helen Prejean, author of Dead Man Walking

“This enormously readable book uncovers the troubled history and failed promise of lethal injection and is sure to help change our national conversation about capital punishment.”
—Harlan Coben, #1 New York Times-bestselling author

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ACADEMIC OUTSIDER

Stories of Exclusion and Hope

VICTORIA REYES

Tenure-track, published author, recipient of prestigious fellowships and awards—these credentials mark Victoria Reyes as an insider of the academy. Woman of color, family history of sexual violence, first generation, mother—these qualities place Reyes on the margins: a person who does not see herself reflected in its models of excellence.

This contradiction allows Reyes to theorize the conditional citizenship of academic life—a liminal status occupied by a rapidly growing proportion of the academy, as the majority-white, -male, and -affluent space simultaneously transforms and resists transformation. Reyes blends her own personal experiences with the tools of sociology to lay bare the ways in which the structures of the university and the people working within it continue to keep their traditionally marginalized members relegated to symbolic status, somewhere outside the center. Her searing commentary takes on, with sensitivity and fury, the urgent call for academic justice.

Victoria Reyes is Assistant Professor in the Department of Gender & Sexuality Studies at University of California, Riverside. She is the author of multi-award-winning book Global Borderlands (Stanford, 2019), which was named a 2020 CHOICE Outstanding Academic Title.

THE FUTURE OF DECLINE

Anglo-American Culture at Its Limits

JED ESTY

The debate over the US’s fading hegemony has raged for 50 years, glutting the market with prophecies about decline. Media experts ask how fast we will fall and how much we will lose, but generally ignore the fundamental question: What does decline mean?

Drawing on the example of post-WWII Britain and looking ahead at 2020s America, Jed Esty suggests that becoming a second-place nation is neither disastrous, as alarmists claim, nor avoidable, as optimists insist. Contemporary declinism often masks white nostalgia and perpetuates a conservative longing for Cold War certainty. But the narcissistic lure of “lost greatness” appeals across the political spectrum. As Esty argues, it resonates so widely in mainstream media because Americans have lost access to a language of national purpose beyond global supremacy. It is time to shelve the shopworn fables of endless US dominance, and to tell new American stories. This book is a guide to finding them.

Jed Esty is the Vartan Gregorian Professor of English at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of A Shrinking Island (2004) and Unseasonable Youth (2012).

UNLEASH YOUR COMPLEXITY GENIUS

Growing Your Inner Capacity to Lead

JENNIFER GARVEY BERGER and CAROLYN COUGHLIN

This book offers a set of practices that help you not only understand complexity but actually hack into your nervous system to bring your natural capacities for connection, engagement and creativity back online. We do this by helping the body’s natural complexity management gifts take charge: by learning to notice and shift our nervous systems through rest, movement, and experimentation; by developing a new relationship to our emotions; by leaning into connections and love; and shifting our engagement to our surrounding environment. In doing so we create the conditions to thrive in a complex world by making best use of the natural resources we already have.

Jennifer Garvey Berger is Chief Cultivating Officer and Founder, Cultivating Leadership, a consultancy that serves executives and executive teams in the private, non-profit, and government sectors. She is the author of Unlocking Leadership Mindtraps: Changing on the Job: Developing Leaders for a Complex World.

Carolyn Coughlin is Board Co-Chair and Founder, Cultivating Leadership. She has been an executive coach, facilitator, and leadership development specialist for over 15 years.
In contemporary accounts of the Shining Path insurgency and Peru’s internal war, the Upper Huallaga Valley has largely been overlooked. Yet its former place as the country’s main cocaine-producing region meant that it was a central if more covert and evasive location where the conflict unfolded. From afar, the region became a political and legal no man’s land. Up close, vibrant networks of connection endured despite strict controls on human habitation and movement. This book asks what happens to such a place once prolonged conflict has ostensibly passed. How have ordinary experiences of land, territory, and law, and of the river that runs through them all, been altered in the aftermaths of war?

Gathering stories and images to capture the experiences of transportation workers who have ferried passengers and things across and along the river for decades, Richard Kernaghan advances the notion of legal topographies to understand how landscape interventions shape routes, cut across territories, and muddle temporalities. Drawing on personal narratives and everyday practices of transit, this ethnography conveys how prior times of violence have silently accrued: in bridges and roads demolished, then rebuilt; in makeshift moorings that facilitate both licit and illegal trades; and above all through the river, a liquid barrier and current with unstable banks, whose intricate mesh of tributaries partitions terrains now laden with material traces and political effects of a recent yet far-from-finished past.

Richard Kernaghan is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the University of Florida. He is the author of Coca’s Gone: Of Might and Right in the Huallaga Post-Boom (Stanford, 2009).

The future of Honduras begins and ends on the white sand beaches of Tela Bay on the country’s northeastern coast, where Garifuna, a Black Indigenous people, have resided for over two hundred years. In The Ends of Paradise, Christopher Loperena examines the Garifuna struggle for life and collective autonomy, and demonstrates how this struggle challenges concerted efforts by the state and multilateral institutions, such as the World Bank, to render both their lands and their culture into fungible tourism products. Using a combination of participant observation, courtroom ethnography, and archival research, Loperena reveals how purportedly inclusive tourism projects form part of a larger neoliberal, extractivist development regime, which remakes Black and Indigenous territories into frontiers of progress for the mestizo majority. The book offers a trenchant analysis of the ways Black dispossession and displacement are carried forth through the conferment of individual rights and freedoms, a prerequisite for resource exploitation under contemporary capitalism.

By demanding to be accounted for on their terms, Garifuna anchor blackness to Central America—a place where Black peoples are presumed to be nonnative inhabitants—and to collective land rights. Steeped in Loperena’s long-term activist engagement with Garifuna land defenders, this book is a testament to their struggle and to the promise of “another world” in which Black and Indigenous peoples thrive.

Christopher Loperena is Associate Professor of Anthropology at the Graduate Center, City University of New York.
Perpetrators of mass violence are commonly regarded as evil. Their violent nature is believed to make them commit heinous crimes as members of state agencies, insurgencies, terrorist organizations, or racist and supremacist groups. Upon close examination, however, perpetrators are contradictory human beings who often lead unsettlingly ordinary and uneventful lives. Drawing on decades of on-the-ground research with perpetrators of genocide, mass violence, and enforced disappearances in Cambodia and Argentina, Antonius C.G.M. Robben and Alex Hinton explore how researchers go about not just interviewing and writing about perpetrators, but also processing their own emotions and considering how the personal and interpersonal impact of this sort of research informs the texts that emerge from them.

Through interlinked ethnographic essays, methodological and theoretical reflections, and dialogues between the two authors, this thought-provoking book conveys practical wisdom for the benefit of other researchers who face ruthless perpetrators and experience turbulent emotions when listening to perpetrators and their victims. Perpetrators rarely regard themselves as such, and fieldwork with perpetrators makes for situations freighted with emotion. Research with perpetrators is a difficult but important piece of understanding the causes of and creating solutions to mass violence, and Robben and Hinton use their expertise to provide insightful lessons on the epistemological, ethical, and emotional challenges of ethnographic fieldwork in the wake of atrocity.

Antonius C.G.M. Robben is Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at Utrecht University in the Netherlands. He is the author of *Argentina Betrayed: Memory, Mourning, and Accountability* (2018) and *Political Violence and Trauma in Argentina* (2005).

Alexander Laban Hinton is Distinguished Professor of Anthropology at Rutgers University and UNESCO Chair in Genocide Prevention. He is the author of *The Justice Facade: Trials of Transition in*...
Grounded in extensive interviews, longitudinal ethnography, historical analysis, and archival work, *Political Children* shows how two distinct groups of working young people in Lima, Peru, have become political protagonists, resisting and critiquing the daily inequality and injustice they face. She details the ways marginalized youth interpret and address a range of issues affecting their lives—from environmental degradation to second-rate public facilities, gender-based violence to dangerous working conditions—and reveals a range of ways they make sense of their systematic marginalization and their own labor, and in doing so, how they navigate everyday state violence.

By attending to the affect, longing, and desires that animate these young people’s politics, Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland conveys the meaning of their lives and work in an economy that invokes their subjectivity and rights while rendering them non-participatory subjects. Though the lives of young people are often imagined as far from politics, these political children expose the contradictions of public policy narratives in which the Peruvian state is cast as a neutral site for engagement and action. Through their criticism and activism, the young people in this book demonstrate that such narratives divorce state power from the very places in which it is experienced as structural violence.

Mikaela Luttrell-Rowland is Senior Director of the Gender, Law, and Transformative Peace Institute at the City University of New York School of Law.

This book offers the first social and intellectual history of Dalit performance of Tamasha—a form of popular, secular, traveling theater—and places Dalit Tamasha women at the heart of modernization in India. Deploying the vernacular as method and drawing on untapped Marathi archival materials, ethnographies, popular writings, and films, Shailaja Paik argues that Dalit performers, activists, and leaders negotiated the violence, brutality, exploitation, and stigma in Tamasha as they struggled to claim manuski (human dignity) and transform themselves from ashlil (vulgar) to assli (authentic) and manus (human beings). In doing so, Paik illuminates how Dalit Tamasha women bent patriarchal pressures both inside and outside the Dalit community and became foundational actors in conflicts over caste, class, culture, gender, and sexuality.

Building on and departing from the Ambedkar-centered historiography and movement-focused approach of Dalit studies, Paik examines the ordinary and everyday in Dalit lives, both illustrating how sexuality and the ashlil framed the political recognition and political constituency of the new assli Dalit community. Ultimately, Paik illustrates how the choices that communities make about culture speak to much larger questions about inclusion, inequality, and structures of violence of caste within Indian society, and open up new approaches for the transformative potential of Dalit politics and the global history of gender, sexuality, and the human.

Shailaja Paik is Associate Professor of History at the University of Cincinnati. She is the author of *Dalit Women’s Education in Modern India: Double Discrimination* (2014).
From its rise in the 1830s to its pinnacle in the 1930s, the opium trade was a guiding force in the Chinese political economy. Opium money was inextricably bound up in local, national, and imperial finances, and the people who piloted the trade were integral to the fabric of Chinese society. In this book, Peter Thilly narrates the dangerous lives and shrewd business operations of opium traffickers in southeast China, situating them within a global history of capitalism. By tracing the evolution of the opium trade from clandestine offshore agreements in the 1830s to multi-million dollar prohibition bureau contracts in the 1930s, Thilly demonstrates how the modernizing Chinese state was infiltrated, manipulated, and profoundly transformed by opium profiteers.

Opium merchants carried the drug by sea, over mountains, and up rivers, with leading traders establishing monopolies over trade routes and territories and assembling “opium armies” to protect their businesses. Over time, and as their ranks grew, these organizations became more bureaucratized and militarized, mimicking—and then eventually influencing, infiltrating, or supplanting—the state. Through the chaos of revolution, warlordism, and foreign invasion, opium traders diligently expanded their power through corruption, bribery, and direct collaboration with the state. Drug traders mattered—not only in the seedy ways in which they have been caricatured, but also, crucially, as shadowy architects of statecraft and China’s evolution on the world stage.

Peter Thilly is Assistant Professor of History at the University of Mississippi.

“Peter Thilly’s meticulously detailed study of opium-smuggling networks in coastal China is an invaluable addition to the rapidly growing literature on the nineteenth-century opium trade, and it throws much-needed light on some under-researched aspects of the connections between drugs and capitalism.”

—Amitav Ghosh, author of Sea of Poppies

“Despite a vast literature on its eponymous wars, the social history of opium remains largely untold. Thilly’s book shows us opium as crop, as commodity, as object of regulation, and as the source of great fortunes. We see the drug touching the lives of a huge range of people: farmers, smugglers, bureaucrats, and ‘opium kings.’ It’s a fascinating story, well-told, and rich in contemporary overtones.”

—Michael Szonyi, Director, Fairbank Center for Chinese Studies, Harvard University
India imposes stringent criminal penalties, including life imprisonment in some states, for cow slaughter, based on a Hindu ethic of revering the cow as sacred. And yet India is also among the world’s leading producers of beef, leather, and milk. What is behind this seeming contradiction? What do these animals, deemed holy in Hinduism, experience in the Indian milk and beef industries? Yamini Narayanan asks and answers these questions, introducing cows and buffaloes as key subjects in India’s cow protectionism, rather than their treatment hitherto as mere objects of political analysis.

Emphasizing human-animal hierarchies and relations, Narayanan argues that the dominant Hindu framing of the cow as “mother” is one of human domination, wherein bovine motherhood is simultaneously capitalized for dairy production and weaponized by right-wing Hindu nationalists to violently oppress Muslim and “low-caste” Hindus. Using ethnographic and empirical data gathered across India, this book reveals the harms caused to buffaloes, cows, bulls, and calves in dairying, and the exploitation required of the diverse, racialized labor throughout India’s dairy production continuum to obscure such violence. Ultimately, Narayanan traces how the unraveling of human–animal domination and exploitation is an integral component of liberal, progressive, democratic politics, speculating on the real possibility of a post-dairy society—one based on vegan agricultural policies for livelihoods, food security, and multicultural, multispecies diversity.

Yamini Narayanan is Senior Lecturer in International and Community Development at Deakin University.
THE CASE FOR INNOVATION AND A CLEAR, TARGETED STRATEGY FOR PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION THAT WILL HELP SMALL- AND MEDIUM-SIZED MATURE ENTERPRISES (SMMES) THRIVE THROUGH REINVENTION AND RENEWAL.

In contrast to large companies, SMMEs are on their own to win or lose in the marketplace. They may lack the relative economies of scale and scope available to large companies to understand and invest in innovation. Often they are in a position of sustained disadvantage with no perceived path of renewal.

As SMMEs approach maturity, it is common for them to choose only to maintain what they believe to be the safety of maturity attained rather than to opt for a strategy that also includes constant reinvention and renewal. But as Bruce A. Vojak and Walter B. Herbst argue, this path of seemingly least risk and least resistance can be the most detrimental to the company in the long run. The real risk is to not innovate.

No-Excuses Innovation makes the case to owners, advisors, executives, and leaders—as well as those in the trenches—of the value of innovation: why it’s worthy of investment and what it can do for the health and longevity of a company. This book also details how innovation, and thus reinvention and renewal, can be most effectively and efficiently implemented. With case studies and narrative examples drawn from their time in the industry and the academy, the authors present a valuable strategy guide specific to SMMEs and to one of the biggest existential dilemmas they encounter.

Bruce Vojak, Ph.D. is Managing Director and Founder of Breakthrough Innovation Advisors, LLC., and co-author of Serial Innovators: How Individuals Create and Deliver Breakthrough Innovations in Mature Firms (Stanford, 2012).

Walter B. Herbst Ph.D., FNAI (Fellow National Academy of Inventors) is a Partner and Co-Founder of Herbst Produkt and a Distinguished Clinical Professor Emeritus at the Segal Design Institute at Northwestern University.

"With over 3 decades of buying and building over 50 companies in consumer and commercial markets, I can attest that this book should be mandatory for anyone wanting success in growing their business."

—Keith Jaffee,
Chairman of Middleton Partners, CEO of Banyan Acquisition Corp (NYSE)
UNBREAKABLE
Building and Leading Resilient Teams

BRADLEY L. KIRKMAN
and ADAM C. STOVERINK

AN ESSENTIAL GUIDE FOR MANAGERS AND LEADERS ON BUILDING RESILIENT TEAMS IN TURBULENT TIMES.

Today more than ever before, work teams must also demonstrate resilience. In the face of volatile and ambiguous business environments, all teams inevitably suffer setbacks. Bradley L. Kirkman and Adam C. Stoverink provide here the hands-on practical tips for building and leading resilient teams equipped to bounce back from those challenges. They highlight four team resources that are essential to any resilient team: team confidence, teamwork roadmaps, capacity to improvise, and psychological safety. These four resources are brought to life through compelling stories of teams that performed well in the face of adversity—and a few that didn’t. They also provide leaders with step-by-step guidance for how to grow these resources in their own teams, whether they’re in-person, remote, or hybrid. This book delivers all the tools necessary to build and lead resilient teams that are virtually unbreakable.

“Unbreakable provides leaders and teams with the practical guidance they need to be virtually unstoppable in the face of today’s adversities.”
—Laura Huang, Author of EDGE: Turning Adversity into Advantage, and Professor at Harvard Business School

Bradley L. Kirkman is the General (Ret.) H. Hugh Shelton Distinguished Professor of Leadership in the Poole College of Management at North Carolina State University. He is the author of 3D Team Leadership: A New Approach for Complex Teams (Stanford, 2017), and his work has appeared in journals such as the Academy of Management Review, the Academy of Management Journal, and Harvard Business Review.

Adam C. Stoverink is the Director of Walton MBA Programs and an Associate Professor of Management at the University of Arkansas Walton College of Business. His work is published in a variety of journals, including Academy of Management Review, Journal of Applied Psychology, and in outlets such as Forbes and Harvard Business Review.
DIGITAL RELATIONSHIPS
Network Agency Theory and Big Tech
JASON DAVIS

Why do so many organizations fail to mobilize the social networks of employees to respond to disruptions, innovate, and change? In Digital Relationships, Jason Davis argues that individual and organizational interests about networking can come out of alignment such that the network ties that individuals form are organizationally sub-optimal for achieving their most ambitious goals. Developing a new perspective about networks and organizations, he explains through network agency theory how network problems emerge, the role of digital technology adoption by organizations in amplifying misalignment, and the capacity of managers to resolve agency problems and mitigate their impact. Drawing on over a decade of qualitative research in US, Asian, and European “big tech” companies and new analytical and computational modeling, this book offers new interpretations and solutions to the pathologies that emerge from organizationally detrimental networking behaviors and in the face of managerial interventions.

Jason Davis is an Associate Professor of Entrepreneurship at INSEAD. His work has been published in top academic journals, such as the Administrative Science Quarterly, The American Economic Review, and the Strategic Management Journal.

MORAL ECONOMIES OF MONEY
Politics and the Monetary Constitution of Society
JAKOB FEINIG

For much of American history, large numbers of people claimed that money was a public good and asserted the right to shape money creation practices. If popular knowledge about money creation was once widely shared, how and why did it disappear?

In this astute new work, Jakob Feinig shows how the relation between money users and money-issuing governments changed from British colonial North America to today’s United States, discussing how popular movements reshaped money-creating institutions, and how their opponents attempted to silence them. He also reveals how monetary and political history unfolds in the tension between “moral economies of money” and “monetary silencing.” Offering an introduction to money creation practices since the colonial era, the book enables readers to understand why most people are disconnected from knowledge about money creation today. At the same time, the book also allows readers to situate the recent prominence of Modern Monetary Theory (MMT) against a broader historical background. Historians of capitalism, economic and political sociologists, social theorists, anthropologists of money, and anyone seeking to understand monetary activism, will find this book helps to clarify present-day possibilities in light of historical processes.

Jakob Feinig is Assistant Professor in the Department of Human Development, College of Community and Public Affairs, Binghamton University.
Shadow Negotiators is the first book to demonstrate that United Nations organizations have intervened to influence the discourse, agenda and outcomes of international trade lawmaking at the World Trade Organization. While UN organizations lack a seat at the bargaining table at the WTO, Matias E. Margulis argues that these organizations have acted as “shadow negotiators” engaged in political actions intended to alter the trajectory and results of multilateral trade negotiations. He draws on analysis of one of the most contested issues in global trade politics, agricultural trade liberalization, to demonstrate interventions by four different UN organizations—the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), the World Food Programme (WFP), the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Food (SRRTF).

By identifying several novel intervention strategies used by UN actors to shape the rules of global trade, this book shows that UN organizations chose to intervene in trade lawmaking not out of competition with the WTO or ideological resistance to trade liberalization, but out of concerns that specific trade rules could have negative consequences for world food security—an outcome these organizations viewed as undermining their social purpose to reduce world hunger and protect the human right to food.

Matias E. Margulis is Assistant Professor in the School of Public Policy and Global Affairs and Faculty of Land and Food Systems at the University of British Columbia. He is the co-editor for two books: The Global Political Economy of Raúl Prebisch (2017) and Land Grabbing and Global Governance (2014).
For working-class life writers in nineteenth century Britain, happiness was a multifaceted emotion: a concept that could describe experiences of hedonic pleasure, foster and deepen social relationships, drive individuals to self-improvement, and lead them to look back over their lives and evaluate whether they were well-lived. However, not all working-class autobiographers shared the same concepts or valorizations of happiness, as variables such as geography, gender, political affiliation, and social and economic mobility often influenced the way they defined and experienced their emotional lives.

The Happiness of the British Working Class employs and analyzes over 350 autobiographies of individuals in England, Scotland, and Ireland to explore the sources of happiness of British working people born before 1870. Drawing from careful examinations of their personal narratives, Jamie L. Bronstein investigates the ways in which working people thought about the good life as seen through their experiences with family and friends, rewarding work, interaction with the natural world, science and creativity, political causes and religious commitments, and physical and economic struggles. Informed by the history of emotions and the philosophical and social-scientific literature on happiness, this book reflects broadly on the industrial-era working-class experience in an era of immense social and economic change.
**THE TROPICAL SILK ROAD**

*The Future of China in South America*  
Edited by PAUL AMAR, LISA ROFEL, FERNANDO BRANCOLI, MARIA AMELIA VITERI and CONSUELO FERNÁNDEZ-SALVADOR

This book captures an epochal juncture of two of the world’s most transformative processes: the People’s Republic of China’s rapidly expanding sphere of influence across the global south and the disintegration of the Amazonian, Cerrado, and Andean biomes. The intersection of these two processes took another step in April 2020, when Chinese President Xi Jinping launched a “New Health Silk Road” agenda of aid and investment that would wind through South America, extending the Eurasian-African “Belt and Road Initiative” to the Latin American tropics.

Through thirty short essays, this volume brings together an impressive array of contributors, from economists, anthropologists, and political scientists to Black, feminist, and Indigenous community organizers, Chinese stakeholders, environmental activists, and local journalists to offer a pathbreaking analysis of China’s presence in South America. As cracks in the progressive legacy of the Pink Tide and the failures of ecocidal right-wing populisms shape new political economies and geopolitical possibilities, this book provides a grassroots-based account of a post-US centered world order, and an accompanying map of the stakes for South America that highlights emerging voices and forms of resistance.

Paul Amar is Professor of Global Studies and Director of the Orfalea Center for Global and International Studies at the University of California, Santa Barbara.  
Lisa Rofel is Professor Emerita of Anthropology at the University of California, Santa Cruz.  
Maria Amelia Viteri is Professor of Anthropology at Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ).  
Consuelo Fernández-Salvador is Associate Professor of Anthropology, Universidad San Francisco de Quito (USFQ).  
Fernando Brancoli is Adjunct Professor of International Security and Geopolitics at the Institute of International Relations and Defense at the Federal University of Rio de Janeiro (IRID-UFRJ).

**GERMAN JEWS IN LOVE**

*German Jews in Love: A History*  
CHRISTIAN BAILEY

This book explores the dynamic role of love in German-Jewish lives, from the birth of the German Empire in the 1870s, to the 1970s, a generation after the Shoah. During a remarkably turbulent hundred-year period when German Jews experienced five political regimes, rapid urbanization, transformations in gender relations, and war and genocide, the romantic ideals of falling in love and marrying for love helped German Jews to develop a new sense of self. Appeals to romantic love were also significant in justifying relationships between Jews and non-Jews, even when those unions created conflict within and between communities.

By incorporating novel approaches from the history of emotions and life-cycle history, Christian Bailey moves beyond existing research into the sexual and racial politics of modern Germany and approaches a new frontier in the study of subjectivity and the self. *German Jews in Love* draws on a rich array of sources, from newspapers and love letters to state and other official records. Calling on this evidence, Bailey shows the ways German Jews’ romantic relationships reveal an aspect of acculturation that has been overlooked: how deeply cultural scripts worked their way into emotions; those most intimate and seemingly pre-political aspects of German-Jewish subjectivity.

Christian Bailey is Assistant Professor of History at Purchase College.
Nakam (Hebrew for “vengeance”) tells the story of “the Avengers” (Noknim), a group of young Holocaust survivors led by poet and resistance fighter Abba Kovner, who undertook a mission of revenge against Germany following the crimes of the Holocaust. Motivated by both the atrocities they had endured and the realization that murderous antisemitic attacks on survivors continued long after the Nazi surrender, these fifty young men and women sought retaliation at a level commensurate with the devastation caused by the Holocaust, making clear to the world that Jewish blood would no longer be shed with impunity. Had they been successful, they would have poisoned city water supplies and loaves of bread distributed to German POWs, with the aim of killing six million Germans. Kovner and his followers went to great lengths to carry out their plans, going so far as to obtain the schematics for Nuremberg’s municipal water system, secure large quantities of poison, infiltrate a POW camp and the bakery that supplied it, and distribute poisoned bread to prisoners—but their plots were ultimately stymied. Most of the members of Nakam eventually returned to Israel, where for decades many of them refused to speak publicly about their roles in the group.

While the Avengers’ story began to come to light in the 1980s, details of the relations between the group and Zionist leadership and the motivations of its members have remained unknown. Drawing on rich archival sources and in-depth interviews with the Avengers in their later years, historian Dina Porat examines the formation of the group and the clash between the formative humanistic values held by its members and their unrealized plans for violent retribution.

Dina Porat is Professor Emerita of Modern Jewish History at Tel Aviv University and former Chief Historian of Yad Vashem.
In 1523, a man named David Reubeni appeared in Venice, claiming to be the ambassador of a powerful Jewish kingdom deep in the heart of Arabia. In this era of fierce rivalry between great powers, voyages of fantastic discovery, and brutal conquest of new lands, people throughout the Mediterranean saw the signs of an impending apocalypse and envisioned a coming war that would end with a decisive Christian or Islamic victory. With his army of hardy desert warriors from lost Israelite tribes, Reubeni pledged to deliver the Jews to the Holy Land by force and restore their pride and autonomy. He would spend a decade shuttling between European rulers in Italy, Portugal, Spain, and France, seeking weaponry in exchange for the support of his hitherto unknown but mighty Jewish kingdom. Many, however, believed him to favor the relatively tolerant Ottomans over the persecutorial Christian regimes. Reubeni was hailed as a messiah by many wealthy Jews and Iberia’s oppressed conversos, but his grand ambitions were halted in Regensburg when the Holy Roman Emperor, Charles V, turned him over to the Inquisition and, in 1538, he was likely burned at the stake.

Diary of a Black Jewish Messiah is the first English translation of Reubeni’s Hebrew-language diary, detailing his travels and personal travails. Written in a Hebrew drawn from everyday speech, entirely unlike other literary works of the period, Reubeni’s diary reveals both the dramatic desperation of Renaissance Jewish communities and the struggles of the diplomat, trickster, and dreamer who wanted to save them.

Alan Verskin is Associate Professor in the Department of History at the University of Rhode Island.

This career-spanning anthology from prominent Jewish historian David Biale brings over a dozen of his key essays together for the first time. These pieces, written between 1974 and 2016, are all representative of a method Biale calls “counter-history”. “the discovery of vital forces precisely in what others considered marginal, disreputable and irrational.” The themes that have preoccupied Biale throughout the course of his distinguished career—in particular power, sexuality, blood, and secular Jewish thought—span the periods of the Bible, late antiquity, and the Middle Ages to the twentieth century. Exemplary essays in this volume argue for the dialectical relationship between modernity and its precursors in the older tradition, working together to “brush history against the grain” in order to provide a sweeping look at the history of the Jewish people. This volume of work by one of the boldest and most intellectually omnivorous Jewish thinkers of our time will be essential reading for scholars and students of Jewish studies.

David Biale is the Emanuel Ringelblum Distinguished Professor of Jewish History at the University of California, Davis.
In the decades directly following the Holocaust, American Jewish leaders anxiously debated how to preserve and produce what they considered authentic Jewish culture, fearful that growing affluence and suburbanization threatened the future of Jewish life. Many communal educators and rabbis contended that without educational interventions, Judaism as they understood it would disappear altogether. They pinned their hopes on residential summer camps for Jewish youth: institutions that sprang up across the U.S. in the postwar decades as places for children and teenagers to socialize, recreate, and experience Jewish culture. Adults’ fears, hopes, and dreams about the Jewish future inflected every element of camp life, from the languages they taught to what was encouraged romantically and permitted sexually. But adult plans did not constitute everything that occurred at camp: children and teenagers also shaped these sleepaway camps to mirror their own desires and interests and decided whether to accept or resist the ideas and ideologies their camp leaders promoted. Focusing on the lived experience of campers and camp counselors, The Jews of Summer demonstrates how a cultural crisis birthed a rite of passage that remains a significant influence in American Jewish life.

Sandra Fox is clinical assistant professor of Jewish Studies and Director of the Archive of the Jewish Left Project at New York University, and founder and executive producer of the Yiddish-language podcast Vaybertaytsh: A Feminist Podcast in Yiddish.

From 1750 until Brazil won its independence in 1822, the Portuguese crown sought to extend imperial control over the colony’s immense, sea-like interior and exploit its gold and diamond deposits using enslaved labor. Carrying orders from Lisbon into the Brazilian backlands, elite vassals, soldiers, and scientific experts charged with exploring multiple frontier zones and establishing royal authority conducted themselves in ways that proved difficult for the crown to regulate. The overland expeditions they mounted in turn encountered actors operating beyond the state’s purview: seminomadic Native peoples, runaway slaves, itinerant poor, and those deemed criminals, who eluded, defied, and reshaped imperial ambitions.

This book measures Portugal’s transatlantic projection of power against a particular obstacle: imperial information-gathering, which produced a confusion of rumors, distortions, claims, conflicting reports, and disputed facts. Drawing on interdisciplinary scholarship in the fields of ethnohistory, slavery and diaspora studies, and legal and literary history, Hal Langfur considers how misinformation destabilized European sovereignty in the Americas, making a major contribution to histories of empire, frontiers and borderlands, knowledge production, and scientific exploration in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries.

Hal Langfur is Associate Professor of History at the University at Buffalo, SUNY.
AN EXPLOSIVE LOOK AT THE “BIG TECH” COMPANIES YOU’VE NEVER HEARD OF AND HOW TO STOP THEM CONTROLLING OUR INFORMATION.

In our digital world, data is power, and information hoarders reign supreme. The practices of these digital pillagers are analogous to those of cartels—they use intimidation, aggression, and force to maintain control and power. Sarah Lamdan brings us into the unregulated underworld of the “data cartels,” demonstrating how the entities mining, hoarding, commodifying, and selling our data and informational resources perpetuate social inequalities and threaten the democratic sharing of knowledge.

The companies at the center of this book are not household names like Google. They fly under the radar and self-identify as “data analytics” or “business solutions” operations. These companies supply the digital lifeblood that flows through the circulatory system of the internet. With their control over data, they can prevent the free flow of information to places where it is needed, and simultaneously distribute private information to predatory entities. Just a few companies dominate most of our critical informational resources, from scientific research and financial data to the law. They are also data brokers, selling our personal data to law enforcement and other government agencies that determine whether we should be eligible for social services, and they sell “risk” products that insurance companies, employers, landlords, and healthcare systems use to make decisions. Alarmingly, everything they’re doing is perfectly legal.

Ranging from small information firms to billion-dollar data giants like Thomson Reuters and RELX Group, these companies masterfully exploit outdated information and privacy laws, curating online information in a way that amplifies digital racism and targets marginalized communities. In this book, Lamdan contends that privatization and tech exceptionalism have prevented us from creating effective legal regulation. Lack of legal intervention has allowed oversized information oligopolies to coalesce. In addition to specific legal and market-based solutions, Lamdan calls for treating information like a public good and creating digital infrastructure that supports our democratic ideals.

Sarah Lamdan is Professor of Law at the City University of New York School of Law. She also serves as a Senior Fellow for the Scholarly Publishing and Academic Resources Coalition, and as a Fellow at NYU School of Law’s Engelberg Center on Innovation Law and Policy.

“Lamdan offers a timely, ambitious, and original contribution about a set of issues that are of vital importance to the study of technology, law, and society.”

—Anil Kalhan, Drexel University Thomas R. Kline School of Law

“From scientific information to legal information to massive dossiers on each and every one of us and more, Sarah Lamdan’s beautifully researched book delves into the shadowy world of big data. A fascinating read!”

—Carl Malamud, Public.Resource.Org

“Powerful and a great read! This book definitely stirs the pot.”

—Nicole Dyszlewski, Roger Williams University School of Law
In *Shaping the Bar*, Joan W. Howarth describes how the twin gatekeepers of the legal profession—law schools and licensors—are failing the public with devastating consequences. Attorney licensing should be laser-focused on readiness to practice law with the minimum competence of a new attorney. According to Howarth, requirements today are both too difficult and too easy. Amid the crisis in unmet legal services, record numbers of law school graduates—disproportionately people of color—are failing bar exams that are not meaningful tests of competence to practice. At the same time, after seven years of higher education, hundreds of thousands of dollars of law school debt, two months of cramming legal rules, and success on a bar exam, a candidate can be licensed to practice law without ever having been in a law office or even seen a lawyer with a client.

Howarth makes the case that the licensing rituals familiar to generations of lawyers—unfocused law degrees and obsolete bar exams—are protecting members of the profession more than the public. Beyond explaining the failures of the current system, this book presents the latest research on competent lawyering and examples of better approaches. This book presents the path forward by means of licensing changes to protect the public while building an inclusive, diverse, competent, ethical profession.

Thoughtful and engaging, *Shaping the Bar* is both an authoritative account of attorney licensing and a pragmatic handbook for overdue equitable reform of a powerful profession.

*Joan W. Howarth* is Distinguished Visiting Professor at the William S. Boyd School of Law, University of Nevada, Las Vegas, and Dean Emerita of the Michigan State University College of Law. She also serves as a member of the Nevada Board of Bar Examiners.

While much recent ecocriticism has questioned the value of nature as a concept, *Thought’s Wilderness* insists that it is analytically and politically indispensable, and that romanticism shows us why. Without a concept of nature, Greg Ellermann argues, our thinking is limited to the world that capitalism has made.

Defamiliarizing the tradition of romantic nature writing, Ellermann contends that the romantics tried to circumvent the domination of nature that is essential to modern capitalism. As he shows, poets and philosophers in the period such as Immanuel Kant, G. W. F. Hegel, Mary Wollstonecraft, William Wordsworth, and Percy Shelley were highly attuned to nature’s ephemeral, ungraspable forms: clouds of vapor, a trace of ruin, deep silence, and the “world-surrounding ether.” Further, he explains how nature’s vanishing—its vulnerability and its flight from apprehension—became a philosophical and political problem. In response to a nascent industrial capitalism, romantic writers developed a poetics of wilderness—a poetics that is attentive to fleeting presence and that seeks to let things be. Trying to imagine what ultimately eludes capture, the romantics recognized the complicity between conceptual and economic domination, and they saw how thought itself could become a technology for control. This insight, Ellermann proposes, motivates romantic efforts to think past capitalist instrumentality and its devastation of the world.

Ultimately, this new work undertakes a fundamental rethinking of the aesthetics and politics of nature.

*Greg Ellermann* is Lecturer in English at Yale University.
Recent thinking has resuscitated civility as an important paradigm for engaging with a violence that must be deemed endemic to our lives. But, while it is widely acknowledged that civility works against violence, and that literature generates or accompanies civility and engenders tolerance, civility has also been understood as violence in disguise, and literature, which has only rarely sought to claim the power of violence, has often been accused of inciting it. This book sets out to describe the ways in which these words—violence, literature, and civility—and the concepts they evoke are mutually entangled, and the uses to which these entanglements have been put.

Simpson’s argument follows a broadly historical trajectory through the long modern period from the Renaissance to the present, drawing on the work of historians, political scientists, literary scholars and philosophers. The result is a distinctly new argument about the complex and often mystified entanglements between literature, civility and violence in the anglophone-Atlantic sphere. What now are our expectations of civility and literature, separately and together? How do these long-familiar but residually imprecise concepts stand up to the demands of the modern world? Simpson’s argument is that, despite and perhaps because of their imperfect conceptualization, both persist as important protocols for the critique of violence.

David Simpson is Distinguished Professor and G.B. Needham Chair, emeritus, at the University of California, Davis. His most recent book is States of Terror: History, Theory, Literature (2019).
CRITICISM AND POLITICS

A Polemical Introduction

BRUCE ROBBINS

AN ACCESSIBLE INTRODUCTION TO CULTURAL THEORY AND AN ORIGINAL POLEMIC ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF CRITICISM.

What is criticism for? Over the past few decades, impassioned disagreements over that question in the academy have burst into the news media. These conflicts have renewed the culture wars over the legacy of the 1960s, becoming entangled in national politics and leading to a new set of questions about critics and the power they do or don’t wield.

Re-examining theorists from Matthew Arnold to Walter Benjamin, to Frederic Jameson, Stuart Hall, and Hortense Spillers, Criticism and Politics explores the animating contradictions that have long propelled literary studies: between pronouncing judgment and engaging in philosophical critique, between democracy and expertise, between political commitment and aesthetic autonomy. Both a leftist critic and a critic of the left, Robbins unflinchingly defends criticism from those who might wish to de-politicize it, arguing that working for change is not optional for critics, but rather a core part of their job description.

Bruce Robbins is Old Dominion Foundation Professor in the Humanities, Columbia University. He is the author of Secular Vocations: Intellectuals, Professionalism, Culture (1993), Perpetual War: Cosmopolitanism from the Viewpoint of Violence (2012), and most recently, The Beneficiary (2017).

“For those who have been looking for a book to address, head on, the complex connections between literary criticism and politics, this is that book.”
—Mark Greif, author of Against Everything

“This is a vivid, engaging, and engaged piece of literary criticism by one of its foremost practitioners.”
—Martin Puchner, author of Literature for a Changing Planet

“Urgent, bracing, and powerfully-argued.”
—Caroline Levine, author of Forms

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Literary Studies
What Pornography Knows offers a new history of pornography based on forgotten bawdy fiction of the eighteenth century, its nineteenth-century republication, and its appearance in 1960s paperbacks. Through close textual study, Lubey shows how these texts were edited across time to become what we think pornography is—a genre focused primarily on sex. Originally, they were far more variable, joining speculative philosophy and feminist theory to sexual description. Lubey’s readings show that pornography always had a social consciousness—that it knew, long before anti-pornography feminists said it, that women and nonbinary people are disadvantaged by a society that grants sexual privilege to men. Rather than glorify this inequity, Lubey argues, the genre’s central task has historically been to expose its artifice and envision social reform. Centering women’s bodies, pornography refuses to divert its focus from genital action, forcing readers to connect sex with its social outcomes. At times inventing their own sexual anatomy and gender identity, at times having their bodies claimed and used by others, pornographic figures bring genitals to the fore, insisting they be justly treated rather than coldly transacted. Lubey offers a surprising take on a deeply misunderstood cultural form: pornography transforms sexual description into feminist commentary, she argues, revealing the genre’s deep knowledge of how social inequities are perpetuated as well as plans for how to rectify them.

Kathleen Lubey is Professor of English at St. John’s University. She is the author of Excitable Imaginations: Eroticism and Reading in Britain, 1660-1760 (2012).

In this revisionist account of romantic-era poetry and language philosophy, Tristram Wolff recovers vibrant ways of thinking language and nature together. Wolff argues that well-known writers including Phillis Wheatley Peters, William Blake, William Wordsworth, and Henry David Thoreau offer a radical chronopolitics in reaction to the “uprooted word,” or the formal analytic used to classify languages in progressive time according to a primitivist timeline of history and a hierarchy of civilization. Before the bad naturalisms of nineteenth-century race science hardened language into place as a metric of social difference, poets and thinkers try to soften, thicken, deepen, and dissolve it. This naturalizing tendency makes language more difficult to uproot from its active formation in the lives of its speakers. And its “gray romanticism” simultaneously gives language different kinds of time—most strikingly, the deep time of geologic form—to forestall the hardening of time into progress.

Reorienting romantic studies to consider colonialism’s pervasive effects on theories of language origin, Wolff shows us the ambivalent position of romantics in this history. His reparative reading makes visible language’s ability to reimagine social forms.

Tristram Wolff is Assistant Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies at Northwestern University.
Across the humanities and social sciences, scholars increasingly use quantitative methods to study textual data. Considered together, this research represents an extraordinary event in the long history of textuality. More or less all at once, the corpus has emerged as a major genre of cultural and scientific knowledge. In *Literary Mathematics*, Michael Gavin grapples with this development, describing how quantitative methods for the study of textual data offer powerful tools for historical inquiry and sometimes unexpected perspectives on theoretical issues of concern to literary studies.

Student-friendly and accessible, the book advances this argument through case studies drawn from the *Early English Books Online* corpus. Gavin shows how a copublication network of printers and authors reveals an uncannily accurate picture of historical periodization; that a vector-space semantic model parses historical concepts in incredibly fine detail; and that a geospatial analysis of early modern discourse offers a surprising panoramic glimpse into the period’s notion of world geography. Across these case studies, Gavin challenges readers to consider why corpus-based methods work so effectively and asks whether the successes of formal modeling ought to inspire humanists to reconsider fundamental theoretical assumptions about textuality and meaning. As Gavin reveals, by embracing the expressive power of mathematics, scholars can add new dimensions to digital humanities research and find new connections with the social sciences.

Michael Gavin is Associate Professor of English at the University of South Carolina and author of *The Invention of English Criticism, 1650-1760* (2015).
The Romantic Rhetoric of Accumulation

Lenora Hanson

The Romantic Rhetoric of Accumulation provides an account of the long arc of dispossession from the British Romantic period to today. Lenora Hanson glimpses histories of subsistence (such as reproductive labor, vagrancy and criminality, and unwaged labor) as figural ways of living that are superfluous—simultaneously more than enough to live and less than what is necessary for capitalism.

Hanson treats rhetorical language as an archive of capital’s accumulation through dispossession, in works by S.T. Coleridge, Edmund Burke, Mary Robinson, William Wordsworth, Benjamin Moseley, Joseph Priestley, and Alexander von Humboldt, as well as in contemporary film and critical theory. Reading riots through apostrophe, enclosure through anachronism, superstition and witchcraft through tautology, and the paradoxical coincidence of subsistence living with industrialization, Hanson shows the figural to be a material record of the survival of non-capitalist forms of life within capitalism. But this survival is not always-already resistant to capitalism, nor are the origins of capital accumulation confined to the Romantic past. Hanson reveals rhetorical figure as entwined in deeply ambivalent ways with the circuitous, ongoing process of dispossession.

Reading both historically and rhetorically, Hanson argues that rhetorical language records histories of dispossession and the racialized, gendered distribution of the labor of subsistence. Romanticism, they show, is more contemporary than ever.

Lenora Hanson is Assistant Professor of English at New York University.

CLIMATE CHANGE, INTERRUPTED

Representation and the Remaking of Time

Barbara Leckie

In this moment of climate precarity, Victorian studies scholar Barbara Leckie considers the climate crisis as a problem of time. Spanning the long nineteenth century through our current moment, her interdisciplinary treatment of climate change at once remakes time and illustrates that the time for climate action is now.

Climate Change, Interrupted argues that linear, progress-inflected temporalities are not adequate to a crisis that defies their terms. Instead, this book advances a theory and practice of interruption to rethink prevailing temporal frameworks. At the same time, it models the anachronistic, time-blending, and time-layering temporality it advances. In a series of experimental chapters informed by the unlikely trio of Walter Benjamin, Donna Haraway, and Virginia Woolf, Leckie refigures and cowrites the traditions and knowledges of the long nineteenth century and the current period in the spirit of climate action collaboration.

The current moment demands as many approaches as possible, invites us to take risks, and asks scholars and activists adept at storytelling to participate in the conversation. Climate Change, Interrupted, accordingly, invests in interruption to tell a different story of the climate crisis.

Barbara Leckie is Professor of English and the Comparative Study of Literature, Art, and Culture at Carleton University. She is the author of Open Houses: Poverty, the Novel, and the Architectural Idea in Nineteenth-Century Britain (2018).
What do we really mean when we call something “graphic”? In American Graphic, Rebecca Clark examines the “graphic” as a term tellingly at odds with itself. On the one hand, it seems to evoke the grotesque; on the other hand, it promises the geometrically streamlined in the form of graphs, diagrams, and user interfaces. Clark’s innovation is to ask what happens when the same moment in a work of literature is graphic in both ways at once. Her answer suggests the graphic turn in contemporary literature is intimately implicated in the fraught dynamics of identification. As Clark reveals, this double graphic indexes the unseemliness of a lust—in our current culture of information—for cool epistemological mastery over the bodies of others.

Clark analyzes the contemporary graphic along three specific axes: the ethnographic, the pornographic, and the infographic. In each chapter, Clark’s explication of the double graphic reads a canonical author against literary, visual and/or performance works by Black and/or female creators. Pairing works by Edgar Allan Poe, Vladimir Nabokov, and Thomas Pynchon with pieces by Mat Johnson, Kara Walker, Fran Ross, Narcissister, and Teju Cole, Clark tests the effects and affects of the double graphic across racialized and gendered axes of difference.

American Graphic forces us to face how closely and uncomfortably yoked together disgust and data have become in our increasingly graph-ick world.

Rebecca B. Clark received her PhD in English from the University of California, Berkeley. Her work has been published in the journals Narrative, postmedieval, and Post45. She has taught at UC Berkeley and Dartmouth College.
Concentrating on W. H. Auden’s work from the late 1930s, when he seeks to understand the poet’s responsibility in the face of a triumphant fascism, to the late 1950s, when he discerns an irreconcilable “divorce” between poetry and history in light of industrialized murder, this startling new study reveals the intensity of the poet’s struggles with the meanings of history. Through meticulous readings, significant archival findings, and critical reflection, Susannah Young-ah Gottlieb presents a new image and understanding of Auden’s achievement and reveals how his version of modernism illuminates urgent contemporary issues and theoretical paradigms: from the meaning of marriage equality to the persistence of fascism; from critical theory to psychoanalysis; from precariousness to postcolonial studies. “The muse does not like being forced to choose between Agit-prop and Mallarmé,” Auden writes with characteristic lucidity, and this study elucidates the probity, humor, and technical skill with which his responses to historical reality in the mid-twentieth century illuminate our world today.

Susannah Young-ah Gottlieb is Associate Professor of English and Comparative Literary Studies, Northwestern University. She is the author of Regions of Sorrow: Anxiety and Messianism in Hannah Arendt and W. H. Auden (Stanford, 2003) and editor of Hannah Arendt: Reflections on Literature and Culture (Stanford, 2007).

For Herman Melville, the instability of democracy held tremendous creative potential. Examining the centrality of political thought to Melville’s oeuvre, Jennifer Greiman argues that Melville’s densely figurative aesthetics give form to a radical reimagining of democratic foundations, relations, and ways of being—modeling how we can think democracy in political theory today.

Across Melville’s five decades of writing, from his early Pacific novels to his late poetry, Greiman identifies a literary formalism that is radically political and carries the project of democratic theory in new directions. Recovering Melville’s readings in political philosophy and aesthetics, Greiman shows how he engaged with key problems in political theory—the paradox of foundations, the vicious circles of sovereign power, the fragility of the people—to produce a body of radical democratic art and thought. Scenes of green and growing life, circular structures, and images of a groundless world emerge as forms for understanding democracy as a collective project in flux. In Melville’s experimental aesthetics, Greiman finds a significant precursor to the tradition of radical democratic theory in the US and France that emphasizes transience and creativity over the foundations and forms prized by liberalism. Such politics, she argues, are necessarily aesthetic: attuned to material and sensible distinctions, open to new forces of creativity.

Jennifer Greiman is Associate Professor of English at Wake Forest University.
What is critique? How is it used and abused? At a moment when popular discourse is saturated with voices confronting each other about not being critical enough, while academic discourses proclaim to have moved past critique, this provocative book reawakens the foundational question of what ‘critique’ is in the first place. Roy Ben-Shai inspects critique as an orientation of critical thinking, probing its structures and assumptions, its limits and its risks, its history and its possibilities. The book is a journey through a landscape of ideas, images, and texts from diverse sources—theological, psychological, etymological, and artistic, but mainly across the history of philosophy, from Plato and Saint Augustine, through Kant and Hegel, Marx and Heidegger, up to contemporary critical theory.

Along the way, Ben-Shai invites the reader to examine their own orientation of thought, even at the moment of reading the book; to question popular discourse; and to revisit the philosophical canon, revealing affinities among often antagonistic traditions. Most importantly, Critique of Critique sets the ground for an examination of alternative orientations of critical thinking, other ways of inhabiting and grasping the world.

Roy Ben-Shai is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Sarah Lawrence College.
On Salafism offers a compelling new understanding of this phenomenon, both its development and contemporary manifestations. Salafism became associated with fundamentalism when the 9/11 Commission used it to explain the terror attacks and has since been connected with the violence of the so-called Islamic State. With this book, Azmi Bishara critically deconstructs claims of continuity between early Islam and modern militancy and makes a counterargument: Salafism is a wholly modern construct informed by specific sociopolitical contexts. Bishara offers a sophisticated account of various movements—such as Wahabbism and Hanbalism—frequently collapsed into simplistic understandings of Salafism. He distinguishes reformist from regressive Salafism, and examines patterns of modernization in the development of contemporary Islamic political movements and associations. In deconstructing the assumptions of linear continuity between traditional and contemporary movements, Bishara details various divergences in both doctrine and context of modern Salafisms, plural. *On Salafism* is a crucial read for those interested in Islamism, jihadism, and Middle East politics and history.

Azmi Bishara is one of the Arab world’s most prominent scholars, a critic of authoritarianism and colonialism, and a staunch supporter of democratic transition in the region. Named by *Le Nouveau Magazine Littéraire* among the world’s most influential thinkers, he has published on political thought, social theory, and philosophy, including *Religion and Secularism in Historical Context* (2013) and *Sectarianism without Sects* (2021).

Practicing Sectarianism explores the imaginative and contradictory ways that people live sectarianism. The book’s essays use the concept as an animating principle within a variety of sites across Lebanon and its diasporas and over a range of historical periods. With contributions from historians and anthropologists, this volume reveals the many ways sectarianism is used to exhibit, imagine, or contest power: What forms of affective pull does it have on people and communities? What epistemological work does it do as a concept? How does it function as a marker of social difference?

Examining social interaction, each essay analyzes how people experience sectarianism, sometimes pushing back, sometimes evading it, sometimes deploying it strategically, to a variety of effects and consequences. The collection advances an understanding of sectarianism simultaneously constructed and experienced, a slippery and changeable concept with material effects. And even as the book’s focus is Lebanon, its analysis fractures the association of sectarianism with the nation-state and suggests possibilities that can travel to other sites. *Practicing Sectarianism*, taken as a whole, argues that sectarianism can only be fully understood—and dismantled—if we first take it seriously as a practice.

Lara Deeb is Professor of Anthropology at Scripps College.

Tsofín Nalbantian is University Lecturer at Leiden University.

Nadya Sbaiti is Assistant Professor of Middle East Studies at the American University of Beirut.
This is the fantastical, yet real, story of the merchants of Bethlehem, the young men who traveled to every corner of the globe in the 19th century. These men set off on the backs of donkeys with suitcases full of crosses and rosaries, to return via steamship with suitcases stuffed with French francs, Philippine pesos, or Salvadoran colones. They returned with news of mysterious lands and strange inventions—clocks, trains, and other devices that both befuddled and bewitched the Bethlehemites. With newfound wealth, these merchants built shimmering pink mansions that transformed Bethlehem. At the center of these extraordinary occurrences lived Jubrail Dabdoub.

_The Lives and Deaths of Jubrail Dabdoub_ tells the story of Jubrail’s encounters, from his childhood in rural Bethlehem to later voyages across Europe, East Asia, and the Americas, culminating in a recorded miracle: in 1909, Jubrail was brought back from the dead. To tell such a tale is to delve into the realms of the fantastic and improbable—realms in which the historian rarely treads. Through the story of Jubrail’s life, Jacob Norris explores the porous lines between history and fiction, the normal and the paranormal, the everyday and the extraordinary.

Drawing on aspects of magical realism combined with elements of Palestinian folklore, Norris recovers the atmosphere of late nineteenth-century Bethlehem: a mood of excitement, disorientation, and wonder surrounding the scores of young men setting off for faraway lands. As the book offers an original approach to historical writing, it captures a fantastic story of global encounter and exchange.

**Jacob Norris** is Senior Lecturer in Middle Eastern History at the University of Sussex. He is the author of _Land of Progress: Palestine in the Age of Colonial Development, 1905–1948_ (2013) and codeveloper of the website Planet Bethlehem.
Written on the threshold of Thus Spoke Zarathustra during a high point of social, intellectual and psychic vibrancy, The Joyful Science (frequently translated as The Gay Science) is one of Nietzsche’s thematically tighter books. Here he debuts and practices the art of amor fati, love of fate, to explore what is “species preserving” in relation to happiness (Book One); inspiration and the role of art as they keep us mentally fit for inhabiting a world dominated by science (Book Two); the challenges of living authentically and overcoming after the death of God (Book Three); and the crescendo of life affirmation in which Nietzsche revealed the doctrine of eternal recurrence and previewed the figure of Zarathustra (Book Four). Invigorated and motivated by Thus Spoke Zarathustra and Beyond Good and Evil, Nietzsche in 1887 added a new preface, an appendix of poems, and Book Five, where he deepened the critique of science and displayed a more genealogical approach.

This volume provides the first English translation of the Idylls from Messina and, more importantly, it includes the first English translation of the notebooks of 1881–1882, in which Nietzsche first formulated the eternal recurrence. Structurally and stylistically, The Joyful Science remains Nietzsche’s most effective book of aphorisms, immediately after which he took on the voice and alter ego of Zarathustra in order to push beyond the boundaries of even the most liberating prose.

ALSO OF INTEREST:

Adrian Del Caro is Professor of German and Distinguished Professor of Humanities at the University of Tennessee.
There are few instances of a contemporary Western European society more firmly welded to religion than Ireland is to Catholicism. For much of the twentieth century, to be considered a good Irish citizen was to be seen as a good and observant Catholic. Today, the opposite may increasingly be the case. The Irish Catholic Church, once a spiritual institution beyond question, is not only losing influence and relevance: in the eyes of many, it has become something utterly desacralized. In this book, Hugh Turpin offers an innovative and in-depth account of the nature and emergence of “ex-Catholicism”—a new model of the good, and secular, Irish person that is being rapidly adopted in Irish society.

Using rich quantitative and qualitative research methods, Turpin explains the emergence and character of religious rejection in the Republic. He examines how numerous factors—including economic growth, social liberalization, attenuated domestic religious socialization, the institutional scandals and moral collapse of the Church, and the Church’s lingering influence in social institutions and laws—have interacted to produce a rapid growth in ex-Catholicism. By tracing the frictions within and between practicing Catholics, cultural Catholics, and ex-Catholics in a period of profound cultural change and moral reckoning, Turpin shows how deeply the meanings of being religious or non-religious have changed in the country once described as “Holy Catholic Ireland.”

Hugh Turpin is Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Center for the Study of Social Cohesion at the University of Oxford’s School of Anthropology and Museum Ethnography.

Suisheng Zhao is Professor and Director of the Center for China-US Cooperation at Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver.
AN EYE-OPENING AND COMPELLING ETHNOGRAPHY ABOUT HOW DOCTORS MAKE DECISIONS.

The oath that doctors take to “do no harm” suggests that patient welfare is at the center of what it means to be a successful medical professional. It is also understood, however, that hospitals are not only vessels for medical care—they are businesses, educational institutions, and complex bureaucracies with intricate codes of etiquette that dictate how each staff member should approach situations with patients. In Conflicted Care, Hyeyoung Oh Nelson provides an in-depth look at the decision-making processes of physicians at a large, prestigious academic medical center—that she calls Pacific Medical Center—and finds that, more often than not, patient wellbeing is only one of several factors governing day-to-day decisions.

The steps physicians take reveal a kind of hidden curriculum of the medical world, one that is guided by status and hierarchy, bureaucracy, norms for consulting with third parties, regulations for interactions with patients, and medical uncertainty. While at an institutional and individual level patient care continues to be integral to everything the physicians do, they are forced to reconcile that vow with these other, often conflicting internal logics. Harm, Nelson argues, is thus built into the practice of medicine in the United States. This harm can take the form of unnecessary treatments and consultations or inadequate treatment for pain to motivate specialist intervention that would otherwise be resisted. These and other practices have the overall consequence of significantly driving up inpatient care costs, which then results in patients forgoing needed, ongoing treatment once they receive their medical bills.

Drawing on a deep ethnography of physicians in the Internal Medicine Service unit, Nelson offers a sharp assessment of current policies aimed at alleviating medical costs and explains why they are ineffective. She concludes by offering novel policy and practice recommendations for health care practitioners, policy makers, and health care institutions.

Hyeyoung Oh Nelson is Assistant Professor of Health and Behavioral Sciences at the University of Colorado, Denver.

“This impressive book makes important contributions to our understanding of the different types of pressures that add to the complexity of medical care in the United States today. The close, on-the-ground description of these concerns is a valuable addition to the sociology of medicine and health.”
—Michael Sauder, author of Engines of Anxiety
Commercial dating agencies that facilitate marriages across national borders comprise a $2.5 billion global industry. Ideas about the industry are rife with stereotypes—younger, more physically attractive brides from non-Western countries being paired with older Western men. These ideas are more myth than fact, Monica Liu finds in *Seeking Western Men*. Her study of China's email-order bride industry offers stories of Chinese women who are primarily middle-aged, divorced, and proactively seeking spouses to fulfill their material and sexual needs. What they seek in their Western partners is tied to what they believe they’ve lost in the shifting global economy around them. Ranging from multimillionaire entrepreneurs or ex-wives and mistresses of wealthy Chinese businessmen, to contingent sector workers and struggling single mothers, these women, along with their translators and potential husbands from the US, Canada, and Australia, make up the actors in this multifaceted story. Set against the backdrop of China's global economic ascendance and a relative decline of the West, this book asks: How does this reshape Chinese women’s perception of Western masculinity? Through the unique window of global internet dating, this book reveals the shifting relationships of race, class, gender, sex, and intimacy across borders.

Monica Liu is Assistant Professor in the Department of Justice and Society Studies at the University of St. Thomas.

Breast cancer is one of the most commonly diagnosed cancers and a leading cause of death for women worldwide. With advances in molecular engineering in the 1980s, hopes began to rise that a non-toxic and non-invasive treatment for breast cancer could be developed. These hopes were stoked by the researchers, biotech companies, and analysts who worked to make sense of the uncertainties during product development. In *Making Sense*, Sophie Mützel traces this emergence of “innovative breast cancer therapeutics” up to the 2010s, through the lens of the narratives of the involved actors. Despite the notorious unpredictability of cancer drug development, these actors are tasked with establishing a client base and capturing the attention of potential investors, even before trials are completed. Combining theories of economic and cultural sociology, Mützel shows how stories are integral for the emergence of new markets; stories of the future create a market of expectations prior to any existing products. *Making Sense* uses thousands of press statements, media reports, scientific reports, and financial and industry analyses to illustrate these mechanisms, presenting a fresh view of how life-prolonging innovations can be turned into market products.

Sophie Mützel is Professor of Sociology at the University of Lucerne, Switzerland. She is the author of *Making Meaning of the Move of the German Capital* (2002).
For many residents of Western nations, COVID-19 was the first time they experienced the effects of an uncontrolled epidemic. This is in part due to a series of little-known regulations that have aimed to protect the Global North from epidemic threats for the last two centuries, starting with the International Sanitary Conferences in 1851 and culminating in the present with the International Health Regulations, which organize epidemic responses through the World Health Organization. Unlike other equity-focused global health initiatives, their mission—to establish "the maximum protections from infectious disease with the minimum effect on trade and traffic"—has remained the same since their founding. Using this as his starting point, Alexandre I.R. White reveals the Western capitalist interests, racism and xenophobia, and political power plays underpinning the regulatory efforts that came out of the project to manage the international spread of infectious disease. He examines how these regulations are formatted; how their framers conceive of epidemic spread; and the types of bodies and spaces it is suggested that these regulations map onto. Proposing a modified reinterpretation of Edward Said’s concept of orientalism, White invites us to consider "epidemic orientalism" as a framework within which to explore the imperial and colonial roots of modern epidemic disease control.

Alexandre I.R. White is Assistant Professor of Sociology and the History of Medicine at Johns Hopkins University. He is Associate Director for JHU’s Center for Medical Humanities and Social Medicine.

After Pinochet’s dictatorship ended in Chile in 1990, the country experienced a rapid decline in poverty along with a quickly growing economy. As a result, Chile’s middle class expanded dramatically, echoing trends seen across the Global South as neoliberalism took firm hold in the 1990s and the early 2000s. Identity Investments examines the politics and consumption practices of this vast and varied fraction of the Chilean population, seeking to better understand their value systems and the histories that informed them.

Using participant observation, interviews, and photographs, Joel Phillip Stillerman develops a unique typology of the middle class, made up of activists, moderate Catholics, pragmatists, and youngsters. This typology allows him to unearth the cultural, political, and religious roots of middle-class market practices in contrast with other studies focused on social mobility and exclusionary practices. The resultant contrast in backgrounds, experiences, and perspectives of these four groups animates this book and extends an emerging body of scholarship focused on the connections between middle-class market choices and politics in the Global South, with important implications for Chile’s recent explosive political changes.

Joel Phillip Stillerman is Professor of Sociology at Grand Valley State University. He is the author of The Sociology of Consumption: A Global Approach (2015).
A POIGNANT ACCOUNT OF EVERYDAY POLYGAMY AND WHAT ITS REGULATION REVEALS ABOUT WHO IS VIEWED AS AN “OTHER.”

In the past thirty years, polygamy has become a flashpoint of conflict as Western governments attempt to regulate certain cultural and religious practices that challenge seemingly central principles of family and justice. In Forbidden Intimacies, Melanie Heath comparatively investigates the regulation of polygamy in the United States, Canada, France, and Mayotte. Drawing on a wealth of ethnographic and archival sources, Heath uncovers the ways in which intimacies framed as “other” and “offensive” serve to define the very limits of Western tolerance.

These regulation efforts, counterintuitively, allow the flourishing of polygamies on the ground. The case studies illustrate a continuum of justice, in which some groups, like white fundamentalist Mormons in the U.S., organize to fight against the prohibition of their families’ existence, whereas African migrants in France face racialized discrimination in addition to rigid migration policies. The matrix of legal and social contexts, informed by gender, race, sexuality, and class, shapes the everyday experiences of these relationships. Heath uses the term “labyrinthine love” to conceptualize the complex ways individuals negotiate different kinds of relationships, ranging from romantic to coercive.

What unites these families is the secrecy in which they must operate. As government intervention erodes their abilities to secure housing, welfare, work, and even protection from abuse, Heath exposes the huge variety of intimacies, and the power they hold to challenge heteronormative, Western ideals of love.

“An important intervention into racialized gendered states and their making of marriage and intimacy norms. It beautifully exposes the social consequences of government regulation, reminding us that the family and home are not private spheres, especially among those stigmatized as different.”
—Eileen Boris, University of California, Santa Barbara

“This is a valuable contribution to the literature. It provides a fresh look at globalized pressures to rid Western culture of controversial or unsavory practices, such as polygyny. Highly recommended.”
—Janet Bennion, Northern Vermont University

Melanie Heath is Associate Professor of Sociology at McMaster University. She is the author of One Marriage Under God: The Campaign to Promote Marriage in America (2012) and co-author of The How To of Qualitative Research, second edition (2022).
Shadow Plays explores popular forms of entertainment used in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries to transport viewers to a “New World,” foreshadowing present-day VR, AR, and XR experiences. Typically studied as part of the pre-history of cinema or the archaeology of media, analogue technologies such as the mondo nuovo or cosmorama, the magic lantern, the moving panorama, and the stereoscope evoked shadow-copies of our world long before the advent of digital technologies and exercised a powerful pull on minds and imaginations. Through six case histories and eight interactive simulations, this digital project explores themes of virtual travel, social surveillance, and utopian imagination, shedding light on illustrious or, in some instances, forgotten figures and inventions from Italy’s past that paved the way for today’s virtual experiences.

Intended for undergraduate and graduate courses, this publication offers an overview of Italian cultural history by way of its optical innovations. Highlighting the gap between understanding and illusion that characterize both historical and contemporary virtual reality experiences, it invites conversations in art history and media history classrooms.
Throughout the nineteenth century and into the twentieth century, newspapers in the United States—even newspapers which were not published by a religious denomination or organization—made frequent recourse to the Bible. Newspapers printed sermons and Sunday school lessons, and ministers offered lessons through newspaper Bible clubs. Newspapers featured jokes whose punchlines required familiarity with the Bible. They aired political commentary that cited the Bible on all sides of a given issue.

*America’s Public Bible: A Commentary* is an interactive scholarly work that uncovers the history of the Bible in the nineteenth- and early twentieth-century United States. By identifying and studying quotations in American newspapers, the site offers a commentary on how the Bible was used in public life, uncovering trends and patterns that would be invisible to a single scholar’s reading of these documents.

The Southern Life History Project, a Federal Writers’ Project initiative, put unemployed writers to work during the Great Depression by capturing the stories of everyday people across the Southeast through a new form of social documentation called “life histories.” Layered Lives recovers the history of the Southern Life History Project (SLHP) through an interdisciplinary approach that combines close readings of archival material with computational methods that analyze the collection at scale. The authors grapple with the challenges of what counts as social knowledge, how to accurately represent social conditions, who could produce such knowledge, and who is and is not represented. Embedded within such debates are also struggles over what counts as data, evidence, and ways of knowing. As we look to our current moment, where debates about the opportunities and limits of quantification and the nature of data continue, the problems and promises that shaped the SLHP still shape how we capture and share stories today.
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