PHILOSOPHY AND CRITICAL THEORY

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The year 1888 marked the last year of Friedrich Nietzsche’s intellectual career and the culmination of his philosophical development. In that final productive year, he worked on six books, all of which are now, for the first time, presented in English in a single volume. Together these new translations provide a fundamental and complete introduction to Nietzsche’s mature thought and to the virtuosity and versatility of his most fully developed style.

Scrupulously edited, this critical volume also includes commentary by esteemed Nietzsche scholar Andreas Urs Sommer. Through this new collection, students and scholars are given an essential introduction to Nietzsche’s late thought.

816 pages, January 2021
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Unpublished Fragments from the Period of Human, All Too Human I (Winter 1874/75–Winter 1877/78) Volume 12
Friedrich Nietzsche
Translated with an Afterword, by Gary Handwerk

This volume presents the first English translations of Nietzsche’s unpublished notebooks from the years in which he developed the mixed aphoristic-essayistic mode that continued across the rest of his career. These notebooks comprise a range of materials, including drafts of aphorisms that would appear in both volumes of Human, All Too Human. Additionally, there are extensive notes for never-completed publications and detailed reading notes on philologists, philosophers, and historians of his era.

Here, we trace more closely Nietzsche’s development of ideas that remain central to his mature philosophy, such as the contrast between free and constrained spirits, the interplay of national, supra-national, and personal identities, and the cultural centrality of Bildung as education and cultivation.

560 pages, August 2021
9781503614840 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
Unpublished Fragments (Spring 1885–Spring 1886) Volume 16
Friedrich Nietzsche
Translated, with an Afterword, by Adrian Del Caro

This volume provides the first English translation of all Nietzsche’s unpublished notes from the period in which he wrote his breakthrough philosophical books Beyond Good and Evil and On the Genealogy of Morality. Keen to reinvent himself after Thus Spoke Zarathustra, the philosopher used these notes to chart his search for a new philosophical voice. The notebooks reveal his deep concern for Europe and its future. We learn what Nietzsche was reading and from whom he borrowed, and we find considerable notes and fragments from the non-book “Will to Power.” Richly annotated and accompanied by a detailed translator’s afterward, this landmark volume sheds light on the controversy surrounding the Nachlass of the 1880s.

616 pages, 2019
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Political Grammars
The Unconscious Foundations of Modern Democracy
Davide Tarizzo

Davide Tarizzo takes up the problem of modern democratic, liberal peoples —how to define them, how to explain their invariance over time, and how to differentiate one people from another. Tarizzo proposes that Jacques Lacan’s theory of the subject enables us to clearly distinguish between the notion of personal identity and the notion of subjectivity, and this distinction is critical to understanding the nature of nations whose sense of nationhood does not rest on any self-evident identity or pre-existent cultural or ethnic homogeneity. Introducing the concept of “political grammar”—the conditions of political subjectification that enable the enunciation of an emergent “we”—Tarizzo argues democracy flourishes when the opening between subjectivity and identity is maintained. As he compellingly demonstrates, democracy can be productively perceived as a process of never-ending recovery from a lack of clear national identity.

“A brilliant psychoanalytic exploration of unconscious communities.”
—John P. McCormick, University of Chicago

Surging Democracy
Notes on Hannah Arendt’s Political Thought
Adriana Cavarero

In this provocative new work, Adriana Cavarero weighs in on contemporary debates about the relationship between democracy, happiness, and dissent. Drawing on Arendt’s understanding of politics as a participatory experience, and also work by Émile Zola, Elias Canetti, Boris Pasternak, Roland Barthes, and Judith Butler, Cavarero proposes a new view of democracy, based not on violence, but rather on the spontaneous experience of a plurality of bodies coming together in public. With this timely intervention, Cavarero suggests democracy’s emergence thrives on the nonviolent creativity of a widespread, participatory, and relational power shared horizontally rather than vertically. From digital democracy to contemporary protest movements, Cavarero argues that we need to rethink our focus on individual happiness and rediscover birth through plural interaction. Let us be happy, she urges, but let us do so publicly, politically, together.

“An inspiring vision of what democracy might mean.”
—Silvia Benso, author of Viva Voce

144 pages, August 2021
9781503628137 Paper $22.00 $17.60 sale
Limits
Why Malthus Was Wrong and Why Environmentalists Should Care
Giorgos Kallis

Western culture is infatuated with the dream of going beyond, even as it is increasingly haunted by the specter of apocalypse: drought, famine, nuclear winter. Re-reading Thomas Robert Malthus and his legacy, this book reclaims, redefines, and makes an impassioned plea for limits—a notion central to environmentalism—clearing them from their association with Malthusianism and the ideology and politics that go along with it. Limits are not something out there, a property of nature to be deciphered by scientists, but a choice that confronts us, one that, paradoxically, is part and parcel of the pursuit of freedom.

Taking us from ancient Greece to Malthus, from hunter-gatherers to the Romantics, from anarchist feminists to 1970s radical environmentalists, Limits shows us how an institutionalized culture of sharing can make possible the collective self-limitation we so urgently need.

“Compelling.” —Kate Raworth, author of Doughnut Economics

208 pages, 2020
9781503612525 Paper $22.00 $17.60 sale

Across the Great Divide
Between Analytic and Continental Political Theory
Jeremy Arnold

The division between analytic and continental political theory remains as sharp as it is wide, rendering basic problems seemingly intractable. Across the Great Divide offers an account of how this split has shaped the field and suggests means of addressing it. Rather than advocating a synthesis of these philosophical modes, Arnold argues for aporetic cross-tradition theorizing: bringing together both traditions in order to show how each is at once necessary and limited.

Engaging with a range of fundamental political concepts and theorists—including the work of Stanley Cavell, Philip Pettit and Hannah Arendt, John Rawls, and Jacques Derrida—Arnold shows how we can better understand and address the pressing political issues of civil freedom and state justice today.

“Outstanding and original.”
—Paul Patton, Wuhan University

232 pages, 2020
9781503612143 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

The Last Years of Karl Marx
An Intellectual Biography
Marcello Musto

In the last years of his life, Karl Marx expanded his research in new directions—studying recent anthropological discoveries, analyzing communal forms of ownership in precapitalist societies, supporting the populist movement in Russia, and expressing critiques of colonial oppression. With The Last Years of Karl Marx, Marcello Musto claims a renewed relevance for the late work of Marx, highlighting unpublished or previously neglected writings, many of which remain unavailable in English.

Readers are invited to reconsider Marx’s critique of European colonialism, his ideas on non-Western societies, and his theories on the possibility of revolution in non-capitalist countries. From Marx’s late manuscripts, notebooks, and letters emerges an author markedly different from the one represented by many of his contemporary critics and followers alike.

“Musto takes us by the hand and invites us to discover a new Marx.”
—Antonio Negri, author of Marx Beyond Marx

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STANFORD BRIEFS

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The Political Theory of Neoliberalism
Thomas Biebricher

Neoliberalism has become a dirty word. Yet the term remains necessary for understanding the varieties of capitalism across space and time. Arguing that neoliberalism is widely misunderstood when reduced to a doctrine of markets and economics alone, this book shows that it has a political dimension that we can re-construct and critique. By examining the views of state, democracy, science, and politics in the work of six major figures—Eucken, Röpke, Rüstow, Hayek, Friedman, and Buchanan—The Political Theory of Neoliberalism offers the first comprehensive account of the varieties of neoliberal political thought. The book also interprets recent neoliberal reforms of the European Union to diagnose contemporary capitalism more generally. The latest economic crises hardly brought the neoliberal era to an end. Instead, as Thomas Biebricher shows, we are witnessing an authoritarian liberalism whose reign has only just begun.

“A model of what political theory should be.”
—Margaret Kohn, University of Toronto

CURRENCIES: NEW THINKING FOR FINANCIAL TIMES
272 pages, 2019
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Toward the Critique of Violence
A Critical Edition
Walter Benjamin
Edited by Peter Fenves and Julia Ng

Marking the centenary of Walter Benjamin’s influential essay, “Toward the Critique of Violence,” this critical edition presents readers with a new, fully annotated translation of a classic of modern political theory.

The volume includes notes and fragments by Benjamin along with passages from all of the contemporaneous texts to which his essay refers: provocative arguments about law and violence advanced by Hermann Cohen, Kurt Hiller, Erich Unger, and Emil Lederer; a new translation of selections from Georges Sorel’s Reflections on Violence; and, for the first time in any language, a bibliography Benjamin drafted for the expansion of the essay and the development of a corresponding philosophy of law.

“The most comprehensible version yet of Benjamin’s compelling and demanding essay.”
—Kevin McLaughlin, Brown University

376 pages, June 2021
9780804749554 Paper $25.00  $20.00 sale

Love Drugs
The Chemical Future of Relationships
Brian D. Earp and Julian Savulescu

Is there a pill for love? In fact, biochemical interventions into love and relationships are not some far-off speculation. Our most intimate connections are already being influenced by drugs we ingest for other purposes. Controlled studies are underway to see whether artificial brain chemicals can enhance couples therapy. And conservative religious groups are experimenting with certain medications to quash romantic desires—and even the urge to masturbate—among children and vulnerable sexual minorities. In Love Drugs ethicists Brian D. Earp and Julian Savulescu arm us with the latest scientific knowledge and a set of ethical tools that we can use to decide if these sorts of medications should be a part of our society.

“A fascinating, game-changing scientific argument.”
—Helen Fisher, author of Anatomy of Love

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Giving Way
Thoughts on Unappreciated Dispositions
Steven Connor

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

“This book gets to the root of what it means to be an ethical human being.”
—David Kishik, Emerson College

320 pages, 2019
9781503610835 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

Prose of the World
Denis Diderot and the Periphery of Enlightenment
Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht

Philosopher, translator, novelist, art critic, and editor of the Encyclopédie, Denis Diderot was one of the liveliest figures of the Enlightenment. But how might we delineate the contours of his diverse oeuvre, which is clearly characterized by a centrifugal dynamic?

Conjuring scenes from Diderot’s by turns turbulent and quiet life, offering close readings of several key books, and probing the motif of a tension between physical perception and conceptual experience, Gumbrecht demonstrates how Diderot belonged to a vivid intellectual periphery that included protagonists such as Lichtenberg, Goya, and Mozart. With this provocative, elegant work, he elaborates the existential preoccupations of this periphery, revealing the way they speak to us today.

“A significant contribution by one of the world’s leading literary scholars and public intellectuals.”
—Markus Gabriel, author of Why the World Does Not Exist

304 pages, May 2021
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Theory of the Earth
Thomas Nail

We need a new philosophy of the earth. Crafting a philosophy of geology that rewrites natural and human history from the broader perspective of movement, Thomas Nail provides a new materialist, kinetic ethics of the earth for this moment.

Climate change and other ecological disruptions challenge us to reconsider the deep history of minerals, atmosphere, plants, and animals and to take a more process-oriented perspective that sees humanity as part of the larger cosmic and terrestrial drama of mobility and flow. Building on his earlier work on the philosophy of movement, Nail argues we should shift our biocentric emphasis from conservation to expenditure, flux, and planetary diversity, and rethink our ethical relationship to one another, the planet, and the cosmos at large.

“A needed provocation.”
—Dorion Sagan, author of Cosmic Apprentice

320 pages, April 2021
9781503627550 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
Crowds
The Stadium as a Ritual of Intensity
Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht

Finalist for the 2020 Football Book of the Year Award from the German Academy for Football Culture

Anyone who has ever experienced a sporting event in a large stadium knows the energy that emanates from stands full of fans cheering on their teams. Although “the masses” have long held a thoroughly bad reputation in politics and culture, literary critic and avid sports fan Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht finds powerful, as yet unexplored reason to sing the praises of crowds. Drawing on his experiences as a spectator in the stadiums of South America, Germany, and the US, Gumbrecht presents the stadium as “a ritual of intensity,” thereby offering a different lens through which we might capture and even appreciate the dynamic of the masses.

Pairing philosophical rigor with the enthusiasm of a true fan, Gumbrecht writes from the inside and suggests that being part of a crowd opens us up to an experience beyond ourselves.

Photography and Its Shadow
Hagi Kenaan

Photography and Its Shadow argues that the invention of photography marked a rupture in our relation to the world and what we see in it. The dominant theoretical and artistic paradigm for understanding the invention has been the tracing of shadows. But what photography really inaugurated was the shadow’s disappearance—a disappearance that irreversibly changed our relationship to nature and the real, to time and to death. A way of negotiating impermanence, photography conflated two incompatible configurations of the visible: an embodied human eye, sensitive to nature, and a machine vision that aimed to reify the instant and wallow in images alone. Challenging the most influential accounts of the practice and taking us from its origins to the present, Hagi Kenaan shows how photography has been transformed over time, and how it transforms us.

“Theorizes photography as powerfully as Susan Sontag and Roland Barthes did.”
—Alexander Nemerov, Stanford University

128 pages, May 2021
9781503628830 Paper $14.00 $11.20 sale

Heidegger’s Fascist Affinities
A Politics of Silence
Adam Knowles

This book argues that Martin Heidegger’s politics and philosophy of language emerge from a deep affinity for the ethno-nationalist and anti-Semitic politics of the Nazi movement. Himself a product of a conservative milieu, Heidegger did not have to significantly compromise his thinking to adapt it to National Socialism but only to intensify certain themes within it. Tracing the continuity of these themes in Heidegger’s work, Knowles argues that if Heidegger was able to align himself so thoroughly with Nazism, it was partly because his philosophy was predicated upon fundamental forms of silencing and exclusion. Rather than simply banish Heidegger from the philosophical realm, Knowles asks: could what drove Heidegger to Nazism continue to haunt the discipline? In the context of today’s burgeoning ethno-nationalist regimes, can contemporary philosophy ensure itself of its immunity?

“Game-changing.”
—John K. Roth, Claremont McKenna College

256 pages, 2019
9781503608788 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
What Would Be Different
Figures of Possibility in Adorno
Iain Macdonald
Possibility is a concept central to both philosophy and social theory. But in what philosophical soil, if any, does the possibility of a better society grow? At the intersection of metaphysics and social theory, What Would Be Different looks to Theodor W. Adorno to reflect on the relationship between the possible and the actual. In repeated allusions to utopia, redemption, and reconciliation, Adorno appears to reference a future that would break decisively with the social injustices that have characterized history. To this end, he also makes extensive technical use of the concept of possibility. Taking Adorno’s critical readings of other thinkers, especially Hegel and Heidegger, as his guiding thread, Iain Macdonald reflects on possibility as it relates to Adorno’s own writings and offers answers to the question of how we are to articulate such possibilities without lapsing into a vague and naïve utopianism.

“This book is among the most genuinely pathbreaking recent work on Adorno.”
—Maxim Pensky, Binghamton University

248 pages, 2019
9781503610637 Paper $26.00  $20.80 sale

The Book of Shem
On Genesis before Abraham
David Kishik
One of the most radical rereadings of the opening chapters of Genesis since The Zohar.
The Book of Shem offers an inspiring interpretation of this navel of world literature. The six parts of the primeval story—God’s creation, the Garden of Eden, Cain and Abel, Noah’s Ark, the first covenant, and the Tower of Babel—come together to address a single concern: How does one become the human being that one is? By closely analyzing the founding text of the Abrahamic religions, this short treatise rethinks some of their deepest convictions. With a mixture of reverence and violence, Kishik’s creative commentary demonstrates the post-secular implications of a pre-Abrahamic position.

“A fantastic book that teaches us something new and returns us to something we have abandoned for too long.”
—Gil Anidjar, Columbia University

136 pages, 2018
9781503607347 Paper $18.00  $14.40 sale

Two Studies of Friedrich Hölderlin
Werner Hamacher
Edited by Peter Fenves and Julia Ng.
Translated by Julia Ng and Anthony Curtis Adler
Two Studies of Friedrich Hölderlin shows how the poet enacts a radical theory of meaning that culminates in a unique and still groundbreaking concept of revolution, one that begins with a revolutionary understanding of language. The product of an intense engagement with both Walter Benjamin and Jacques Derrida, the book presents Werner Hamacher’s major attempts at developing a critical practice commensurate with the immensity of Hölderlin’s late writings. Readers will not only come away with a new appreciation of Hölderlin’s poetic and political-theoretical achievements but will also discover the motivating force behind Hamacher’s own achievements as a literary scholar and political theorist.

An introduction by Julia Ng and an afterword by Peter Fenves provide further information about these studies and the academic and theoretical context in which they were composed.

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

240 pages, 2020
9781503611115 Paper $28.00  $22.40 sale
What Is Real?
Giorgio Agamben

Eighty years ago, Ettore Majorana, a brilliant student of Enrico Fermi, disappeared under mysterious circumstances while going by ship from Palermo to Naples. How is it possible that the most talented physicist of his generation vanished without leaving a trace? It has long been speculated that Majorana decided to abandon physics, disappearing because he had precociously realized that nuclear fission would inevitably lead to the atomic bomb. This book advances a different hypothesis. Through a careful analysis of Majorana’s article “The Value of Statistical Laws in Physics and Social Sciences,” which shows how in quantum physics reality is dissolved into probability, and in dialogue with Simone Weil’s considerations on the topic, Giorgio Agamben suggests that, by disappearing into thin air, Majorana turned his very person into an exemplary cipher of the status of the real in our probabilistic universe. In so doing, the physicist posed a question to science that is still awaiting an answer: What is Real?

88 pages, 2018
9781503606210 Paper $16.00 $12.80 sale

Thinking Nature and the Nature of Thinking
From Eriugena to Emerson
Willemien Otten

A fresh, capacious reading of the Western religious tradition on nature and creation, this book puts medieval theologian John Scottus Eriugena into conversation with philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. Challenging historical religious models, Otten reveals a line of thought that has long made room for nature’s agency as the coworker of God. Embracing this idea of nature in a world beset by environmental crisis will allow us to see nature not as a victim but as an ally in a common quest for reattunement to the divine. Putting its protagonists into further dialogue with such classical authors as Augustine, Maximus the Confessor, Friedrich Schleiermacher, and William James, her study deconstructs the idea of pantheism and paves the way for a new natural theology.

“Otten persuasively illustrates how to engage religiously with religious texts without having to disdain the blessings of secularity.”
—James Wetzel, Villanova University

312 pages, 2020
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The Implicated Subject
Beyond Victims and Perpetrators
Michael Rothberg

When it comes to historical violence and contemporary inequality, none of us are completely innocent. Arguing that the familiar categories of victim, perpetrator, and bystander do not adequately account for our connection to injustices past and present, Michael Rothberg offers a new theory of political responsibility through the figure of the implicated subject. Examining a range of cultural texts, archives, and activist movements from such contested zones as transitional South Africa, contemporary Israel/Palestine, post-Holocaust Europe, and a transatlantic realm marked by the afterlives of slavery, Rothberg finds that the processes and histories illuminated by implicated subjectivity are legion in our interconnected world and articulates how confronting our own implication in difficult histories can lead to new forms of internationalism and long-distance solidarity.

“This book’s stakes are as high as its thinking is subtle, clear, and persuasive.”
—Marianne Hirsch, Columbia University

288 pages, 2019
9781503609594 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

Being with the Dead
Burial, Ancestral Politics, and the Roots of Historical Consciousness
Hans Ruin

All humans have developed techniques of caring for and communicating with the dead. The premise of Being with the Dead is that we can explore our lives with the dead as an existential a priori out of which the basic forms of historical consciousness emerge. Care for the dead is not just the symbolic handling of remains; it also points to a necropolitics, the social bond between the dead and living that holds societies together—a shared space where the dead are maintained among the living. Moving from mortuary rituals to literary representations, from the problem of ancestrality to technologies of survival and inter-generational communication, Hans Ruin explores the epistemological, ethical, and ontological dimensions of what it means to be with the dead. His phenomenological approach to key sources in a range of fields gives us new purchase on the human sciences as a whole.

“Stunning.”
—Ethan Kleinberg, Wesleyan University

272 pages, 2019
9781503607750 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale

Theodor Adorno and the Century of Negative Identity
Eric Oberle

Identity has become a central feature of national conversations. We have learned to think positively in terms of identity when it comes to personal freedom, social rights, and group membership and negatively when it comes to discrimination, bias, and hate crimes. Turning to the Frankfurt School and drawing on Isaiah Berlin’s famous distinction between positive and negative liberty, this book presents the history of positive and negative identity and its expanding application. Covering the period of the Frankfurt School’s American exile, Oberle examines how the critique of racism, authoritarianism, and hard-right agitation influenced the self-conception of both Americans and Germans and considers how a new form of politics, based not on interest but on defining an Other, has shaped our everyday language, institutions, and social world.

“Oberle’s book is full of pathbreaking insights.”
—Marginalia, Los Angeles Review of Books

352 pages, 2018
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Whither Fanon?
Studies in the Blackness of Being
David Marriott

Frantz Fanon is most known for his political writings, but he was first a clinician, a black Caribbean psychiatrist who had the improbable task of treating North African patients during the wars of decolonization. Investigating and foregrounding the clinical system that Fanon devised in an attempt to intervene against negrophobia and anti-blackness, this book rereads his clinical and political work together, arguing that the two are mutually imbricated. For the first time, Fanon’s therapeutic innovations are considered alongside his more overtly political and cultural writings to ask how the crises of war affected his practice, informed his politics, and shaped his subsequent ideas.

“Writing with an intensity and momentum unparalleled by other scholars in the field, David Marriott is Frantz Fanon’s first reader.”
—Frank B. Wilderson III, University of California, Irvine

432 pages, 2018
9781503605725 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

The Re-Enchantment of the World
Secular Magic in a Rational Age
Edited by Joshua Landy and Michael Saler

This interdisciplinary volume challenges the long-prevailing view of modernity as “disenchanted.” There is of course something to the widespread idea, so memorably put into words by Max Weber, that modernity is characterized by the “progressive disenchantment of the world.” Yet less often recognized is that a powerful counter-tendency runs alongside this one, an overwhelming urge to fill the vacuum left by departed convictions, and to do so without invoking superseded belief systems. Modernity produces an array of strategies for re-enchantment, each fully compatible with secular rationality. It has to, because God has many “aspects” and traditional religion offers so much in so many domains. From one thinker to the next, the question of just what, in religious enchantment, needs to be replaced in a secular world receives an entirely different answer and these strategies are presented in this wide-ranging collection.

“One of those rare books that creates a paradigm shift in a topic of real importance.”
—Simon During, Johns Hopkins University

408 pages, April 2021
9781503628946 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale

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