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Mastery of Non-Mastery in the Age of Meltdown

Key Selling Points

The latest work by one of the most important living anthropologists
Argues for a new mode of engagement with planetary collapse
Written in the author’s characteristically experimental style

Summary

For centuries, humans have excelled at mimicking nature in order to exploit it. Now, with the existential threat of global climate change on the horizon, the ever-provocative Michael Taussig asks what function a newly invigorated mimetic faculty might exert along with such change. Mastery of Non-Mastery in the Age of Meltdown is not solely a reflection on our condition but also a theoretical effort to reckon with the impulses that have fed our relentless ambition for dominance over nature.

Taussig seeks to move us away from the manipulation of nature and reorient us to different metaphors and sources of inspirations to develop a new ethical stance toward the world. His ultimate goal is to undo his readers’ sense of control and engender what he calls “mastery of non-mastery.” This unique book developed out of Taussig’s work with peasant agriculture and his artistic practice, which brings performance art together with aspects of ritual, especially in his Sun Theater and “solar talks”—each one taking place for ten minutes, at different times of the same day, starting on a beach in southern California. Drawing on the work of Walter Benjamin, D. H. Lawrence, Emerson, Bataille, and Proust, he engages creatively with these great thinkers through his immersive and conversational meditations. Inspired by these writers and by our planet’s plight, Taussig’s luminescent experimental prose grapples with the possibility of collapse and with the responsibility we bear for it.

Contributor Bio

Michael Taussig is the Class of 1933 Professor of Anthropology at Columbia University. He is the author of several books, including The Corn Wolf, Beauty and the Beast, and Palma Africana, all published by the University of Chicago Press.
Intimate Disconnections
Divorce and the Romance of Independence in Contemporary Japan

Key Selling Points
A sensitive, nuanced account of Japan’s reckoning with the increasing reality of divorce
Combines anthropology, history, and gender and queer studies
Raises broader question about romantic ties in modernity

Summary
In many ways, divorce is a quintessentially personal decision—the choice to leave a marriage that causes harm or feels unfulfilling to the two people involved. But anyone who has gone through a divorce knows the additional public dimensions of breaking up, from intense shame and societal criticism, to friends’ and relatives’ unsolicited advice. In Intimate Disconnections, Allison Alexy tells the fascinating story of the changing customs surrounding divorce in Japan in the early 2000s, when sudden demographic and social changes made it a newly visible and viable option. Not only will one of three Japanese marriages end in divorce, but divorces are suddenly much more likely to be initiated by women who cite new standards for intimacy as their motivation. As people across Japan now consider divorcing their spouses, or work to avoid it, they face complicated questions about the risks and possibilities marriage brings: How can couples be intimate without becoming suffocatingly close? How should they build loving relationships when older models are no longer feasible? What do you do, both legally and socially, when you just can’t take it anymore?

Relating the intensely personal stories from people experiencing different stages of divorce, Alexy provides a rich ethnography of Japan while also speaking more broadly to contemporary visions of love and marriage during an era in which neoliberal values are prompting wide-ranging transformations in homes across the globe.

Contributor Bio
Allison Alexy is assistant professor in the Asian Languages and Cultures and Women’s Studies departments at the University of Michigan. She is coeditor of Home and Family in Japan: Continuity and Transformation and Intimate Japan: Ethnographies of Closeness and Conflict.

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Appendix A: Profile Summaries
Appendix B: All Quotes in Original Japanese
**Experiments with Power**

*Obeah and the Remaking of Religion in Trinidad*

**Key Selling Points**

A nuanced study of spiritual work (*obeah*) in the Afro-Caribbean.

Investigates the legal, religious, and moral components of *obeah* and its relationship to justice

Has broad implications for religious studies, and challenges limited Western conceptions of religion

**Summary**

In 2011, Trinidad declared a state of emergency. This massive state intervention lasted for 106 days and led to the rounding up of over 7,000 people in areas the state deemed “crime hot spots.” The government justified this action and subsequent police violence on the grounds that these measures were restoring “the rule of law.” In this milieu of expanded policing powers, protests occasioned by police violence against lower class black people have often garnered little sympathy. But in an improbable turn of events six officers involved in the shooting of three young people were charged with murder at the height of the state of emergency. To explain this, the host of *Crime Watch*, the nation’s most popular television show, alleged that there must be a special power at work: *obeah*.

From eighteenth-century slave rebellions to contemporary responses to police brutality, Caribbean methods of problem-solving “spiritual work” have been criminalized under the label of “obeah.” Connected to justice-making force, obeah remains a crime in many parts of the anglophone Caribbean. In *Experiments with Power*, J. Brent Crosson addresses the complex question of what obeah is. Redescribing obeah as “science” and “experiments,” Caribbean spiritual workers unsettle the moral and racial foundations of Western categories of religion. Based on more than a decade of conversations with spiritual workers during and after the state of emergency, this book shows how the reframing of religious practice as an experiment with power transforms conceptions of religion and law in modern nation-states.

**Contributor Bio**

**J. Brent Crosson** is assistant professor of religious studies and anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin.

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Chicago Apartments (2nd Edition)
A Century and Beyond of Lakefront Luxury

Key Selling Points
A luxurious and comprehensive guide to some of America’s most distinctive and historic apartment buildings.

Fully up-to-date, featuring some of the newest (and the oldest) buildings in Chicago.

Printed on high-quality paper in duotone throughout.

Summary
The Chicago lakefront is one of America’s urban wonders. The ribbon of high-rise luxury apartment buildings along the Lake Michigan shore has few, if any, rivals nationwide for sustained architectural significance. This historic confluence of site, money, style, and development lies at the heart of the updated edition of Neil Harris's Chicago Apartments: A Century and Beyond of Lakefront Luxury. The book features more than one hundred buildings, stretching from south to north and across more than a century, each with its own special combination of design choice, floor plans, and background story. Harris, with the assistance of Teri J. Edelstein, proves to be an affable and knowledgeable tour guide, guiding us through dozens of buildings, detailing a host of inimitable development histories, design choices, floor plans, and more along the way. Of particular note are recent structures on the Chicago River and south of the Loop that are proposing new definitions of comfort and extravagance. Featuring nearly 350 stunning images and a foreword by renowned Chicago author Sara Paretsky, this new edition of Chicago Apartments offers a wide-ranging look inside some of the Windy City’s most magnificent abodes.

Contributor Bio
Neil Harris is the Preston and Sterling Morton Professor of History and Art History Emeritus at the University of Chicago. His books include Capital Culture, The Chicagoan, The Artist in American Society, Humbug, and Cultural Excursions, all published by the University of Chicago Press.

Teri J. Edelstein is an art historian and museum professional. Her scholarly work has focused on the intersection of high art and popular culture. Most recently, she was editor of and contributor to Art for All: British Posters for Transport.

Sara Paretsky is the author most recently of Shell Game. A prolific crime and mystery novelist, she received her PhD in history from the University of Chicago in 1977.
Still Life
Ecologies of the Modern Imagination at the Art Museum

Key Selling Points

Behind-the-scenes exploration of the work required to maintain MoMA’s prestigious art collection.

Analyzes the art conservation, storage facilities, museum crowd control operations, and myriad other systems that preserve MoMA’s elite status.

For sociologists of art and people in museum studies, or anyone interested in the work that goes on behind the scenes at a major museum.

Summary

How do you keep the cracks in *Starry Night* from spreading? How do you prevent artworks made of hugs or candies from disappearing? How do you render a fading photograph eternal—or should you attempt it at all? These are some of the questions that conservators, curators, registrars, and exhibition designers dealing with contemporary art face on a daily basis. In *Still Life*, Fernando Domínguez Rubio delves into one of the most important museums of the world, the Museum of Modern Art (MoMA) in New York, to explore the day-to-day dilemmas that museum workers face when the immortal artworks that we see in the exhibition room reveal themselves to be slowly unfolding disasters.

*Still Life* offers a fascinating and detailed ethnographic account of what it takes to prevent these disasters from happening. Going behind the scenes at MoMA, Domínguez Rubio provides a rare view of the vast technological apparatus—from climatic infrastructures and storage facilities, to conservation labs and machine rooms—and teams of workers—from conservators and engineers to guards and couriers—who fight to hold artworks still.

As MoMA reopens after a massive expansion and rearranging of its space and collections, *Still Life* not only offers a much-needed account of the spaces, actors, and forms of labor traditionally left out of the main narratives of art, but it also offers a timely meditation on how far we, as a society, are willing to go to keep the things we value from disappearing into oblivion.

Contributor Bio

Fernando Domínguez Rubio is assistant professor of communication at the University of California, San Diego. He is coeditor of *The Politics of Knowledge*.

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The Naked Truth
Viennese Modernism and the Body

Key Selling Points

- Overturns common assumptions about Viennese modernism’s emphasis on the psyche
- Recovers a long tradition of critical attention to the changing status of the body
- Draws from painting, sculpture, and dance, as well as medicine and anatomy

Summary

Viennese modernism is often described in terms of a fin-de-siècle fascination with the psyche. But this stereotype of the movement as essentially cerebral overlooks a rich cultural history of the body. *The Naked Truth*, an interdisciplinary tour de force, addresses this lacuna, fundamentally recasting the visual, literary, and performative cultures of Viennese modernism through an innovative focus on the corporeal.

Alys X. George explores the modernist focus on the flesh by turning our attention to the second Vienna medical school, which revolutionized the field of anatomy in the 1800s. As she traces the results of this materialist influence across a broad range of cultural forms—exhibitions, literature, portraiture, dance, film, and more—George brings into dialogue a diverse group of historical protagonists, from canonical figures like Egon Schiele, Arthur Schnitzler, Joseph Roth, and Hugo von Hofmannsthal to long-overlooked actors, including author and doctor Marie Pappenheim, journalist Else Feldmann, and dancers Grete Wiesenthal, Gertrud Bodenwieser, and Hilde Holger. Deftly blending analyses of popular and “high” culture and laying to rest the notion that Viennese modernism was an exclusively male movement, *The Naked Truth* uncovers the complex interplay of the physical and the aesthetic that shaped modernism and offers a striking new interpretation of this fascinating moment in the history of the West.

Contributor Bio

**Alys X. George** is assistant professor of German and affiliate faculty of the Center for European & Mediterranean Studies at New York University.
Georg Simmel
Essays on Art and Aesthetics

Key Selling Points
First edited collection to bring together the finest of Georg Simmel's writing on art and aesthetics.

Many of the essays will be appearing in English for the first time.

The book's editor and translator, Austin Harrington, also wrote a substantial introduction to this volume which will be a significant contribution to Simmel scholarship.

Summary
Georg Simmel is one of the most original German thinkers of the twentieth century and is considered a founding architect of the modern discipline of sociology. Ranging over fundamental questions of the relationship of self and society, his influential writings on money, modernity, and the metropolis continue to provoke debate today. Fascinated by the relationship between culture, society, and economic life, Simmel took an interest in myriad phenomena of aesthetics and the arts. A friend of writers and artists such as Auguste Rodin, Rainer Maria Rilke, and Stefan George, he wrote dozens of pieces engaging with topics such as the work of Michelangelo, Rembrandt, and Rodin, Japanese art, naturalism and symbolism, Goethe, "art for art's sake", art exhibitions, and the aesthetics of the picture frame.

This is the first collection to bring together Simmel's finest writing on art and aesthetics, and many of the items appear in English in this volume for the first time. The more than forty essays show the protean breadth of Simmel's reflections, covering landscape painting, portraiture, sculpture, poetry, theater, form, style, and representation. An extensive introduction by Austin Harrington gives an overview of Simmel's themes and elucidates the significance of his work for the many theorists who would be inspired by his ideas.

Something of an outsider to the formal academic world of his day, Simmel wrote creatively with the flair of an essayist. This expansive collection of translations preserves the narrative ease of Simmel's prose and will be a vital source for readers with an interest in Simmel's trailblazing ideas in modern European philosophy, sociology, and cultural theory.

Contributor Bio
Georg Simmel (1858-1918) taught at the University of Berlin and the University of Strasbourg. His many books include The Philosophy of Money, The View of Life, and Georg Simmel on Individuality and Social Forms, the latter two both published by the University of Chicago Press.
Fluxus Forms
Scores, Multiples, and the Eternal Network

Key Selling Points
First study of Fluxus's importance to the transition from modernism to postmodernism.

A history of the understudied Fluxus group and their historical importance to experimental contemporary art.

Includes a rich illustration program with works by artists such as John Cage, George Brecht, Nam June Paik, Mieko Shiomi, Robert Rauschenberg, and Takako Saito, among others.

Summary
“PURGE the world of dead art, imitation, artificial art. . . . Promote living art, anti-art, promote NON ART REALITY to be grasped by all peoples,” writes artist George Maciunas in his Fluxus manifesto of 1963. Reacting against an elitist art world enthralled by modernist aesthetics, Fluxus encouraged playfulness, chance, irreverence, and viewer participation. The diverse collective—including George Brecht, Robert Filliou, Dick Higgins, Alison Knowles, George Maciunas, Yoko Ono, Nam June Paik, Benjamin Patterson, Takako Saito, Mieko Shiomi, Ben Vautier, and Robert Watts—embraced humble objects and everyday gestures as critical means of finding freedom and excitement beyond traditional forms of art-making.

While today the Fluxus collective is recognized for its radical neo-avant-garde works of performance, publishing, and relational art and its experimental, interdisciplinary approach, it was not taken seriously in its own time. With Fluxus Forms, Natilee Harren captures the magnetic energy of Fluxus activities and collaborations that emerged at the intersections of art, music, performance, and literature. The book offers insight into the nature of art in the 1960s as it traces the international development of the collective’s unique intermedia works—including event scores and Fluxbox multiples—that irreversibly expanded the boundaries of contemporary art.

Contributor Bio
Natilee Harren is assistant professor of modern and contemporary art history at the University of Houston and author of Karl Haendel: Knight’s Heritage.

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Renaissance and Baroque Art
Selected Essays

Summary
Leo Steinberg was one of the most original art historians of the twentieth century, known for taking interpretive risks that challenged the profession by overturning reigning orthodoxies. In essays and lectures ranging from old masters to contemporary art, he combined scholarly erudition with an eloquent prose that illuminated his subject and a credo that privileged the visual evidence of the image over the literature written about it. His writings, sometimes provocative and controversial, remain vital and influential reading. Steinberg’s perceptions evolved from long, hard looking at his objects of study. Almost everything he wrote included passages of formal analysis, but always put into the service of interpretation.

This volume begins and ends with thematic essays on two fundamental precepts of Steinberg’s art history: how dependence on textual authority mutes the visual truths of images and why artists routinely copy or adapt earlier artworks. In between are fourteen chapters on masterpieces of renaissance and baroque art, with bold and enlightening interpretations of works by Mantegna, Filippo Lippi, Pontormo, El Greco, Caravaggio, Steen and, finally, Velázquez. Four chapters are devoted to some of Velázquez’s best-known paintings, ending with the famously enigmatic Las Meninas.

Renaissance and Baroque Art is the third volume in a series that presents Steinberg’s writings, selected and edited by his longtime associate Sheila Schwartz.

Contributor Bio
Sheila Schwartz worked with Leo Steinberg from 1968 until his death in 2011. She received her PhD from the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, and is presently Research and Archives Director of The Saul Steinberg Foundation.

Leo Steinberg (1920–2011) was the Benjamin Franklin Professor Emeritus of the History of Art at the University of Pennsylvania.

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Leo Steinberg: Publications (1947–2010)

Photography Credits
The Compensations of Plunder
How China Lost Its Treasures

Key Selling Points
An original new account of how China lost so many of its treasures
Reveals the unlikely collaboration between Western explorers and local elites
Contributes to history, China’s relation to the West, and museum/heritage studies

Summary
From the 1790s until World War I, Western museums filled their shelves with art and antiquities from around the world. These objects are now widely seen as "stolen" or "plundered" from their countries of origin, and demands for their return grow louder by the day. In this pathbreaking study, Justin M. Jacobs challenges the longstanding assumption that coercion, corruption, and deceit were chiefly responsible for the exodus of cultural treasures from northwestern China. Based upon a close analysis of previously neglected archival sources in English, French, and Chinese, Jacobs finds that many local elites in China acquiesced to the removal of art and antiquities abroad, understanding their trade as currency for a cosmopolitan elite. In the decades after the 1911 Revolution, however, these antiquities went from being "diplomatic capital" to disputed icons of the emerging nation-state. A new generation of Chinese scholars began to criminalize the prior activities of archaeologists, erasing all memory of the pragmatic barter relationship that once existed in China. Recovering the voices of those local officials, scholars, and laborers who shaped the global trade in antiquities, The Compensations of Plunder brings historical grounding to a highly contentious topic in modern Chinese history and informs heated debates over cultural restitution throughout the world.

Contributor Bio
Justin M. Jacobs is associate professor of history at American University. He is the author of Indiana Jones in History and Xinjiang and the Modern Chinese State. He also serves as editor of The Silk Road journal and hosts Beyond Huaxia, a podcast on East Asian history.

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Mental Traveler
A Father, a Son, and a Journey through Schizophrenia

Key Selling Points
A memoir by a leading scholar of literary/media studies on his son's struggle with schizophrenia.
A father's perspective on dealing with and witnessing the daily realities of severe mental illness.
A celebration of a gifted, schizophrenic son's visual art, screenwriting, and film-making, despite his illness.
A chronicle of how a son turned his mental illness into an empowering form of subjectivity.

Summary
How does a parent make sense of a child's severe mental illness? How does a father meet the daily challenges of caring for his gifted but delusional son, while seeking to overcome the stigma of madness and the limits of psychiatry? W. J. T. Mitchell's memoir tells the story—at once representative and unique—of one family’s encounter with mental illness and bears witness to the life of the talented young man who was his son.

Gabriel Mitchell was diagnosed with schizophrenia at age twenty-one and died by suicide eighteen years later. He left behind a remarkable archive of creative work and a father determined to honor his son's attempts to conquer his own illness. Before his death, Gabe had been working on a film that would show madness from inside and out, as media stereotype and spectacle, symptom and stigma, malady and minority status, disability and gateway to insight. He was convinced that madness is an extreme form of subjective experience that we all endure at some point in our lives, whether in moments of ecstasy or melancholy, or in the enduring trauma of a broken heart. Gabe's declared ambition was to transform schizophrenia from a death sentence to a learning experience, and madness from a curse to a critical perspective.

Shot through with love and pain, Mental Traveler shows how Gabe drew his father into his quest for enlightenment within madness. It is a book that will touch anyone struggling to cope with mental illness, and especially for parents and caregivers of those caught in its grasp.

Contributor Bio
W. J. T. Mitchell teaches English and art history at the University of Chicago. His books include Image Science, Cloning Terror, and What Do Pictures Want?, all also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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**Plague Years**  
**A Doctor’s Journey through the AIDS Crisis**

**Key Selling Points**
A moving portrait of a vivid time and place, reminiscent of that in Rebecca Makkai’s widely acclaimed novel, *The Great Believers*

Puts Chicago at the center of a national tragedy that is too often imagined as a story that took place primarily on the coasts

In 1992, Slotten signed more death certificates than any other doctor in Illinois; and yet he persisted

**Summary**
*Plague Years* sheds light on the HIV/AIDS epidemic through the personal memories of a young Chicago physician who lived through its darkest days.

In 1992, Dr. Ross A. Slotten had the dubious distinction of signing more death certificates in the city of Chicago-and, by inference, the state of Illinois-than any other physician. As a family physician, he trained to care for patients from birth to death, but when he completed his residency in 1984, he had no idea that many of his future patients would be cut down in the prime of their lives. Among those patients were close friends, colleagues, and former lovers, who were shunned by most of the medical community because of their sexual orientation and HIV-positive status. Slotten wasn’t an infectious disease specialist, but because of his unique position as a gay man and a young physician, he became an unlikely pioneer, swept up in the maelstrom of one of the greatest epidemics in modern human history.

In *Plague Years*, Slotten offers a unique first-person account of the HIV/AIDS epidemic, drawing from private journals and notes from his thirty-plus years of practice. Spanning not just the city of Chicago, but four continents as well, *Plague Years* provides a comprehensive portrait of the epidemic, from its mystery-riddled early years through the reckless governmental responses of the United States and other nations that led to legions of senseless deaths and ruined lives to the discoveries of life-saving drug cocktails that transformed the disease into something potentially manageable. Unlike most other books on the subject, Slotten’s story extends to the present day, when prevention of infection for those at risk and successful treatment of those already infected offer a ray of hope that HIV/AIDS can be stopped in its tracks.

Alternating between Slotten’s reactions to the crisis as a gay man and the demanding toll the disease took on his career and the world around him, *Plague Years* sheds light on some of the darkest hours in the history of the LGBT community in a way that no previous medical memoir has.

**Contributor Bio**
Ross A. Slotten is a family practitioner specializing in the care of people with HIV/AIDS. He lives in Chicago with his husband and is the author of *The Heretic in Darwin’s Court: The Life of Alfred Russel Wallace*. 
The Transmutations of Chymistry
Wilhelm Homberg and the Académie Royale des Sciences

Key Selling Points
Completely new biography of Wilhelm Homberg
Draws on many primary sources that have not previously been seen
Significantly revises our understanding of early eighteenth-century science

Summary
This book reevaluates the changes to chemistry that took place from 1660 to 1730 through a close study of the chymist Wilhelm Homberg (1653–1715) and the changing fortunes of his discipline at the Académie Royale des Sciences, France’s official scientific body. By charting Homberg’s remarkable life from Java to France’s royal court, and his endeavor to create a comprehensive theory of chymistry (including alchemical transmutation), Lawrence M. Principe reveals the period’s significance and reassesses its place in the broader sweep of the history of science.

Principe, the leading authority on the subject, recounts how Homberg’s radical vision promoted chymistry as the most powerful and reliable means of understanding the natural world. Homberg’s work at the Académie and in collaboration with the future regent, Philippe II d’Orléans, as revealed by a wealth of newly uncovered documents, provides surprising new insights onto the broader changes chymistry underwent during and immediately after Homberg. A human, disciplinary, and institutional biography, The Transmutations of Chymistry significantly revises what was previously known about the contours of chymistry and scientific institutions in the early eighteenth century.

Contributor Bio
Lawrence M. Principe is the Drew Professor of the Humanities at Johns Hopkins University. He is the author of many books, most recently The Secrets of Alchemy, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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**A Philosopher's Economist**  
**Hume and the Rise of Capitalism**

**Key Selling Points**  
The first sustained study to make the case for David Hume as a major economic thinker  
Based on intimate knowledge of and thorough research into Hume's life and work  
Contextualizes Hume's philosophy in the political/economic thought of his time

**Summary**  
Although David Hume’s contributions to philosophy are well known, his work on economics has been largely overlooked. *A Philosopher’s Economist* offers the definitive account of Hume’s “worldly philosophy,” and argues that economics served as a unifying thread of his life and work. In this insightful monograph, Margaret Schabas and Carl Wennerlind show that Hume made important contributions to economic theory, for example on money, trade, and public finance. Hume’s astute understanding of human behavior provided an important foundation to his economics and enabled him to follow through on the ethical and political dimensions of capitalism. He was also keen to connect his analysis with policy recommendations and sought to influence those in power. While he supported commercial modernization, because it would promote peaceful relations, foster learning, and soften religious zealotry, he was not an unqualified enthusiast. He recognized the potential of capitalism for instability and the rise of absolutism. Hume’s imprint on modern economics is profound and far-reaching, both because of his influence on Adam Smith and Thomas Robert Malthus, and because of later admirers such as Friedrich Hayek and Paul Krugman. This book by Schabas and Wennerlind compels us to reconsider the centrality and legacy of Hume’s economic thought—for both his time and ours—and serves as an important springboard for reflections on the philosophical underpinnings of economics.

**Contributor Bio**  
**Margaret Schabas** is professor of philosophy at the University of British Columbia and the author of *A World Ruled by Number* and *The Natural Origins of Economics.*  
**Carl Wennerlind** is professor of history at Barnard College and the author of *Casualties of Credit.* Together they previously co-edited *David Hume’s Political Economy.*

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The Roles of Immigrants and Foreign Students in US Science, Innovation, and Entrepreneurship

Summary
The number of immigrants in the US science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) workforce and among recipients of advanced STEM degrees at US universities has increased in recent decades. In light of the current public debate about immigration, there is a need for evidence on the economic impacts of immigrants on the STEM workforce and on innovation. Using new data and state-of-the-art empirical methods, this volume examines various aspects of the relationships between immigration, innovation, and entrepreneurship, including the effects of changes in the number of immigrants and their skill composition on the rate of innovation; the relationship between high-skilled immigration and entrepreneurship; and the differences between immigrant and native entrepreneurs. It presents new evidence on the postgraduation migration patterns of STEM doctoral recipients, in particular the likelihood these graduates will return to their home country. This volume also examines the role of the US higher education system and of US visa policy in attracting foreign students for graduate study and retaining them after graduation.

Contributor Bio
Ina Ganguli is associate professor of economics at the University of Massachusetts Amherst. Shulamit Kahn is associate professor of markets, public policy, and law at the Boston University Questrom School of Business. Megan MacGarvie is associate professor of markets, public policy, and law at the Boston University Questrom School of Business and a research associate of the NBER.
Bankrupt in America
A History of Debtors, Their Creditors, and the Law in the Twentieth Century

Summary
In 2005, more than two million Americans—six out of every 1,000 people—filed for bankruptcy. Though personal bankruptcy rates have since stabilized, bankruptcy remains an important tool for the relief of financially distressed households. In *Bankrupt in America*, Mary and Brad Hansen offer a vital perspective on the history of bankruptcy in America, beginning with the first lasting federal bankruptcy law enacted in 1898.

Interweaving careful legal history and rigorous economic analysis, *Bankrupt in America* is the first work to trace how bankruptcy was transformed from an intermittently used constitutional provision, to an indispensable tool for business, to a central element of the social safety net for ordinary Americans. To do this, the authors track federal bankruptcy law, as well as related state and federal laws, examining the interaction between changes in the laws and changes in how people in each state used the bankruptcy law. In this thorough investigation, Hansen and Hansen reach novel conclusions about the causes and consequences of bankruptcy, adding nuance to the discussion of the relationship between bankruptcy rates and economic performance.

Contributor Bio
Mary Eschelbach Hansen is professor of economics at American University.

Bradley A. Hansen is professor of economics at University of Mary Washington. He is the author of *Institutions, Entrepreneurs, and American Economic History: How the Farmers' Loan and Trust Company Shaped the Laws of Business from 1822 to 1929.*

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Charter School City
What the End of Traditional Public Schools in New Orleans Means for American Education

**Key Selling Points**
Analysis of the long-term effects of the complete takeover of the New Orleans public school system by charter schools after Hurricane Katrina.

Demonstrates the necessity of robust local governmental involvement if charter schools are to have a positive affect on educational outcomes.

Adds much needed nuance to contemporary conversations about the hotly debated issue of charter schools.

**Summary**
In the wake of the tragedy and destruction that came with Hurricane Katrina in 2005, public schools in New Orleans became part of an almost unthinkable experiment—eliminating the traditional public education system and completely replacing it with charter schools and school choice. Fifteen years later, the results have been remarkable, and the complex lessons learned should alter the way we think about American education.

New Orleans became the first US city ever to adopt a school system based on the principles of markets and economics. When the state took over all of the city's public schools, it turned them over to non-profit charter school managers accountable under performance-based contracts. Students were no longer obligated to attend a specific school based upon their address, allowing families to act like consumers and choose schools in any neighborhood. The teacher union contract, tenure, and certification rules were eliminated, giving schools autonomy and control to hire and fire as they pleased.

In Charter School City, Douglas N. Harris provides an inside look at how and why these reform decisions were made and offers many surprising findings from one of the most extensive and rigorous evaluations of a district school reform ever conducted. Through close examination of the results, Harris finds that this unprecedented experiment was a noteworthy success on almost every measurable student outcome. But, as Harris shows, New Orleans was uniquely situated for these reforms to work well and that this market-based reform still required some specific and active roles for government. Letting free markets rule on their own without government involvement will not generate the kinds of changes their advocates suggest.

Combining the evidence from New Orleans with that from other cities, Harris draws out the broader lessons of this unprecedented reform effort. At a time when charter school debates are more based on ideology than data, this book is a powerful, evidence-based, and in-depth look at how we can rethink the roles for governments, markets, and nonprofit organizations in education to ensure that America’s schools fulfill their potential for all students.

**Contributor Bio**
**Douglas N. Harris** is professor and chair of the Department of Economics and the Schlieder Foundation Chair in Public Education at Tulane University. He is also the founding director of the Education Research Alliance for New Orleans, founding director of the National Center for Research on Education Access and Choice, and a non-resident senior fellow at the Brookings Institution.
Institutional Literacies
Engaging Academic IT Contexts for Writing and Communication

Summary
Information technologies have become an integral part of writing and communication courses, shaping the ways students and teachers think about and do their work. But, too often, teachers and other educational stakeholders take a passive or simply reactive role in institutional approaches to technologies, and this means they are missing out on the chance to make positive changes in their departments and on campus.

Institutional Literacies argues that writing and communication teachers and program directors should collaborate more closely and engage more deeply with IT staff as technology projects are planned, implemented, and expanded. Teachers need to both analyze how their institutions approach information technologies and intervene in productive ways as active university citizens with relevant expertise. To help them do so, the book offers a three-part heuristic, reflecting the reality that academic IT units are complex and multilayered, with historical, spatial, and textual dimensions. It discusses six ways teachers can intervene in the academic IT work of their own institutions: maintaining awareness, using systems and services, mediating for audiences, participating as user advocates, working as designers, and partnering as researchers. With these strategies in hand, educators can be proactive in helping institutional IT approaches align with the professional values and practices of writing and communication programs.

Contributor Bio
Stuart A. Selber is associate professor of English at the Pennsylvania State University. He is the author of Multiliteracies for a Digital Age, editor of Rhetorics and Technologies and Computers and Technical Communication, and coeditor, with Johndan Johnson-Eilola, of Central Works in Technical Communication.
The Cost of Inclusion
How Student Conformity Leads to Inequality on College Campuses

Summary
Young people are told that college is a place where they will “find themselves” by engaging with diversity and making friendships that will last a lifetime. This vision of an inclusive, diverse social experience is a fundamental part of the image colleges sell potential students. But what really happens when students arrive on campus and enter this new social world? The Cost of Inclusion delves into this rich moment to explore the ways students seek out a sense of belonging and the sacrifices they make to fit in.

Blake R. Silver spent a year immersed in student life at a large public university. He trained with the Cardio Club, hung out with the Learning Community, and hosted service events with the Volunteer Collective. Through these day-to-day interactions, he witnessed how students sought belonging and built their social worlds on campus. Over time, Silver realized that these students only achieved inclusion at significant cost. To fit in among new peers, they clung to or were pushed into raced and gendered cultural assumptions about behavior, becoming “the cool guy,” “the nice girl,” “the funny one,” “the leader,” “the intellectual,” or “the mom of the group.” Instead of developing dynamic identities, they crafted and adhered to a cookie-cutter self, one that was rigid and two-dimensional. Silver found that these students were ill-prepared for the challenges of a diverse college campus, and that they had little guidance from their university on how to navigate the trials of social engagement or the pressures to conform. While colleges are focused on increasing the diversity of their enrolled student body, Silver’s findings show that they need to take a hard look at how they are failing to support inclusion once students arrive on campus.

Contributor Bio
Blake R. Silver is assistant professor of sociology at George Mason University, where he also serves as director of data analytics and assessment in the Honors College.
Power and Time
Temporalities in Conflict and the Making of History

Key Selling Points
An innovative, agenda-setting collection of essays from today’s leading historians
Shows how political power can operate through specific conceptions of time
Will appeal to scholars of history, media, politics, culture, and art

Summary
Time is the backdrop of historical inquiry, yet it is much more than a featureless setting for events. Different temporalities interact dynamically; sometimes they coexist tensely, sometimes they clash violently. In this innovative volume, editors Dan Edelstein, Stefanos Geroulanos, and Natasha Wheatley bring together essays that challenge how we interpret history by focusing on the nexus of two concepts—“power” and “time”—as they manifest in a wide variety of case studies. Analyzing history, culture, politics, technology, law, art, and science, this engaging book shows how “temporal regimes” are constituted through the shaping of power in historically specific ways. Power and Time includes seventeen essays on a wide variety of subjects: human rights; sovereignty; Islamic, European, and Indian history; slavery; capitalism; revolution; the Supreme Court; and even the Manson Family. Power and Time will be an agenda-setting volume, highlighting the work of some of the world’s most respected and innovative contemporary historians and posing fundamental questions for the craft of history.

Contributor Bio
Dan Edelstein is the William H. Bonsall Professor of French and (by courtesy) professor of history at Stanford University. He is the author of The Terror of Natural Right, The Enlightenment, and On the Spirit of Rights, all published by the University of Chicago Press.

Stefanos Geroulanos is professor of history at New York University. He is the author of Transparency in Postwar France and coauthor of The Human Body in the Age of Catastrophe, published by the University of Chicago Press.

Natasha Wheatley is assistant professor of history at Princeton University.
Midlife Crisis
The Feminist Origins of a Chauvinist Cliché

Summary

The phrase "midlife crisis" today conjures up images of male indulgence and irresponsibility—an affluent, middle-aged man speeding off in a red sports car with a woman half his age—but before it became a gendered cliché, it gained traction as a feminist concept. In the 1970s, journalist Gail Sheehy used the term to describe a midlife period when both men and women might reassess their choices and seek a change in life. Sheehy’s definition challenged the double standard of middle age—where aging is advantageous to men and detrimental to women—by viewing midlife as an opportunity rather than a crisis. Widely popular in the United States and internationally, the term was quickly appropriated by psychological and psychiatric experts and redefined as a male-centered, masculinist concept.

The first book-length history of this controversial idea, Susanne Schmidt’s Midlife Crisis recounts the surprising origin story of the midlife debate and traces its movement from popular culture into academia. Schmidt’s engaging narrative of the feminist construction—and ensuing antifeminist backlash—of the midlife crisis illuminates a lost legacy of feminist thought, shedding important new light on the history of gender and American social science in the 1970s and beyond.

Contributor Bio

Susanne Schmidt is a research associate and lecturer in history at Freie Universität Berlin.

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**Shoddy**
*From Devil’s Dust to the Renaissance of Rags*

**Key Selling Points**
- First history of an early and enduring form of industrial-scale recycling
- First book about shoddy
- Provocative look at recycling, mechanical and craft production, and the self in the digital world
- New way of interpreting classic civil war photography

**Summary**
You know shoddy: an adjective meaning cheap and likely poorly made. But did you know that before it became a popular descriptor, shoddy was first coined as a noun? In the early nineteenth century, shoddy was the name given to a new textile material made from reclaimed wool. Shoddy was, in fact, one of the earliest forms of industrial recycling as old rags and fabric clippings were ground into “devil’s dust” and respun to be used in the making of suits, army uniforms, carpet lining, mattress stuffing, and more.

In *Shoddy*, Hanna Rose Shell takes readers on a vivid ride beginning in West Yorkshire’s Heavy Woollen District and its “shoddy towns,” and traveling to the United States, the developing world, and waste dumps, textile labs, and rag-shredding factories, in order to unravel the threads of this story and its long history. Since the time of its first appearance, shoddy was both pervasive and controversial on multiple levels. The use of the term “virgin” wool—still noticeable today in the labels on our sweaters—thus emerged as an effort by the wool industry to counter shoddy’s appeal: to make shoddy seem *shoddy*. Public health experts, with encouragement from the wool industry, worried about sanitation and disease—how could old clothes be disinfected? As well, the idea of wearing someone else’s old clothes so close to your own skin was disconcerting in and of itself. Could you sleep peacefully knowing that your mattress was stuffed with dead soldiers’ overcoats? Over time, shoddy the noun was increasingly used as an adjective that, according to Shell, captured a host of personal, ethical, commercial, and societal failings.

Introducing us to many richly drawn characters along the way, Shell reveals an interwoven tale of industrial espionage, political infighting, scientific inquiry, ethnic prejudices, and war profiteering. By exploring a variety of sources from political and literary texts to fabric samples and old military uniforms, antique and art photographs and political cartoons, medical textbooks, and legal cases, Shell unspools the history of shoddy to uncover the surprising journey that individual strands of recycled wool—and more recently a whole range of synthetic fibers from nylon to Kevlar—may take over the course of several lifetimes. Not only in your garments and blankets, but under your rug, in your mattress pads, in the peculiar confetti-like stuffing in your mailing envelopes, even in the insulation in your walls. The resulting fabric is at once rich and sumptuous, and cheap and tawdry—and likely connected to something you are wearing right now. After reading, you will never use the word *shoddy* or think about your clothes, or even the world around you, the same way again.

**Contributor Bio**
*Hanna Rose Shell* is associate professor in the Department of Art & Art History, the Department of Cinema Studies & Moving Image Arts, and the History Department at the University of Colorado, Boulder, and the author, most recently, of *Hide and Seek: Camouflage, Photography, and the Media of Reconnaissance* and a director of the film *Secondhand [Pepe]*.
**Excavating the Memory Palace**  
*Arts of Visualization from the Agora to the Computer*

**Key Selling Points**
An innovative historical account of the art of memory and ancient visualization tactics  
Draws connections between classical memory arts and modern data visualization and processing  
Contributes to the digital humanities, as well as studies of rhetoric and new technology

**Summary**
With the prevalence of smartphones, massive data storage, and search engines, we might think of today as the height of the information age. In reality, every era has faced its own challenges of storing, organizing, and accessing information. While they lacked digital devices, our ancestors, when faced with information overload, utilized some of the same techniques that underlie our modern interfaces: they visualized and spatialized data, tying it to the emotional and sensory spaces of memory, thereby turning their minds into a visual interface for accessing information.

In *Excavating the Memory Palace*, Seth David Long mines the history of Europe’s arts of memory to find the origins of today’s data visualizations, unearthing how ancient constructions of cognitive pathways paved the way for modern technological interfaces. Looking to techniques like the memory palace, he finds the ways that information has been tied to sensory and visual experience, turning raw data into lucid knowledge. From the icons of smart phone screens to massive network graphs, Long shows us the ancestry of the cyberscape and unveils the history of memory as a creative act.

**Contributor Bio**
*Seth David Long* is assistant professor of English at the University of Nebraska.

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**Crusade for Justice** *(2nd Edition)*  

**Summary**

"She fought a lonely and almost single-handed fight, with the single-mindedness of a crusader, long before men or women of any race entered the arena; and the measure of success she achieved goes far beyond the credit she has been given in the history of the country."—Alfreda M. Duster

Ida B. Wells is an American icon of truth telling. Born to slaves, she was a pioneer of investigative journalism, a crusader against lynching, and a tireless advocate for suffrage, both for women and for African Americans. She co-founded the NAACP, started the Alpha Suffrage Club in Chicago, and was a leader in the early civil rights movement, working alongside W. E. B. Du Bois, Madam C. J. Walker, Mary Church Terrell, Frederick Douglass, and Susan B. Anthony.

This engaging memoir, originally published 1970, relates Wells's private life as a mother as well as her public activities as a teacher, lecturer, and journalist in her fight for equality and justice. This updated edition includes a new foreword by Eve L. Ewing, new images, and a new afterword by Ida B. Wells's great-granddaughter, Michelle Duster.

**Contributor Bio**

Ida B. Wells *(1862-1931)* was an African American journalist, newspaper editor, and abolitionist.

Alfreda M. Duster *(1904-1983)*, daughter of Ida B. Wells, was a social worker, mother, and civic leader in Chicago.
States of Exception in American History

Summary

*States of Exception in American History* brings to light the remarkable number of instances since the Founding in which the protections of the Constitution have been overridden, held in abeyance, or deliberately weakened for certain members of the polity. In the United States, derogations from the rule of law seem to have been a feature of—not a bug in—the constitutional system.

The first comprehensive account of the politics of exceptions and emergencies in the history of the United States, this book weaves together historical studies of moments and spaces of exception with conceptual analyses of emergency, the state of exception, sovereignty, and dictatorship. The Civil War, the Great Depression, and the Cold War figure prominently in the essays; so do Francis Lieber, Frederick Douglass, John Dewey, Clinton Rossiter, and others who explored whether it was possible for the United States to survive states of emergency without losing its democratic way. *States of Exception* combines political theory and the history of political thought with histories of race and political institutions. It is both inspired by and illuminating of the American experience with constitutional rule in the age of terror and Trump.

Contributor Bio

Gary Gerstle is the Paul Mellon Professor of American History at the University of Cambridge and the author of several books, including *American Crucible* and *Liberty and Coercion*.

Joel Isaac is Associate Professor of Social Thought in the John U. Nef Committee on Social Thought at the University of Chicago.
Urban Lowlands
A History of Neighborhoods, Poverty, and Planning

Key Selling Points
Demonstrates the centrality of elevation in the social and economic stratification of American cities

A national survey of central yet low-lying and little-regarded urban locations, often stereotyped by their ever-present mud

Blends geography, history, and landscape studies to reshape our understanding of American urban poverty

Summary
In Urban Lowlands, Steven T. Moga looks closely at the Harlem Flats in New York City; Black Bottom in Nashville; Swede Hollow in St. Paul; and the Flats in Los Angeles to interrogate the connections between a city’s physical landscape and the poverty and social problems that are often concentrated at its literal lowest points. Taking an interdisciplinary perspective on the history of US urban development that stretches from the nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century, Moga reveals patterns of inequitable land use, economic dispossession, and social discrimination against poor and working-class residents. In attending to the landscapes of neighborhoods typically considered slums, Moga shows how physical and policy-driven containment has shaped the lives of the urban poor, while wealth and access to resources have been historically concentrated in elevated areas—truly “the heights.” Moga’s innovative framework expands our understanding of how planning and economic segregation alike have molded the American city.

Contributor Bio
Steven T. Moga is assistant professor of landscape studies at Smith College.

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Taking Leave, Taking Liberties
American Troops on the World War II Home Front

Summary
American soldiers overseas during World War II were famously said to be “overpaid, oversexed, and over here.” But the assaults, rapes, and other brutal acts didn’t only happen elsewhere, far away from a home front depicted as safe and unscathed by the “good war.” To the contrary, millions of American and Allied troops regularly poured into ports like New York and Los Angeles while on leave. Euphemistically called “friendly invasions,” these crowds of men then forced civilians to contend with the same kinds of crime and sexual assault unfolding in places like Britain, France, and Australia.

With unsettling clarity, Aaron Hiltner reveals what American troops really did on the home front. While GIs are imagined to have spent much of the war in Europe or the Pacific, before the run-up to D-Day in the spring of 1944 as many as 75% of soldiers were stationed in US port cities, including more than three million who moved through New York City. In these cities, largely uncontrolled soldiers sought and found alcohol and sex, and the civilians living there—women in particular—were not safe from the violence fomented by these de facto occupying armies. Troops brought their pocketbooks and demand for “dangerous fun” to both red-light districts and city centers, creating a new geography of vice that challenged local police, politicians, and civilians. Military authorities, focused above all else on the war effort, invoked written and unwritten legal codes to grant troops near immunity to civil policing and prosecution.

The dangerous reality of life on the home front was well known at the time—even if it has subsequently been buried beneath nostalgia for the “greatest generation.” Drawing on previously unseen military archival records, Hiltner recovers a mostly forgotten chapter of World War II history, demonstrating that the war’s ill effects were felt all over—including by those supposedly safe back home.

Contributor Bio
Aaron Hiltner is an assistant faculty associate at the University of Wisconsin–Madison.

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Picturing Political Power
Images in the Women’s Suffrage Movement

Key Selling Points
A timely account of how media depictions of women supported—or attempted to undermine—their political efforts

Richly illustrates the range of ways women of all classes used and were used by the early mass media

A story of perseverance in the face of American political misogyny—a subject that is still too much with us

Summary
For as long as women have battled for equitable political representation in America, those battles have been defined by images—whether illustrations, engravings, photographs, or colorful chromolithograph posters. Some of these pictures have been flattering, many have been condescending, and others downright incendiary. They have drawn upon prevailing cultural ideas of women’s perceived roles and abilities and often have been circulated with pointedly political objectives.

Picturing Political Power offers perhaps the most comprehensive analysis yet of the connection between images, gender, and power. In this examination of the fights that led to the ratification of the Nineteenth Amendment in 1920, Allison K. Lange explores how suffragists pioneered one of the first extensive visual campaigns in modern American history. She shows how pictures, from early engravings and photographs to colorful posters, proved central to suffragists’ efforts to change expectations for women, fighting back against the accepted norms of their times. In seeking to transform notions of womanhood and win the right to vote, white suffragists emphasized the compatibility of voting and motherhood, while Sojourner Truth and other leading suffragists of color employed pictures to secure respect and authority. Picturing Political Power demonstrates the centrality of visual politics to American women’s campaigns throughout the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, revealing the power of images to change history.

Contributor Bio
Allison K. Lange is assistant professor of history at Wentworth Institute of Technology.

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Running the Numbers
Race, Police, and the History of Urban Gambling

Key Selling Points
A careful examination of what made street-level gambling popular, successful, and central to urban life

Reveals the depth of police malpractice and the influence it had on the eventual legalization of gambling in the form of state lotteries

Traces the path from “policy” games to MegaBucks, showing how a game played by poor nonwhites became a popular national pastime

Summary
Every day in the United States, people test their luck in numerous lotteries, from state-run games to massive programs like Powerball and Mega Millions. Yet few are aware that the origins of today’s lotteries can be found in an African American gambling economy that flourished in urban communities in the mid-twentieth century. In Running the Numbers, Matthew Vaz reveals how the politics of gambling became enmeshed in disputes over racial justice and police legitimacy.

As Vaz highlights, early urban gamblers favored low-stakes games built around combinations of winning numbers. When these games became one of the largest economic engines in nonwhite areas like Harlem and Chicago’s south side, police took notice of the illegal business—and took advantage of new opportunities to benefit from graft and other corrupt practices. Eventually, governments found an unusual solution to the problems of illicit gambling and abusive police tactics: coopting the market through legal state-run lotteries, which could offer larger jackpots than any underground game. By tracing this process and the tensions and conflicts that propelled it, Vaz brilliantly calls attention to the fact that, much like education and housing in twentieth-century America, the gambling economy has also been a form of disputed terrain upon which racial power has been expressed, resisted, and reworked.

Contributor Bio
Matthew Vaz is assistant professor in the Department of History at the City College of the City University of New York.

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**The Province of Affliction**  
**Illness and the Making of Early New England**

**Key Selling Points**

A startlingly detailed survey of the extent of sickness in early America

Demonstrates that illness can bring communities together, even as it may drive individuals away from each other

Shows that sickness and illness suffused life in ways that contemporary Americans might find hard to recognize

**Summary**

How do we balance individual and collective responsibility for illness? This question, which continues to resonate today, was especially pressing in colonial America, where episodic bouts of sickness were pervasive, chronic ills common, and epidemics all too familiar.

In *The Province of Affliction*, Ben Mutschler explores the surprising roles that illness played in shaping the foundations of New England society and government from the late seventeenth century through the early nineteenth century. Considered healthier than residents in many other regions of early America, and yet still riddled with disease, New Englanders grappled steadily with what could be expected of the sick and what allowances made to them and their providers. Mutschler integrates the history of disease into the narrative of early American cultural and political development, illuminating the fragility of autonomy, individualism, and advancement in this period. Each sickness in early New England created its own web of interdependent social relations that could both enable survival and set off a long bureaucratic struggle to determine responsibility for the misfortune. From families and households to townships, colonies, and states, illness both defined and strained the institutions of the day, bringing people together in the face of calamity, yet also driving them apart when the cost of persevering grew overwhelming. In the process, domestic turmoil circulated through the social and political world to permeate the very bedrock of early American civic life.

**Contributor Bio**

Ben Mutschler is associate professor of history at Oregon State University.
Beyond the Usual Beating
The Jon Burge Police Torture Scandal and Social Movements for Police Accountability in Chicago

Key Selling Points
A precise and thorough documenting of the terrors of the Jon Burge regime—and the powerful resistance that it spawned

Focuses on the contingencies that made Burge exactly who he was, what made Chicago in his time exactly what it was, and what exactly helped empower those who fought back

Argues that Burge’s regime was less a product of national “carceral” forces and ideologies than of the social, economic, and demographic landscapes that produced white police officers

Summary
The malign and long-lasting influence of Chicago police commander Jon Burge cannot be overestimated, particularly as fresh examples of local and national criminal-justice abuse continue to surface with dismaying frequency. Burge’s decades-long tenure on the Chicago police force was marked by racist and barbaric interrogation methods, including psychological torture, burnings, and mock executions—techniques that went far “beyond the usual beating.” After being exposed in 1989, he became a symbol of police brutality and the unequal treatment of nonwhite people, and the persistent outcry against him led to reforms such as the abolition of the death penalty in Illinois.

But Burge hardly developed or operated in a vacuum, as Andrew S. Baer explores to stark effect here. He identifies the darkness of the Burge era as a product of local social forces, arising from a specific milieu beyond the nationwide racialized reactionary fever of the 1960s and 1970s. Similarly, the popular resistance movements that rallied in his wake actually predated Burge’s exposure but cohered with unexpected power due to the galvanizing focus on his crimes and abuses. For more than thirty years, a shifting coalition including torture survivors, their families, civil rights attorneys, and journalists helped to corroborate allegations of violence, free the wrongfully convicted, have Burge fired and incarcerated, and win passage of a municipal reparations package, among other victories. Beyond the Usual Beating reveals that though the Burge scandal underscores the relationship between personal bigotry and structural racism in the criminal justice system, it also shows how ordinary people held perpetrators accountable in the face of intransigent local power.

Contributor Bio
Andrew S. Baer is assistant professor of history with a secondary appointment in African American studies at the University of Alabama at Birmingham.

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The American Robot
A Cultural History

Key Selling Points
An expansive cultural history that looks at the figure of the robot in America from the 19th century traveling performers to the 31st century of Futurama

Abnet shows that robots, though they are often visualized as cold and mechanical, tend to reflect the fears and prejudices of the human beings around them.

Shows how the robot writ large has long troubled Americans in the workplace, in government, in the kitchen and the bedroom, and everywhere else

Summary
Although they entered the world as pure science fiction, robots are now very much a fact of everyday life. Whether a space-age cyborg, a chess-playing automaton, or simply the smartphone in our pocket, robots have long been a symbol of the fraught and fearful relationship between ourselves and our creations. Though we tend to think of them as products of twentieth-century technology—the word “robot” itself dates to only 1921—as a concept, they have colored US society and culture for far longer, as Dustin A. Abnet shows to dazzling effect in The American Robot.

In tracing the history of the idea of robots in US culture, Abnet draws on intellectual history, religion, literature, film, and television. He explores how robots and their many kin have not only conceptually connected but literally embodied some of the most critical questions in modern culture. He also investigates how the discourse around robots has reinforced social and economic inequalities, as well as fantasies of mass domination—chilling thoughts that the recent increase in job automation has done little to quell. The American Robot argues that the deep history of robots has abetted both the literal replacement of humans by machines and the figurative transformation of humans into machines, connecting advances in technology and capitalism to individual and societal change. Look beneath the fears that fracture our society, Abnet tells us, and you’re likely to find a robot lurking there.

Contributor Bio
Dustin A. Abnet is assistant professor of American studies at California State University, Fullerton.

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Chapter 8: Preserving American Innocence
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Crap
A History of Cheap Stuff in America

Key Selling Points
A one-of-a-kind history of all the stuff we don’t throw out—but probably should.

A serious (yet hilarious) consideration of the SkyMall catalog, patent medicine flimflammy, Franklin Mint products, Precious Moments figurines, and so very much more.

The production and consumption of total crap is practically in the American DNA; how did it get there and why won’t it leave?

Summary
Crap. We all have it. Filling drawers. Overflowing bins and baskets. Proudly displayed or stuffed in boxes in basements and garages. Big and small. Metal, fabric, and a whole lot of plastic. So much crap. Abundant cheap stuff is about as American as it gets. And it turns out these seemingly unimportant consumer goods offer unique insights into ourselves—our values and our desires.

In Crap: A History of Cheap Stuff in America, Wendy A. Woloson takes seriously the history of objects that are often cynically-made and easy to dismiss: things not made to last; things we don’t really need; things we often don’t even really want. Woloson does not mock these ordinary, everyday possessions but seeks to understand them as a way to understand aspects of ourselves, socially, culturally, and economically: Why do we—as individuals and as a culture—possess these things? Where do they come from? Why do we want them? And what is the true cost of owning them?

Woloson tells the history of crap from the late eighteenth century up through today, exploring its many categories: gadgets, knickknacks, novelty goods, mass-produced collectibles, giftware, variety store merchandise. As Woloson shows, not all crap is crappy in the same way—bric-a-brac is crappy in a different way from, say, advertising giveaways, which are differently crappy from commemorative plates. Taking on the full brilliant and depressing array of crappy material goods, the book explores the overlooked corners of the American market and mindset, revealing the complexity of our relationship with commodity culture over time.

By studying crap rather than finely made material objects, Woloson shows us a new way to truly understand ourselves, our national character, and our collective psyche. For all its problems, and despite its disposability, our crap is us.

Contributor Bio
Wendy A. Woloson is associate professor of history at Rutgers University-Camden and the author, most recently, of In Hock: Pawning in America from Independence through the Great Depression, also published by the University of Chicago Press, and coeditor of the collection, Capitalism by Gaslight: Illuminating the Economy of 19th-Century America.
**Diet for a Large Planet**

*Industrial Britain, Food Systems, and World Ecology*

**Key Selling Points**

First in-depth historical account of the great nutritional transition in the British diet that began in the industrial revolution

Argues that a diet based in meat and grain has great global and ecological consequences

Connects this diet transition to the world food crisis and modern health problems

**Summary**

We are facing a world food crisis of unparalleled proportions. Our reliance on unsustainable dietary choices and agricultural systems is causing problems both for human health and the health of our planet. Solutions from lab-grown food to vegan diets to strictly local food consumption are often discussed, but a central question remains: how did we get to this point?

In *Diet for a Large Planet*, Chris Otter goes back to the late eighteenth century in Britain, where the diet heavy in meat, wheat, and sugar was developing. As Britain underwent steady growth, urbanization, industrialization, and economic expansion, the nation altered its food choices, shifting away from locally produced plant-based nutrition. This new diet, rich in animal proteins and refined carbohydrates, made people taller and stronger, but it led to new types of health problems. Its production also relied on far greater acreage than Britain itself, forcing the nation to become more dependent on global resources. Otter shows how this issue expands beyond Britain, looking at the global effects of large agro-food systems that require more resources than our planet can sustain. This comprehensive history helps us understand how the British played a significant role in making red meat, white bread, and sugar the diet of choice—linked to wealth, luxury, and power—and shows how dietary choices connect to the pressing issues of climate change and food supply.

**Contributor Bio**

Chris Otter is associate professor of history at the Ohio State University. He is the author of *The Victorian Eye: A Political History of Light and Vision in Britain, 1800-1910*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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**Time Travelers**  
**Victorian Encounters with Time and History**

**Key Selling Points**
Each chapter explores little-known sources and unusual archives to dispel the myth that Victorians were merely nostalgic about the past.

Interdisciplinary perspectives bring to light the previously obscured richness and diversity of Victorian historical experience.

Contributors include Mary Beard, Simon Goldhill, and Peter Mandler.

**Summary**
The Victorians, perhaps more than any Britons before them, were diggers and sifters of the past. Though they were not the first to be fascinated by history, the intensity and range of Victorian preoccupations with the past was unprecedented and of lasting importance. They paved the way for many of our modern disciplines, discovered the primeval monsters we now call the dinosaurs, and built many of Britain’s most important national museums and galleries. To a large degree, they created the perceptual frameworks through which we continue to understand the past.

Out of their discoveries, new histories emerged, giving rise to new debates, while seemingly well-known pasts were thrown into confusion by new tools and methods of scrutiny. If in the eighteenth century the study of the past had been the province of a handful of elites, new technologies and economic development in the nineteenth century meant that the past, in all its brilliant detail, was for the first time the property of the many, not the few. *Time Travelers* is a book about the myriad ways in which Victorians approached the past, offering a vivid new picture of the Victorian world and its historical obsessions.

**Contributor Bio**

**Adelene Buckland** is a senior lecturer in English literature at King’s College London. She is author of *Novel Science: Fiction and the Invention of Nineteenth-Century Geology*, also published by the University of Chicago Press, and coeditor of *A Return to the Common Reader: Print Culture and the Novel, 1850–1900*.

**Sadiah Qureshi** is a senior lecturer in modern history at the University of Birmingham. She is author of *Peoples on Parade: Exhibitions, Empire, and Anthropology in Nineteenth-Century Britain*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.
**Merchants of Medicines**

*The Commerce and Coercion of Health in Britain’s Long Eighteenth Century*

**Key Selling Points**

Details how the spread and circulation of medicines in the British Empire influenced both medical knowledge and the nature of that empire

Ties together imperial history, the history of medicine, and the history of capitalism in unexpected ways

Shows that “health” was redefined in various locations in order to suit the needs both of the empire and of capitalism

**Summary**

The period from the late seventeenth to the early nineteenth century—the so-called long eighteenth century of English history—was a time of profound global change, marked by the expansion of intercontinental empires, long distance trade, and human enslavement. It was also the moment when medicines, previously produced locally and in small batches, became global products. As greater numbers of British subjects struggled to survive overseas, more medicines than ever were manufactured and exported to help them. Most historical accounts, however, obscure the medicine trade’s dependence on slave labor, plantation agriculture, and colonial warfare.

In *Merchants of Medicines*, Zachary Dorner follows the earliest industrial pharmaceuticals from their manufacture in the United Kingdom, across trade routes, and to the edges of empire, along the way telling a story of what medicines were, what they did, and what they meant. He brings to life business, medical, and government records to evoke a vibrant early modern world of laboratories in London, Caribbean estates, South Asian factories, New England timber camps, and ships at sea. In these settings, medicines were produced, distributed, and consumed in new ways to help confront challenges of distance, labor, and authority in colonial territories. *Merchants of Medicines* offers a new history of economic and medical development across early America, Britain, and South Asia, revealing the unsettlingly close ties among medicine, finance, warfare, and slavery that changed people’s expectations of their health and their bodies.

**Contributor Bio**

**Zachary Dorner** is the Patrick Henry Postdoctoral Fellow in history at Johns Hopkins University.

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Queer Budapest, 1873–1961

Key Selling Points
A nuanced portrait of queer life in nineteenth- and twentieth-century Budapest

Situates Budapest as a pivotal hinge between the so-called “East” and “West”

Shows how the queer experience changed alongside broader historical shifts

Summary
By the dawn of the twentieth century, Budapest was a burgeoning cosmopolitan metropolis. Known at the time as the “Pearl of the Danube,” it boasted some of Europe’s most innovative architectural and cultural achievements, and its growing middle class was committed to advancing the city’s liberal politics and making it an intellectual and commercial crossroads between East and West. In addition, as historian Anita Kurimay reveals, fin-de-siècle Budapest was also famous for its boisterous public sexual culture, including a robust gay subculture. Queer Budapest is the riveting story of non-normative sexualities in Hungary as they were understood, experienced, and policed between the birth of the capital as a unified metropolis in 1873 and the decriminalization of male homosexual acts in 1961.

Kurimay explores how and why a series of illiberal Hungarian regimes came to tolerate, protect, and contain queer life. She also explains how the precarious coexistence between the illiberal state and queer community ended abruptly at the close of World War II. A stunning reappraisal of sexuality’s political implications, Queer Budapest recuperates queer communities as an integral part of Budapest’s—and Hungary’s—modern incarnation.

Contributor Bio
Anita Kurimay is assistant professor of History at Bryn Mawr College.

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Precarious Partners
Horses and Their Humans in Nineteenth-Century France

Key Selling Points
An engaging, interdisciplinary analysis of equine imagery in modern European culture
A new work by one of the leading thinkers in contemporary animal studies
Uses examples from art, literature, philosophy, and popular media

Summary
From the recent spate of equine deaths on racetracks to protests demanding the removal of mounted Confederate soldier statues to the success and appeal of War Horse, there is no question that horses still play a role in our lives—though fewer and fewer of us actually interact with them. In Precarious Partners, Kari Weil takes readers back to a time in France when horses were an inescapable part of daily life. This was a time when horse ownership became an attainable dream not just for soldiers but also for middle-class children; when natural historians argued about animal intelligence; when the prevalence of horse beatings led to the first animal protection laws; and when the combined magnificence and abuse of these animals inspired artists, writers, and riders alike.

Weil traces the evolving partnerships established between French citizens and their horses through this era. She considers the newly designed “races” of workhorses who carried men from the battlefield to the hippodrome, lugged heavy loads through the boulevards, or paraded women riders, amazones, in the parks or circus halls—as well as those unfortunate horses who found their fate on a dinner plate. Moving between literature, painting, natural philosophy, popular cartoons, sports manuals, and tracts of public hygiene, Precarious Partners traces the changing social, political, and emotional relations with these charismatic creatures who straddled conceptions of pet and livestock in nineteenth-century France.

Contributor Bio
Kari Weil is University Professor of Letters at Wesleyan University. She is the author of Thinking Animals: Why Animal Studies Now and Androgyny and the Denial of Difference.

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The Streets of Europe
The Sights, Sounds, and Smells That Shaped Its Great Cities

Summary
Merchants’ shouts, jostling strangers, aromas of fresh fish and flowers, plodding horses, and friendly chatter long filled the narrow, crowded streets of the European city. As they developed over many centuries, these spaces of commerce, communion, and commuting framed daily life. At its heyday in the 1800s, the European street was the place where social worlds connected and collided.

Brian Ladd recounts a rich social and cultural history of the European city street, tracing its transformation from a lively scene of trade and crowds into a thoroughfare for high-speed transportation. Looking closely at four major cities—London, Paris, Berlin, and Vienna—Ladd uncovers both the joys and the struggles of a past world. The story takes us up to the twentieth century, when the life of the street was transformed as wealthier citizens withdrew from the crowds to seek refuge in suburbs and automobiles. As demographics and technologies changed, so did the structure of cities and the design of streets, significantly shifting our relationships to them. In today’s world of high-speed transportation and impersonal marketplaces, Ladd leads us to consider how we might draw on our history to once again build streets that encourage us to linger.

By unearthing the vivid descriptions recorded by amused and outraged contemporaries, Ladd reveals the changing nature of city life, showing why streets matter and how they can contribute to public life.

Contributor Bio
Brian Ladd is an independent historian who received his Ph.D. from Yale University. He has taught history at the Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute and is a research associate in the history department at the University of Albany, State University of New York.

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Localism and the Ancient Greek City-State

Key Selling Points
A new history of ancient Greece and the Greek City-State through the lens of "localism."

Author argues localism is a phenomenon across history that people develop in reaction to an expanding, interconnected world.

Author has an international reputation in his field and his research has been supported by institutions in Canada, Germany, Argentina, and Australia.

Summary
Much like our own time, the ancient Greek world was constantly expanding and becoming more connected to global networks. The landscape was shaped by an ecology of city-states, local formations that were stitched into the wider Mediterranean world. While the local is often seen as less significant than the global stage of politics, religion, and culture, localism, argues historian Hans Beck has had a pervasive influence on communal experience in a world of fast-paced change. Far from existing as outliers, citizens in these communities were deeply concerned with maintaining local identity, commercial freedom, distinct religious cults, and much more. Beyond these cultural identifiers, there lay a deeper concept of the local that guided polis societies in their contact with a rapidly expanding world.

Drawing on a staggering range of materials—including texts by both known and obscure writers, numismatics, pottery analysis, and archeological records—Beck develops fine-grained case studies that illustrate the significance of the local experience. Localism and the Ancient Greek City-State builds bridges across disciplines and ideas within the humanities and shows how looking back at the history of Greek localism is important not only in the archaeology of the ancient Mediterranean, but also in today’s conversations about globalism, networks, and migration.

Contributor Bio
Hans Beck is professor and chair of Greek history at the University of Münster, adjunct professor in the faculty of arts at McGill University in Montreal, and a fellow of the Royal Society of Canada. He is the author, editor, or co-editor of many books, including A Companion to Ancient Greek Government; with Peter Funke, Federalism in Greek Antiquity; and, with Kostas Buraselis and Alex McAuley, Ethnos and Koinon: Studies in Ancient Greek Ethnicity and Federalism.

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The Indies of the Setting Sun
How Early Modern Spain Mapped the Far East as the Transpacific West

Key Selling Points
Draws on maps, travel narratives, and literary texts to show how geographical misconceptions influenced Spanish imperial claims throughout the long sixteenth century

Reveals an alternative cartography, in which Spain proceeded on the erroneous notion that the Pacific Ocean as no more than a basin or "Spanish lake" within the greater Indies territories

Demonstrates how persistent the notion was of Spain's (eventually) finding the East by sailing (just a bit) further west and their particular ideology of empire

Summary
Narratives of Europe's sixteenth-century westward expansion often tell of how the Americas came to be known as a distinct land mass, a continent separate from Asia and uniquely positioned as new ground ripe for transatlantic colonialism. But this geographic vision of the Americas was not shared by all Europeans. While some imperialists imagined North and Central America as a new and undiscovered land, the Spanish pushed to define the New World as part of a larger and eminently flexible geography that they called las Indias, and that by right, belonged to the Crown of Castile and León. Las Indias included all of the New World as well as East and Southeast Asia, although Spain's understanding of the relationship between the two areas changed as the realities of the Pacific Rim came into sharper focus. At first, the Spanish insisted that North and Central America were an extension of the continent of Asia. Eventually, they came to understand East and Southeast Asia as a transpacific extension of their empire in America called las Indias del poniente, or the Indies of the Setting Sun.

The Indies of the Setting Sun charts the Spanish vision of a transpacific imperial expanse, beginning with Balboa’s discovery of the South Sea and ending almost one hundred years later with Spain’s final push for control of the Pacific. Padrón traces a series of attempts—both cartographic and discursive—to map the space from Mexico to Malacca, revealing the geopolitical imaginations at play in the quest for control of the New World and Asia.

Contributor Bio
Ricardo Padrón is associate professor of Spanish at the University of Virginia and the author of The Spacious Word: Cartography, Literature, and Empire in Early Modern Spain, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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The Whale and the Reactor (2nd Edition)
A Search for Limits in an Age of High Technology

Summary
"In an age in which the inexhaustible power of scientific technology makes all things possible, it remains to be seen where we will draw the line, where we will be able to say, here are possibilities that wisdom suggest we avoid."

First published to great acclaim in 1986, Langdon Winner’s groundbreaking exploration of the political, social, and philosophical implications of technology is timelier than ever. He demonstrates that choices about the kinds of technical systems we build and use are actually choices about who we want to be and what kind of world we want to create—technical decisions are political decisions, and they involve profound choices about power, liberty, order, and justice. A seminal text in the history and philosophy of science, this new edition includes a new chapter, preface, and postscript by the author.

Contributor Bio
Langdon Winner is the Thomas Phelan Chair of Humanities and Social Sciences in the Department of Science and Technology Studies at Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute. He is the author of numerous books, including Autonomous Technology.

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**Making Modern Science (2nd Edition)**

**Summary**

In this new edition of the top-selling coursebook, seasoned historians Peter J. Bowler and Iwan Rhys Morus expand on their authoritative survey of how the development of science has shaped our world.

Exploring both the history of science and its influence on modern thought, the authors chronicle the major developments in scientific thinking, from the revolutionary ideas of the seventeenth century to contemporary issues in genetics, physics, and more. Designed for entry-level college courses and as a single-volume introduction for the general reader, this book presents the history of science not as a series of names and dates but as an interconnected and complex web of relationships joining science and society.

Thoroughly revised and expanded, the second edition draws on the latest research and scholarship. It also contains two entirely new chapters: one that explores the impact of computing on the development of science and another that surveys the complex interaction of Western science with the cultures of the rest of the world.

**Contributor Bio**

**Peter J. Bowler** is professor emeritus of the history of science at Queen’s University Belfast. He has written many books, including *Darwin Deleted: Imagining a World Without Darwin*, also published by the University of Chicago Press, and *A History of the Future: Prophets of Progress from H. G. Wells to Isaac Asimov*.

**Iwan Rhys Morus** is professor in the Department of History and Welsh History at Aberystwyth University in Wales. His most recent books include *The Oxford Illustrated History of Science* and *Nikola Tesla and the Electrical Future*. 
By focusing on chromosomes, *Heredity under the Microscope* offers a new history of postwar human genetics. Today chromosomes are understood as macromolecular assemblies and are analyzed with a variety of molecular techniques. Yet for much of the twentieth century, researchers studied chromosomes by looking down a microscope. Chromosome analysis offered a direct glimpse of the complete genome, opening up seemingly endless possibilities for observation and intervention. Critics, however, countered that visual evidence was not enough and pointed to the need to understand the molecular mechanisms. In telling this history in full for the first time, Soraya de Chadarevian argues that the often-bewildering variety of observations made under the microscope were central to the study of human genetics. By making space for microscope-based practices alongside molecular approaches, and by exploring the close connections between genetics and an array of scientific, medical, ethical, legal and policy concerns in the atomic age, *Heredity under the Microscope* sheds new light on the cultural history of the human genome.

**Contributor Bio**

*Soraya de Chadarevian* is professor in the Department of History and the Institute for Society and Genetics at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author and editor of numerous books including *Models: The Third Dimension of Science* and *Designs for Life: Molecular Biology after World War II*.

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Quantum Legacies
Dispatches from an Uncertain World

Key Selling Points
Foreword by Alan Lightman, bestselling author of Einstein’s Dreams

Cutting-edge scholarship meets popular science writing in an entertaining volume for the common reader.

Chapters are expanded, thoughtfully edited, and updated versions of essays that have appeared in popular venues ranging from the New Yorker and New York Times to the London Review of Books, Nature, Scientific American, American Scientist, and more.

Summary
The ideas at the root of quantum theory remain stubbornly, famously bizarre: a solid world reduced to puffs of probability; particles that tunnel through walls; cats suspended in zombie-like states, neither alive nor dead; and twinned particles that share entangled fates. For more than a century, physicists have grappled with these conceptual uncertainties while enmeshed in the larger uncertainties of the social and political worlds, a time pocked by the rise of fascism, cataclysmic world wars, and a new nuclear age.

In Quantum Legacies, David Kaiser introduces readers to iconic episodes in physicists’ still-unfolding quest to understand space, time, and matter at their most fundamental. In a series of vibrant essays, Kaiser takes us inside moments of discovery and debate among the great minds of the era—Albert Einstein, Erwin Schrödinger, Stephen Hawking, and many more who have indelibly shaped our understanding of nature—as they have tried to make sense of a messy world.

Ranging across space and time, the episodes span the heady 1920s, the dark days of the 1930s, the turbulence of the Cold War, and the peculiar political realities that followed. In those eras as in our own, researchers’ ambition was often to transcend the vagaries of here and now, to contribute lasting insights into how the world works that might reach beyond a given researcher’s limited view. In Quantum Legacies, Kaiser unveils the difficult and unsteady work required to forge some shared understanding between individuals and across generations, and in doing so, he illuminates the deep ties between scientific exploration and the human condition.

Contributor Bio
David Kaiser is the Germeshausen Professor of the History of Science and professor of physics at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He is the author of many books, including How the Hippies Saved Physics: Science, Counterculture, and the Quantum Revival, and is coeditor of Groovy Science: Knowledge, Innovation, and American Counterculture, also published by the University of Chicago Press.
The Experimental Fire
Inventing English Alchemy, 1300–1700

Summary
In medieval and early modern Europe, the practice of alchemy promised extraordinary physical transformations. Who would not be amazed to see base metals turned into silver and gold, hard iron into soft water, and deadly poison into elixirs that could heal the human body? To defend such claims, alchemists turned to the past: scouring ancient books for evidence of a lost alchemical heritage—and seeking to translate their secret language and obscure imagery into replicable, practical effects.

Tracing the development of alchemy in England over four hundred years, from the beginning of the fourteenth century to the end of the seventeenth, Jennifer M. Rampling illuminates the role of alchemical reading and experimental practice in the broader context of national and scientific history. Using new manuscript sources, she shows how Roger Bacon, George Ripley, John Dee, Edward Kelley, and Isaac Newton, as well as many previously unknown alchemists, devised new practical approaches to alchemy, while seeking the support of English monarchs, including Henry VIII and Elizabeth I. By reconstructing their alchemical ideas, practices, and disputes, Rampling reveals how English alchemy was continually reinvented over the space of four centuries, resulting in changes to the science itself. In so doing, The Experimental Fire bridges the intellectual history of chemistry and the wider worlds of early modern patronage, medicine, and science.

Contributor Bio
Jennifer M. Rampling is assistant professor of history at Princeton University.
**Shaping Science**  
_Organizations, Decisions, and Culture on NASA’s Teams_

**Summary**

In _Shaping Science_, Janet Vertesi draws on a decade of immersive ethnography with NASA’s robotic spacecraft teams to create a comparative account of two great space missions of the early 2000s. Although these missions appear to feature robotic explorers on the frontiers of the solar system, bravely investigating new worlds, their commands were issued from millions of miles away by a very human team. By examining the two teams’ formal structures, decision-making techniques, and informal work practices in the day-to-day process of mission planning, Vertesi shows just how deeply entangled a team’s local organizational context is with the knowledge they produce about other worlds.

Using extensive, embedded experiences on two NASA spacecraft teams, this is the first book to apply organizational studies of work to the laboratory environment in order to analyze the production of scientific knowledge itself. Engaging and deeply researched, _Shaping Science_ demonstrates the significant influence that the social organization of a scientific team can have on the practices of that team and the results they produce.

**Contributor Bio**

Janet Vertesi is assistant professor of sociology at Princeton University. She is the author of _Seeing Like a Rover: How Robots, Teams, and Images Craft Knowledge of Mars_, also published by the University of Chicago Press, and coeditor of _Representation in Scientific Practice Revisited_ and _digitalSTS_.

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The Nature of the Future
Agriculture, Science, and Capitalism in the Antebellum North

Key Selling Points
A fresh and witty exploration of the scientists—and a few frauds—who sought to promote agricultural development in the early United States

When is a Northern Spy apple not a Northern Spy apple? When it’s a Northern Spy apple, of course. Pawley reveals the stratagems of nomenclature and the farming practices behind them.

An intervention in the burgeoning history of capitalism, detailing the social and communal aspects of scientific and mercantile discourse

Summary
The nostalgic mist surrounding farms can make it hard to write their history, encrusting them with stereotypical rural virtues and unrealistically separating them from markets, capitalism, and urban influences. The Nature of the Future aims to remake this staid vision. Emily Pawley examines a place and period of enormous agricultural vitality—antebellum New York State—and follows thousands of “improving agriculturists,” part of the largest, most diverse, and most active scientific community in nineteenth-century America. Pawley shows that these improvers practiced a kind of science hard for contemporary readers to recognize, in which profit was not only a goal but also the underlying purpose of the natural world. Far from producing a more rational vision of nature, northern farmers practiced a form of science where conflicting visions of the future landscape appeared and evaporated in quick succession. Drawing from environmental history, US history and the history of science, and extensively mining a wealth of antebellum agricultural publications, The Nature of the Future uncovers the rich loam hiding beneath ostensibly infertile scholarly terrain, revealing a surprising area of agricultural experimentation that transformed American landscapes and American ideas of expertise, success, and exploitation.

Contributor Bio
Emily Pawley is associate professor of history at Dickinson College.

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Surroundings
A History of Environments and Environmentalisms

Key Selling Points
First book to explore how and when people began describing the worlds around them as “environments”

Grapples with the legacies of colonialism, slavery, capitalism, warfare, and globalization for our understanding of environment and environmentalism

Places the modern environmental movement in the context of more than two centuries of attempts to understand and improve human surroundings

Reveals both the strengths of traditional environmentalism and the limitations of the form that has become dominant over the past half-century

Summary
Given the ubiquity of environmental rhetoric in the modern world, it’s easy to think that the meaning of the terms environment and environmentalism are and always have been self-evident. But in Surroundings, we learn that the environmental past is much more complex than it seems at first glance. In this wide-ranging history of the concept, Etienne S. Benson uncovers the diversity of forms that environmentalism has taken over the last two centuries and opens our eyes to the promising new varieties of environmentalism that are emerging today.

Through a series of richly contextualized case studies, Benson shows us how and why particular groups of people—from naturalists in Napoleonic France in the 1790s to global climate change activists today—adopted the concept of environment and adapted it to their specific needs and challenges. Bold and deeply researched, Surroundings challenges much of what we think we know about what an environment is, why we should care about it, and how we can protect it.

Contributor Bio
Etienne S. Benson is associate professor in the Department of History and Sociology of Science at the University of Pennsylvania. He is the author of Wired Wilderness: Technologies of Tracking and the Making of Modern Wildlife.

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**The Wardian Case**
How a Simple Box Moved Plants and Changed the World

**Summary**
Roses, jasmine, fuchsia, chrysanthemums, and rhododendrons bloom in gardens across the world, and yet many of the most common varieties have roots in Asia. How is this global flowering possible? In 1829, surgeon and amateur naturalist Nathaniel Bagshaw Ward placed soil, dried leaves, and the pupa of a sphinx moth into a sealed glass bottle, intending to observe the moth hatch. But when a fern and meadow grass sprouted from the soil, he accidentally discovered that plants enclosed in glass containers could survive for long periods without watering. After four years of experimentation in his London home, Ward created traveling glazed cases that would be able to transport plants around the world. Following a test run from London to Sydney, Ward was proven correct: the Wardian case was born, and the botanical makeup of the world’s flora was forever changed.

In our technologically advanced and globalized contemporary world, it is easy to forget that not long ago it was extremely difficult to transfer plants from place to place, as they often died from mishandling, cold weather, and ocean salt spray. In this first book on the Wardian case, Luke Keogh leads us across centuries and seas to show that Ward’s invention spurred a revolution in the movement of plants—and that many of the repercussions of that revolution are still with us, from new industries to invasive plant species. From the early days of rubber, banana, tea, and cinchona cultivation—the last used in the production of the malaria drug quinine—to the collecting of beautiful and exotic flora like orchids in the first great greenhouses of the United States Botanical Garden in Washington, DC, and England’s Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, the Wardian case transformed the world’s plant communities, fueled the commercial nursery trade and late nineteenth-century imperialism, and forever altered the global environment.

**Contributor Bio**
Luke Keogh is a curator and historian interested in the global movement of plants in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Among his many awards and prizes is the Sargent Award from the Arnold Arboretum of Harvard University. Currently he is senior curator at the National Wool Museum in Geelong, Australia, and an honorary research fellow at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia. In 2020, he is fellow of the 4A Lab, Berlin, an innovative humanities research lab supported by the Max Planck Institute for Art History, Florence and the Prussian Cultural Heritage Foundation.
Making Spirit Matter
Neurology, Psychology, and Selfhood in Modern France

Key Selling Points
A philosophical intellectual history of modern French thought on the mind-brain relation
Reexamines an influential generation of thinkers in philosophy and psychology
Connects older philosophical questions to contemporary brain science

Summary
The connection between mind and brain has been one of the most persistent problems in modern Western thought; even recent advances in neuroscience haven’t been able to solve it satisfactorily. Historian Larry Sommer McGrath’s Making Spirit Matter studies how a particularly productive and influential group of nineteenth- and early twentieth-century French thinkers attempted to answer this puzzle by showing the mutual dependence of spirit and matter. The scientific revolution taking place during this moment in history across disciplines, from biology to psychology and neurology, located our spiritual powers in the brain and offered a radical reformulation of the meaning of society, spirit, and the self. Tracing connections among thinkers such as Henri Bergson, Alfred Fouillée, Jean-Marie Guyau, and others, McGrath plots alternative intellectual movements that revived themes of agency, time, and experience by applying the very sciences that seemed to undermine metaphysics and theology. In so doing, Making Spirit Matter lays out the long legacy of this moment in the history of ideas and how it might renew our understanding of the relationship between mind and brain today.

Contributor Bio
Larry Sommer McGrath leads ethnographic studies to provide business strategy for technology and life science organizations. Formerly, he taught at Wesleyan University and Johns Hopkins University.
**Hearing Happiness**
*Deafness Cures in History*

**Key Selling Points**
First book chronicling the history of deafness cures from folk remedies to cochlear implants

An intimate look at how cultural attitudes toward deafness shaped medical and technological developments

Through history and personal memoir, raises pivotal questions about deafness in American society and the quest for a cure

**Summary**
At the age of four, Jaipreet Virdi’s world went silent. A severe case of meningitis left her alive but deaf, suddenly treated differently by everyone. Her deafness downplayed by society and doctors, she struggled to “pass” as hearing for most of her life. Countless cures, treatments, and technologies led to dead ends. Never quite deaf enough for the Deaf community or quite hearing enough for the “normal” majority, Virdi was stuck in aural limbo for years. It wasn’t until her thirties, exasperated by problems with new digital hearing aids, that she began to actively assert her deafness and reexamine society’s—and her own—perception of life as a deaf person in America.

Through lyrical history and personal memoir, *Hearing Happiness* raises pivotal questions about deafness in American society and the endless quest for a cure. Taking us from the 1860s up to the present, Virdi combs archives and museums in order to understand the long history of curious cures: hearing trumpets, violet-ray apparatuses, pneumomassages, electrotherapy machines, airplane diving, bloodletting, skull hammering, and many more. Hundreds of procedures and products have promised grand miracles but always failed to deliver—a legacy that is still present in contemporary biomedicine.

Weaving Virdi’s own experiences together with her exploration into the fascinating history of deafness cures, *Hearing Happiness* is a powerful story that America needs to hear.

**Contributor Bio**
*Jaipreet Virdi* is assistant professor of history at the University of Delaware.
**Catastrophic Thinking**
*Extinction and the Value of Diversity from Darwin to the Anthropocene*

**Key Selling Points**
First book to reveal why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to “think catastrophically” about extinction

Shows how cultural and scientific understandings of extinction have influenced and reinforced one another in a succession of distinct historical contexts

Helps us understand how our own current fascination with extinction is the product of a longer historical development

**Summary**
We live in an age in which we are repeatedly reminded—by scientists, by the media, by popular culture—of the looming threat of mass extinction. We’re told that human activity is currently producing a sixth mass extinction, perhaps of even greater magnitude than the five previous geological catastrophes that drastically altered life in the past. Indeed, there is a very real concern that the human species may itself be poised to go the way of the dinosaurs, victims of the most recent mass extinction some 65 million years ago.

How we interpret the causes, consequences, and moral imperatives of extinction is deeply embedded in the cultural values of any given historical moment. And as David Sepkoski reveals, the history of scientific ideas about extinction over the past two hundred years—as both a past and current process—are implicated in major changes in the way Western society has approached biological and cultural diversity. It seems self-evident to most of us that diverse ecosystems and societies are intrinsically valuable, but the current fascination with diversity is a relatively recent phenomenon. In fact, the way we value diversity depends crucially on our sense that it is precarious—that it is something actively threatened, and that its loss could have profound consequences. In *Catastrophic Thinking*, Sepkoski uncovers how and why we learned to value diversity as a precious resource at the same time as we learned to think catastrophically about extinction.

**Contributor Bio**
**David Sepkoski** is the Thomas M. Siebel Chair in the History of Science at the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign. He is the author of several books, most recently *Rereading the Fossil Record: The Growth of Paleobiology as an Evolutionary Discipline*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.
Science Periodicals in Nineteenth-Century Britain
Constructing Scientific Communities

Key Selling Points
First in-depth study of nineteenth century British scientific periodicals with a novel approach that focuses on their role in the formation and functioning of scientific communities

A radical rethinking of the scientific journal that advances a new approach to the reconfiguration of the sciences in nineteenth-century Britain

Relevant to understanding the current state of scientific journals

Summary
Periodicals played a vital role in the developments in science and medicine that transformed nineteenth-century Britain. Proliferating from a mere handful to many hundreds of titles, they catered to audiences ranging from gentlemanly members of metropolitan societies to working-class participants in local natural history clubs. In addition to disseminating authorized scientific discovery, they fostered a sense of collective identity among their geographically dispersed and often socially disparate readers by facilitating the reciprocal interchange of ideas and information. As such, they offer privileged access into the workings of scientific communities in the period.

The essays in this volume set the historical exploration of the scientific and medical periodicals of the era on a new footing, examining their precise function and role in the making of nineteenth-century science and enhancing our vision of the shifting communities and practices of science in the period. This radical rethinking of the scientific journal offers a new approach to the reconfiguration of the sciences in nineteenth-century Britain and sheds instructive light on contemporary debates about the purpose, practices, and price of scientific journals.

Contributor Bio
Gowan Dawson is professor of Victorian literature and culture and director of the Victorian Studies Centre at the University of Leicester. Bernard Lightman is distinguished research professor in the Humanities Department at York University and president of the History of Science Society. Sally Shuttleworth is professor of English literature at the University of Oxford. Jonathan R. Topham is a senior lecturer in the history of science at the University of Leeds.
**Aesthetic Science**
*Representing Nature in the Royal Society of London, 1650-1720*

**Key Selling Points**
Wragge-Morley breaks down the barriers between literary and visual approaches to the history of early modern science

Transforms our understanding of the relationship between science and religion in 17th century England by showing that the design argument played a crucial role in early modern empiricism

Demonstrates that aesthetic theory should play a major role in studying the history of science

**Summary**
The scientists affiliated with the early Royal Society of London have long been regarded as forerunners of modern empiricism, rejecting the symbolic and moral goals of Renaissance natural history in favor of plainly representing the world as it really was. In *Aesthetic Science*, Alexander Wragge-Morley challenges this interpretation by arguing that key figures such as John Ray, Robert Boyle, Nehemiah Grew, Robert Hooke, and Thomas Willis saw the study of nature as an aesthetic project.

To show how early modern naturalists conceived of the interplay between sensory experience and the production of knowledge, *Aesthetic Science* explores natural-historical and anatomical works of the Royal Society through the lens of the aesthetic. By underscoring the importance of subjective experience to the communication of knowledge about nature, Wragge-Morley offers a groundbreaking reconsideration of scientific representation in the early modern period and brings to light the hitherto overlooked role of aesthetic experience in the history of the empirical sciences.

**Contributor Bio**
Alexander Wragge-Morley is clinical assistant professor of liberal studies and history at New York University.

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Appetite and Its Discontents
Science, Medicine, and the Urge to Eat, 1750-1950

Key Selling Points
First and only book on the historical development of the science and medicine of appetite
Reveals the limits of current ways of thinking about appetite and obesity, and vividly brings alive intriguing alternatives that once held sway
Epilogue brings the story to the present

Summary
Why do we eat? Is it instinct? Despite the necessity of food, anxieties about what and how to eat are widespread and persistent. In Appetite and Its Discontents, Elizabeth A. Williams explores contemporary worries about eating through the lens of science and medicine to show us how appetite—once a matter of personal inclination—became an object of science.

Williams charts the history of inquiry into appetite between 1750 and 1950, as scientific and medical concepts of appetite shifted alongside developments in physiology, natural history, psychology, and ethology. She shows how, in the eighteenth century, trust in appetite was undermined when researchers who investigated ingestion and digestion began claiming that science alone could say which ways of eating were healthy and which were not. She goes on to trace nineteenth- and twentieth-century conflicts over the nature of appetite between mechanists and vitalists, experimentalists and bedside physicians, and localists and holists, illuminating struggles that have never been resolved. By exploring the core disciplines in investigations in appetite and eating, Williams reframes the way we think about food, nutrition, and the nature of health itself.

Contributor Bio
Elizabeth A. Williams is professor emerita of history at Oklahoma State University.

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**Union by Law**  
Filipino American Labor Activists, Rights Radicalism, and Racial Capitalism

**Summary**
Starting in the 1920s, large numbers of Filipino workers came to the United States, finding work as wage laborers in American West Coast agricultural fields and Alaska salmon canneries. There, they found themselves confined to exploitative low-wage jobs in racially segregated workplaces as well as subjected to vigilante violence and other forms of ethnic persecution. In time, though, Filipino workers formed political organizations and affiliated with labor unions to represent their interests and to advance their struggles for class, race, and gender-based social justice.

*Union by Law* analyzes the broader social and legal history of Filipino American workers’ rights-based struggles, culminating in the devastating landmark Supreme Court ruling, *Wards Cove Packing Co. v. Atonio* (1989). Organized chronologically, the book begins with the US invasion of the Philippines and the imposition of colonial rule at the dawn of the twentieth century. The narrative then follows the migration of Filipino workers to the United States, where they mobilized for many decades within and against the injustices of American racial capitalist empire that the *Wards Cove* majority willfully ignored in rejecting their longstanding claims. This racial innocence in turn rationalized judicial reconstruction of official civil rights law in ways that significantly increased the obstacles for all workers seeking remedies for institutionalized racism and sexism. A reclamation of a long legacy of racial capitalist domination over Filipinos and other low-wage or unpaid migrant workers, *Union by Law* also tells a story of noble aspirational struggles for human rights over several generations and of the many ways that law was mobilized both to enforce and to challenge race, class, and gender hierarchy at work.

**Contributor Bio**

*Michael W. McCann* is the Gordon Hirabayashi Professor for the Advancement of Citizenship in the Department of Political Science at the University of Washington. He is the author, coauthor, editor, or coeditor of eight books, including, most recently, *Injury and Injustice*.  
*George I. Lovell* is associate professor of political science at the University of Washington. He is the author of *Legislative Deferrals*.

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Church State Corporation
Construing Religion in US Law

Key Selling Points
A study of the role of the church and its relationship to American law in the "secular age"

Argues that the church is naturalized in U.S. law, and effectively limits other religious recognition

Examines recent and controversial Supreme Court cases involving religious freedom and the church

Summary
Church and state: a simple phrase that reflects one of the most famous and fraught relationships in the history of the United States. But what exactly is “the church,” and how is it understood in US law today? In Church State Corporation, religion and law scholar Winnifred Fallers Sullivan uncovers the deeply ambiguous and often unacknowledged ways in which Christian theology remains alive and at work in the American legal imagination.

Through readings of the opinions of the US Supreme Court and other legal texts, Sullivan shows how “the church” as a religious collective is granted special privilege in US law. In-depth analyses of Hosanna-Tabor v. EEOC and Burwell v. Hobby Lobby reveal that the law tends to honor the religious rights of the group—whether in the form of a church, as in Hosanna-Tabor, or in corporate form, as in Hobby Lobby—over the rights of the individual, offering corporate religious entities an autonomy denied to their respective members. In discussing the various communities that construct the “church-shaped space” in American law, Sullivan also delves into disputes over church property, the legal exploitation of the black church in the criminal justice system, and the recent case of Masterpiece Cakeshop v. Colorado Civil Rights Commission.

Brimming with insight, Church State Corporation provocatively challenges our most basic beliefs about the ties between religion and law in ostensibly secular democracies.

Contributor Bio
Winnifred Fallers Sullivan is professor in and chair of the Department of Religious Studies at Indiana University Bloomington. She is also an affiliated professor of law at Indiana University Bloomington Maurer School of Law.

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Summary

Ratified in the years immediately following the American Civil War, the Thirteenth, Fourteenth, and Fifteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution—together known as the Reconstruction Amendments—abolished slavery, safeguarded a set of basic national liberties, and expanded the right to vote, respectively. This two-volume work presents the key speeches, debates, and public dialogues that surrounded the adoption of the three amendments, allowing us to more fully experience how they reshaped the nature of American life and freedom.

Volume 1 outlines a broad historical context for the Reconstruction Amendments and contains materials related to the Thirteenth Amendment, which abolished slavery, while Volume 2 covers the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments on the rights of citizenship and enfranchisement. The documents in this collection encompass a sweeping range of primary sources, from congressional debates to court cases, public speeches to newspaper articles. As a whole, the volumes meticulously depict a significant period of legal change even as they illuminate the ways in which people across the land grappled with the process of constitutional reconstruction. Filling a major gap in the literature on the era, *The Reconstruction Amendments* will be indispensable for readers in politics, history, and law, as well as anyone seeking a better understanding of the post-Civil War basis of American constitutional democracy.

Contributor Bio

**Kurt T. Lash** is the E. Claiborne Robins Distinguished Chair in Law at the University of Richmond. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including, most recently, *The Fourteenth Amendment and the Privileges and Immunities of American Citizenship.*
**Mood and Trope**

*The Rhetoric and Poetics of Affect*

**Key Selling Points**

- Employs Kant, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Deleuze to reconsider the notions of the Affective Turn and the Linguistic Turn in literary and aesthetic experience.

- Argues that the question "What is art?" is less pressing than questions like "What does art do?" or "What do these artworks do?"

- Revisits the idea of literary criticism as a vocation.

**Summary**

In *Mood and Trope*, John Brenkman introduces two provocative propositions to affect theory: that human emotion is intimately connected to persuasion and figurative language; and that literature, especially poetry, lends precision to studying affect because it resides there not in speaking about feelings, but in the way of speaking itself.

Engaging a quartet of modern philosophers—Kant, Nietzsche, Heidegger, and Deleuze—Brenkman explores how they all approach the question of affect primarily through literature and art. He draws on the differences and dialogues among them, arguing that the vocation of criticism is incapable of systematicity and instead must be attuned to the singularity and plurality of literary and artistic creations. In addition, he confronts these four philosophers and their essential concepts with a wide array of authors and artists, including Pinter and Poe, Baudelaire, Jorie Graham and Li-Young Lee, Shakespeare, Tino Sehgal, and Francis Bacon. Filled with surprising insights, *Mood and Trope* provides a rich archive for rethinking the nature of affect and its aesthetic and rhetorical stakes.

**Contributor Bio**

*John Brenkman* is distinguished professor of English and comparative literature at the City University of New York Graduate Center and director of the US-Europe Seminar at Baruch College. He is the author of three books, most recently, *The Cultural Contradictions of Democracy: Political Thought since September 11.*
**The Calamity Form**

**On Poetry and Social Life**

**Key Selling Points**

Demonstrates how Romantic poetry both engaged and eschewed a political analysis of the Industrial Revolution and the beginnings of environmental calamity.

Looks to the Romantic era to raise broader questions about the practice of art in the face of ecological fragility.

Suggests that poetry offers a uniquely aesthetic form of knowing, which is not fully compatible with scientific knowledge or the ecological humanities.

**Summary**

Romanticism coincided with two major historical developments: the Industrial Revolution, and with it, a turning point in our relationship to the earth, its inhabitants, and its climate. Drawing on Marxism and philosophy of science, *The Calamity Form* shines new light on Romantic poetry, identifying a number of rhetorical tropes used by writers to underscore their very failure to make sense of our move to industrialization.

Anahid Nersessian explores works by Friedrich Hölderlin, William Wordsworth, John Keats, and others to argue that as the human and ecological costs of industry became clear, Romantic poetry adopted formal strategies—among them parataxis, the setting of elements side by side in a manner suggestive of postindustrial dissonance, and apostrophe, here an address to an absent or vanishing natural environment—as it tried and failed to narrate the calamities of capitalism. These tropes reflect how Romantic authors took their bewilderment and turned it into a poetics: a theory of writing, reading, and understanding poetry as an eminently critical act. Throughout, Nersussian pushes back against recent attempts to see literature as a source of information on par with historical or scientific data, arguing instead for an irreducibility of poetic knowledge. Revealing the ways in which these Romantic works are *of* their time but not *about* it, *The Calamity Form* ultimately exposes the nature of poetry's relationship to capital—and capital's ability to hide how it works.

**Contributor Bio**

**Anahid Nersessian** is associate professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *Utopia, Limited: Romanticism and Adjustment*, and the coeditor of the Thinking Literature series, published by The University of Chicago Press.

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**Ecological Poetics; or, Wallace Stevens's Birds**

**Key Selling Points**

Uses Wallace Stevens as an example of an ecological poet in terms of systems, places, worlds, environments and the life forms that inhabit them.

Engages theorists such as Emerson, Cavell, Derrida, and Sloterdijk.

Reads Stevens's birds as an ecopoetics of "things as they are" without human mediation, exploring the distance between human and non-human.

**Summary**

The poems of Wallace Stevens teem with birds: grackles, warblers, doves, swans, nightingales, owls, peacocks, and one famous blackbird who summons thirteen ways of looking. What do Stevens’s evocations of birds, and his poems more generally, tell us about the relationship between human and nonhuman? In this book, the noted theorist of posthumanism Cary Wolfe argues for a philosophical and theoretical reinvention of ecological poetics, using Stevens as a test case.

Stevens, Wolfe argues, is an ecological poet in the sense that his places, worlds, and environments are co-created by the life forms that inhabit them. Wolfe argues for a "nonrepresentational" conception of ecopoetics, showing how Stevens’s poems reward study alongside theories of system, environment, and observation derived from a multitude of sources, from Ralph Waldo Emerson and Niklas Luhmann to Jacques Derrida and Stuart Kauffman. *Ecological Poetics* is an ambitious interdisciplinary undertaking involving literary criticism, contemporary philosophy, and theoretical biology.

**Contributor Bio**

*Cary Wolfe* is Bruce and Elizabeth Dunlevie Professor of English and founding director of 3CT: Center for Critical and Cultural Theory at Rice University. He is the author of five books, most recently, *Before the Law: Humans and Other Animals in a Biopolitical Frame*.

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Chapter 4. “Never Again Would Birds’ Song Be the Same”

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Rhythm
Form and Dispossession

Key Selling Points
An alternate history of rhythm theory, spanning from pre-Socratic poetry to twentieth-century philosophy and modernism

The author explores an understanding of rhythm that is based in ethics and form, rather than repetition and timing

Offers a detailed discussion of sixteenth-century vernacular poetry in the Iberian Peninsula, in addition to broader investigations of rhythm in African, European, and Anglo-American thought

Summary
More than the persistent beat of a song or the structural frame of poetry, rhythm is a deeply imbedded force that drives our world and is also a central component of the condition of human existence. It’s the pulse of the body, a power that orders matter, a strange and natural force that flows through us. Virginia Woolf describes it as a “wave in the mind” that carries us, something we can no more escape than we could stop our hearts from beating.

Vincent Barletta explores rhythm through three historical moments, each addressing it as a phenomenon that transcends poetry, aesthetics, and even temporality. He reveals rhythm to be a power that holds us in place, dispossesses us, and shapes the foundations of our world. In these moments, Barletta encounters rhythm as a primordial and physical binding force that establishes order and form in the ancient world, as the anatomy of lived experience in early modern Europe, and as a subject of aesthetic and ethical questioning in the twentieth century.

A wide-ranging book covering a period spanning two millennia and texts from over ten languages, Rhythm will expand the conversation around this complex and powerful phenomenon.

Contributor Bio
Vincent Barletta is associate professor of comparative literature and Iberian and Latin American cultures at Stanford University. He is the author of Death in Babylon: Alexander the Great and Iberian Empire in the Muslim Orient and Covert Gestures: Crypto-Islamic Literature as Cultural Practice in Early Modern Spain.

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2. Harmony, Number, and Others
3. Twentieth-Century Measures

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A Different Order of Difficulty
Literature after Wittgenstein

Key Selling Points
Applies Wittgenstein’s philosophy to modernist and contemporary literature and connects fiction with ordinary language philosophy

Brings Wittgenstein into literary conversations concerning problems of difficulty, ethical instruction, and the yearning for transformation

Key texts by Kafka, Woolf, Joyce, and Coetzee

Summary
Is the point of philosophy to transmit beliefs about the world, or can it sometimes have higher ambitions? In this bold study, Karen Zumhagen-Yeklé makes a critical contribution to the “resolute” program of Wittgenstein scholarship, revealing his Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus as a complex, mock-theoretical puzzle designed to engage readers in the therapeutic self-clarification Wittgenstein saw as the true work of philosophy. Seen in this light, Wittgenstein resembles his modernist contemporaries more than might first appear. Like the literary innovators of his time, Wittgenstein believed in the productive power of difficulty, in varieties of spiritual experience, in the importance of age-old questions about life’s meaning, and in the possibility of transfigurative shifts toward the right way of seeing the world. In a series of absorbing chapters, Zumhagen-Yeklé shows how Kafka, Woolf, Joyce, and Coetzee set their readers on a path toward a new way of being. Offering a new perspective on Wittgenstein as philosophical modernist, and on the lives and afterlives of his indirect teaching, A Different Order of Difficulty is a compelling addition to studies in both literature and philosophy.

Contributor Bio
Karen Zumhagen-Yeklé is assistant professor of English and an affiliated faculty member in the Stone Center for Latin American Studies and the Programs for Gender Studies and Film Studies at Tulane University.

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2 The Everyday’s Fabulous Beyond: Nonsense, Parable, and the Ethics of the Literary in Kafka and Wittgenstein
3 Woolf, Diamond, and the Difficulty of Reality
4 Wittgenstein, Joyce, and the Vanishing Problem of Life
5 A New Life is a New Life: Teaching, Transformation, and Tautology in Coetzee’s Childhood of Jesus

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The Subject of Crusade
Lyric, Romance, and Materials, 1150 to 1500

Key Selling Points
An interdisciplinary study of medieval lyric poetry, Arthurian romance, and related artworks from the 12th to 15th centuries that complicates popular misconceptions of "crusade" and "holy war."

Identifies a "crusade idiom" across a variety of sources (poetry, visual art, chronicles, knightly handbooks, devotional/confessional writing) that shows a tension between the pious language of the Church and the self-expression of poets/soldiers.

Summary
In the Middle Ages, religious crusaders took up arms, prayed, bade farewell to their families, and marched off to fight in holy wars. These Christian soldiers also created accounts of their lives through lyric poetry, putting words to the experience of personal sacrifice and pious struggle associated with holy war. The crusaders affirmed their commitment to fighting to claim a distant land while revealing their feelings as they left behind their loved ones, homes, and earthly duties. Their poems and related visual works offer us insight into the crusaders' lives and values at the boundaries of earthly and spiritual duties, body and soul, holy devotion and courtly love.

In The Subject of Crusade, Marisa Galvez offers a nuanced view of holy war and crusade poetry, placing these lyric works into a wider conversation with religion and culture. Arguing for an interdisciplinary treatment of crusade lyric, she shows how such poems are crucial for understanding the crusades as a complex cultural and historical phenomenon. Placing them in conversation with chronicles, knightly handbooks, artworks, and confessional and pastoral texts, she identifies a particular "crusade idiom" that emerged out of the conflict between pious and earthly duties. Galvez fashions an expanded understanding of the creative works made by crusaders to reveal their experiences, desires, ideologies, and reasons for taking up the cross.

Contributor Bio
Marisa Galvez is associate professor of French and Italian and chair of undergraduate studies in French at Stanford University. She is the author of Songbook: How Lyrics Became Poetry in Medieval Europe, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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Practical Cues and Social Spectacle in the Chester Plays

Key Selling Points
A new interpretation of the Chester plays focusing on medieval drama’s festive public practices

Author uses his experience as an actor/director to highlight both overt and covert stage directions keyed to textual cues

Shows a less strictly dry/pious, more audience-response in understanding Cestrian performance and storytelling by attending to various verbal “practical” cues in the texts

Summary
Amid the crowded streets of Chester, guild players portraying biblical characters performed on colorful mobile stages hoping to draw the attention of fellow townspeople. In the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, these Chester plays employed flamboyant live performance to adapt biblical narratives. But the original format of these fascinating performances remains cloudy, as surviving records of these plays are sparse, and the manuscripts were only written down a generation after they stopped. Revealing a vibrant set of social practices encoded in the Chester plays, Matthew Sergi provides a new methodology for reading them and a transformative look at medieval English drama.

Carefully combing through the plays, Sergi seeks out cues in the dialogues that reveal information about the original staging, design, and acting. These “practical cues,” as he calls them, have gone largely unnoticed by drama scholars, who have focused on the ideology and historical contexts of these plays, rather than the methods, mechanics, and structures of the actual performances. Drawing on his experience as an actor and director, he combines close readings of these texts with fragments of records, revealing a new way to understand how the Chester plays brought biblical narratives to spectators in the noisy streets. For Sergi, plays that once appeared only as dry religious dramas come to life as raucous participatory spectacles filled with humor, camp, and devotion.

Contributor Bio
Matthew Sergi is assistant professor of English at the University of Toronto. He has worked as an actor and director, and his scholarship on medieval plays has appeared in a variety of publications.
Two Menus

Key Selling Points
Cagey, understated poems about moving between English and Chinese and the problems of cultural translation

Wry meditations on the meaning of foreignness and reconciling our youthful self and our adult self

Mixes traditional lyrics and experimental forms that reflect our divided selves and the awkwardness of human communication

Has a large, loyal following for her prose writing

Summary
There are two menus in a Beijing restaurant, Rachel DeWoskin writes in the title poem, "the first of excess, / second, scarcity." DeWoskin invites us into moments shaped by dualities, into spaces bordered by the language of her family (English) and that of her new country (Chinese), as well as the liminal spaces between youth and adulthood, safety and danger, humor and sorrow. This collection works by building and demolishing boundaries and binaries, sliding between their edges in movements that take us from the familiar to the strange and put us face-to-face with our assumptions and confusions. Through these complex and interwoven poems, we see how a self is never singular. Rather, it is made up of shifting—and sometimes colliding—parts. DeWoskin crosses back and forth, across languages and nations, between the divided parts in each of us, tracing overlaps and divergences. The limits and triumphs of translation, the slipperiness of relationships, and movements through land and language rise and fall together.

The poems in Two Menus offer insights into the layers of what it means to be human, to reconcile living as multiple selves. DeWoskin dives into the uncertain spaces, showing us how a life lived between walls is murky, strange, and immensely human. These poems ask us how to communicate across the boundaries that threaten to divide us, to measure and close the distance between who we are, were, and want to be.

Contributor Bio
Rachel DeWoskin is on the core fiction faculty and is an affiliated faculty member of Jewish Studies and East Asian Studies at the University of Chicago. She is the author of five novels, including the critically acclaimed Banshee; Someday We Will Fly; and Big Girl Small. Her essays, articles, and poems have appeared in a variety of outlets and anthologies, and her memoir, Foreign Babes in Beijing, has been published in six countries and is being developed as a television series.
The Daily Henry David Thoreau
A Year of Quotes from the Man Who Lived in Season

Summary
"Live in each season as it passes; breathe the air, drink the drink, taste the fruit, and resign yourself to the influence of each."

Modernity rules our lives by clock and calendar, dividing the stream of time into units and coordinating every passing moment with the universal globe. Henry David Thoreau subverted both clock and calendar, using them not to regulate time’s passing but to open up and explore its presence. This little volume thus embodies, in small compass, Thoreau’s own ambition to “live in season”—to turn with the living sundial of the world, and, by attuning ourselves to nature, to heal our modern sense of discontinuity with our surroundings.

Ralph Waldo Emerson noted with awe that from flowers alone, Thoreau could tell the calendar date within two days; children remembered long into adulthood how Thoreau showed them white waterlilies awakening not by the face of a clock but at the first touch of the sun. As Thoreau wrote in Walden, “Time is but the stream I go a-fishing in. I drink at it; but while I drink I see the sandy bottom and detect how shallow it is.”

Drawn from the full range of Thoreau’s journals and published writings, and arranged according to season, The Daily Henry David Thoreau allows us to discover the endless variation and surprise to be found in the repetitions of mundane cycles. Thoreau saw in the kernel of each day an earth enchanted, one he honed into sentences tuned with an artist’s eye and a musician’s ear. Thoreau’s world lives on in his writing so that we, too, may discover, even in a fallen world, a beauty worth defending.

Contributor Bio
Laura Dassow Walls is the William P. and Hazel B. White Professor of English at the University of Notre Dame. She is the author most recently of Henry David Thoreau: A Life, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

Henry David Thoreau (1817–1862) was an essayist, poet, and philosopher best known for his book Walden.
The Daily Thomas Paine
A Year of Common-Sense Quotes for a Nonsensical Age

Key Selling Points
An accessible introduction to the Founders’ Founder

Outraged, radical, atheistic, sarcastic, and wry: Thomas Paine was his era’s Christopher Hitchens

A way to ponder each day how best to navigate the times that try men’s souls

Summary
Thomas Paine was the spark that ignited the American Revolution. More than just a founding father, he was a verbal bomb-thrower, a rationalist, and a rebel. In his influential pamphlets Common Sense and The American Crisis, Paine codified both colonial outrage and the intellectual justification for independence, arguing consistently and convincingly for Enlightenment values and the power of the people. Today, we are living in times that, as Paine famously said, “try men’s souls.” Whatever your politics, if you’re seeking to understand the political world we live in, where better to look than Paine?

The Daily Thomas Paine offers a year’s worth of pithy and provocative quotes from this quintessentially American figure. Editor Edward G. Gray argues that we are living in a moment that Thomas Paine might recognize—or perhaps more precisely, a moment desperate for someone whose rhetoric can ignite a large-scale social and political transformation. Paine was a master of political rhetoric, from the sarcastic insult to the diplomatic aperçu, and this book offers a sleek and approachable sampler of some of the sharpest bits from his oeuvre. As Paine himself says in the entry for January 20: “The present state of America is truly alarming to every man who is capable of reflexion.” The Daily Thomas Paine should prove equally incendiary and inspirational for contemporary readers with an eye for politics, even those who prefer the tweet to the pamphlet.

Contributor Bio
Thomas Paine (1737-1809) was an activist, philosopher, political theorist, and author of Common Sense, The American Crisis, and Rights of Man.
Edward G. Gray is professor of history at Florida State University and coeditor of the University of Chicago Press series American Beginnings 1500-1900.
Both from the Ears and Mind
Thinking about Music in Early Modern England

Key Selling Points
First book to show the extent to which literate sixteenth- and seventeenth-century English people were expected to speak and write of music in complement to, or sometimes independently of, performance.

Provides new understanding of the extent to which music permeated the full spectrum of early modern intellectual endeavors.

Demonstrates ways in which information about music circulated across intellectual and ideological boundaries, and between communities of discourse, in Tudor and Stuart England.

Shows how musical concepts originally helped to explain distant disciplines and practices, and how music served as a point of contact between otherwise discontiguous concepts.

Summary
Both from the Ears and Mind offers a bold new understanding of the intellectual and cultural position of music in Tudor and Stuart England. Linda Phyllis Austern brings to life the kinds of educated writings and debates that surrounded musical performance, and the remarkable ways in which English people understood music to inform other endeavors, from astrology and self-care to divinity and poetics. Music was considered both art and science, and discussions of music and musical terminology provided points of contact between otherwise discrete fields of human learning. This book demonstrates how knowledge of music permitted individuals to both reveal and conceal membership in specific social, intellectual, and ideological communities. Attending to materials that go beyond music’s conventional limits, these chapters probe the role of music in commonplace books, health-maintenance and marriage manuals, rhetorical and theological treatises, and mathematical dictionaries. Ultimately, Austern illustrates how music was an indispensable frame of reference that became central to the fabric of life during a time of tremendous intellectual, social, and technological change.

Contributor Bio
Linda Phyllis Austern is associate professor of musicology at Northwestern University. She is the author of Music in English Children’s Drama of the Later Renaissance and editor of several books, most recently Beyond Boundaries: Rethinking Music Circulation in Early Modern England (with Candace Bailey and Amanda Eubanks Winkler).
The Chattering Mind
A Conceptual History of Everyday Talk

Key Selling Points
An ambitious historical account tracking everyday conversation’s shifting role in the digital age

Analyzes the philosophy of empty conversation in Kierkegaard, Heidegger, and Lacan

Examines feelings of anxiety towards conversation in our “overconnected” world

Summary
From Plato’s contempt for “the madness of the multitude” to Kant’s lament for “the great unthinking mass,” the history of Western thought is riddled with disdain for ordinary collective life. But it was not until Kierkegaard developed the term chatter that this disdain began to focus on the ordinary communicative practices that sustain this form of human togetherness.

The Chattering Mind explores the intellectual tradition inaugurated by Kierkegaard’s work, tracing the conceptual history of everyday talk from his formative account of chatter to Heidegger’s recuperative discussion of “idle talk” to Lacan’s culminating treatment of “empty speech”—and ultimately into our digital present, where small talk on various social media platforms now yields big data for tech-savvy entrepreneurs.

In this sense, The Chattering Mind is less a history of ideas than a book in search of a usable past. It is a study of how the modern world became anxious about everyday talk, figured in terms of the intellectual elites who piqued this anxiety, and written with an eye toward recent dilemmas of digital communication and culture. By explaining how a quintessentially unproblematic form of human communication became a communication problem in itself, McCormick also shows how its conceptual history is essential to our understanding of media and communication today.

Contributor Bio
Samuel McCormick is associate professor of communication studies at San Francisco State University.

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Part One: Chatter
1 Barbers and Philosophers
2 Fuzzy Math
3 Preacher-Prattle

Part Two: Idle Talk
4 Beginning More than Halfway There
5 Ancient Figures of Speech
6 The World Persuaded

Part Three: Empty Speech
7 The Writing on the Wall
8 First and Final Words
9 A Play of Props

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Socrates Founding Political Philosophy in Xenophon's "Economist", "Symposium", and "Apology"

Summary
The oeuvre of the Greek historian Xenophon, whose works stand with those of Plato as essential accounts of the teachings of Socrates, has seen a new surge of attention after decades in the shadows. And no one has done more in recent years to spearhead the revival than Thomas L. Pangle. Here, Pangle provides a sequel to his study of Xenophon’s longest account of Socrates, the Memorabilia, expanding the scope of inquiry through an incisive treatment of Xenophon’s shorter Socratic dialogues, the Economist, the Symposium, and the Apology of Socrates to the Jury. What Pangle reveals is that these three depictions of Socrates complement and, in fact, serve to complete the Memorabilia in meaningful ways.

Unlike the Socrates of Plato, Xenophon’s Socrates is more complicated and human, an individual working out the problem of what it means to live well and virtuously. While the Memorabilia defends Socrates by stressing his likeness to conventionally respectable gentlemen, Xenophon’s remaining Socratic texts offer a more nuanced characterization by highlighting how Socrates also diverges from conventions of gentlemanliness in his virtues, behaviors, and peculiar views of quotidian life and governmental rule. One question threads through the three writings: Which way of life best promotes human existence, politics, and economics—that of the Socratic political philosopher with his philosophic virtues or that of the gentleman with his familial, civic, and moral virtues? In uncovering the nuances of Xenophon’s approach to the issue in the Economist, Symposium, and Apology, Pangle’s book cements the significance of these writings for the field and their value for shaping a fuller conception of just who Socrates was and what he taught.

Contributor Bio
Thomas L. Pangle is the Joe R. Long Chair in Democratic Studies and codirector of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and Ideas at the University of Texas at Austin. His many books include, most recently, The Socratic Way of Life, also published by the University of Chicago Press.
Seeing Silence

Key Selling Points
One of America’s leading philosophers of religion meditates on the importance of silence in contemporary life.
Draws upon Hegel’s “phenomenology of spirit” and Kierkegaard’s “stages of life” to affirm silence in the midst of noise, light in the midst of darkness.
Listens for the unsayable in the work of modern and postmodern artists, including Barnett Newman, Ad Reinhardt, James Turrell, and Anish Kapoor.

Summary
Mark C. Taylor’s latest book is a philosophy of silence for our nervous, chattering age. How do we find silence—and, more importantly, how do we understand it—amid the incessant buzz of the networks that enmesh us? Have we forgotten how to listen to each other, to recognize the virtues of modesty and reticence, and to appreciate the resonance of silence? Are we less prepared than ever for the ultimate silence that awaits us all?

Taylor wants us to pause long enough to hear what is not said and to attend to what remains unsayable. In his account, our way to hearing silence is, paradoxically, to see it. Taylor explores the many variations of silence by considering the work of leading modern and postmodern visual artists, including Barnett Newman, Ad Reinhardt, James Turrell, and Anish Kapoor. Developing the insights of philosophers, theologians, writers, and composers, he weaves a rich narrative modeled on the Stations of the Cross. His chapter titles suggest our positions toward silence: Without. Before. From. Beyond. Against. Within. Around. Between. Toward. With. In. Recasting Hegel’s phenomenology of spirit and Kierkegaard’s stages on life’s way, Taylor translates the traditional Via Dolorosa into a Nietzschean Via Jubilosa that affirms light in the midst of darkness.

Seeing Silence is a thoughtful meditation that invites readers to linger long enough to see silence, and, in this way, perhaps to hear once again the wordless Word that once was named “God.”

Contributor Bio
Mark C. Taylor is professor of religion at Columbia University and is the founding editor of the Religion and Postmodernism series published by the University of Chicago Press. He is the author of over two dozen books, including Speed Limits: Where Time Went and Why We Have So Little Left and Abiding Grace: Time, Modernity, Death.

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Herodotus in the Anthropocene

Summary
We are living in the age of the Anthropocene, in which human activities are recognized for effecting potentially catastrophic environmental change. In this book, Joel Alden Schlosser argues that our current state of affairs calls for a creative political response, and he finds inspiration in an unexpected source: the ancient writings of the Greek historian Herodotus. Focusing on the Histories, written in the fifth century BCE, Schlosser identifies a cluster of concepts that allow us to better grasp the dynamic complexity of a world in flux.

Schlosser shows that the Histories, which chronicle the interactions among the Greek city-states and their neighbors that culminated in the Persian Wars, illuminate a telling paradox: at those times when humans appear capable of exerting more influence than ever before, they must also assert collective agency to avoid their own downfall. Here, success depends on nomoi, or the culture, customs, and laws that organize human communities and make them adaptable through cooperation. Nomoi arise through sustained contact between humans and their surroundings and function best when practiced willingly and with the support of strong commitments to the equality of all participants. Thus, nomoi are the very substance of political agency and, ultimately, the key to freedom and ecological survival because they guide communities to work together to respond to challenges. An ingenious contribution to political theory, political philosophy, and ecology, Herodotus in the Anthropocene reminds us that the best perspective on the present can often be gained through the lens of the past.

Contributor Bio
Joel Alden Schlosser is associate professor of political science at Bryn Mawr College. He is the author of What Would Socrates Do?: Self-Examination, Civic Engagement, and the Politics of Philosophy.

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Two Thumbs Up
How Critics Aid Appreciation

Key Selling Points
Explores and extols the value of professional critics in aesthetic appreciation
Offers a clear and relevant account of Hume’s aesthetic philosophy
Written in an accessible style and connected to the social media age

Summary
Far from an elite practice reserved for the highly educated, criticism is all around us. We turn to the Yelp reviewers to decide what restaurants are best, to Rotten Tomatoes to guide our movie choices, and to a host of voices on social media for critiques of political candidates, beach resorts, and everything in between. Yet even amid this ever-expanding sea of opinions, professional critics still hold considerable power in guiding how we make aesthetic judgements. Philosophers and lovers of art continue to grapple with questions that have fascinated them for centuries: How should we engage with works of art? What might enhance such encounters? Should some people’s views be privileged? Who should count as a critic? And do critics actually help us appreciate art?

In Two Thumbs Up, philosopher Stephanie Ross tackles these questions, revealing the ways that critics influence our decisions, and why that’s a good thing. Starting from David Hume’s conception of ideal critics, Ross refines his position and makes the case that review-based journalistic or consumer reporting criticism proves the best model for helping us find and appreciate quality. She addresses and critiques several other positions and, in the process, she demonstrates how aesthetic and philosophical concerns permeate our lives, choices, and culture. Ultimately, whether we’re searching for the right wine or the best concert, Ross encourages us all to find and follow critics whose taste we share.

Contributor Bio
Stephanie Ross is professor emerita of philosophy at the University of Missouri-St. Louis. She is the author of What Gardens Mean, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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The Challenge of Nietzsche
How to Approach His Thought

Summary
Friedrich Nietzsche is one of the most widely read authors in the world, from the time of his death to the present—as well as one of the most controversial. He has been celebrated as a theorist of individual creativity and self-care but also condemned as an advocate of antimodern politics and hierarchical communalism. Rather than treating these approaches as mutually exclusive, Jeremy Fortier contends that we ought instead to understand Nietzsche’s complex legacy as the consequence of a self-conscious and artful tension woven into the fabric of his books.

The Challenge of Nietzsche uses Nietzsche as a guide to Nietzsche, highlighting the fact that Nietzsche equipped his writings with retrospective self-commentaries and an autobiographical apparatus that clarify how he understood his development as an author, thinker, and human being. Fortier shows that Nietzsche used his writings to establish two major character types, the Free Spirit and Zarathustra, who represent two different approaches to the conduct and understanding of life: one that strives to be as independent and critical of the world as possible, and one that engages with, cares for, and aims to change the world. Nietzsche developed these characters at different moments of his life, in order to confront from contrasting perspectives such elemental experiences as the drive to independence, the feeling of love, and the assessment of one’s overall health or well-being. Understanding the tension between the Free Spirit and Zarathustra takes readers to the heart of what Nietzsche identified as the tensions central to his life, and to all human life.

Contributor Bio
Jeremy Fortier teaches in the Department of Political Science at the City College of New York.

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**Reason and Character**  
The Moral Foundations of Aristotelian Political Philosophy

### Summary
What does it mean to live a good life or a happy life, and what part does reason play in the quest for fulfillment? Proceeding by means of a close and thematically selective commentary on Aristotle’s *Nicomachean Ethics*, this book offers a novel interpretation of Aristotle’s teachings on the relation between reason and moral virtue. Pangle shows how Aristotle’s arguments for virtue as the core of happiness and for reason as the guide to virtue emerge in dialectical response to Socrates’s paradoxical claim that virtue is knowledge and vice is ignorance, and as part of a politically complex project of giving guidance to lawgivers and ordinary citizens while offering spurs to deep theoretical reflection.

Against Socrates, Aristotle insists that both virtue and vice are voluntary and that individuals are responsible for their characters, a stance that lends itself to vigorous defense of moral responsibility. At the same time, Pangle shows, Aristotle elucidates the importance of unchosen concerns in shaping all that we do and the presence of some form of ignorance or subtle confusions in all moral failings. Thus the gap between his position and that of Socrates comes on close inspection to be much smaller than first appears, and his true teaching on the role of reason in shaping moral existence far more complex. The book offers fresh interpretations of Aristotle’s teaching on the relation of passions to judgments, on what it means to choose virtue for its own sake, on the way reason finds the mean, especially in justice, and on the crucial intellectual virtue of phronesis or active wisdom and its relation to theoretical wisdom. Offering answers to longstanding debates over the status of reason and the meaning of happiness in the *Nicomachean Ethics*, this book will kindle in readers a new appreciation for Aristotle’s lessons on how to make the most out of life, as individuals and in society.

### Contributor Bio
Lorraine Smith Pangle is professor of government and codirector of the Thomas Jefferson Center for the Study of Core Texts and Ideas at the University of Texas at Austin. Her books include *Virtue Is Knowledge*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

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Politics for Everybody
Reading Hannah Arendt in Uncertain Times

Key Selling Points
Argues for the value of ‘politics’ at a time of political polarization and dysfunction
Relates Arendt’s conceptions of politics and freedom to the 21st century political experience
Written in engaging, easy-to-understand prose that connects political thinking to the everyday

Summary
In this age of nearly unprecedented partisan rancor, you’d be forgiven for thinking we could all do with a smaller daily dose of politics. In his provocative and sharp book, however, Ned O’Gorman argues just the opposite: Politics for Everybody contends that what we really need to do is engage more deeply with politics, rather than chuck the whole thing out the window. In calling for a purer, more humanistic relationship with politics—one that does justice to the virtues of open, honest exchange—O’Gorman draws on the work of Hannah Arendt (1906–75). As a German-born Jewish thinker who fled the Nazis for the United States, Arendt set out to defend politics from its many detractors along several key lines: the challenge of separating genuine politics from distorted forms; the difficulty of appreciating politics for what it is; the problems of truth and judgment in politics; and the role of persuasion in politics. O’Gorman’s book offers an insightful introduction to Arendt’s ideas for anyone who wants to think more carefully

Contributor Bio
Ned O’Gorman is professor of communication at University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

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Democracy in America? *(Enlarged)*
What Has Gone Wrong and What We Can Do about It

**Key Selling Points**
The policies adopted by our government reflect the preferences of the wealthy, not the majority of Americans.

Because of the way we finance our campaigns, the wealthy play an outsized role in our politics.

The structure of our government enables the rich and business interests, who can afford to spend large sums to lobby Congress and the executive agencies, to stop policy changes they don’t support and enact policies they do support.

Reforms, such as making voting easier for Americans, are needed to create a government that is truly for the people.

**Contributor Bio**
Benjamin I. Page is the Gordon Scott Fulcher Professor of Decision Making at Northwestern University. Martin Gilens is professor of public policy at the UCLA Luskin School of Public Affairs.

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The Toddler in Chief
What Donald Trump Teaches Us about the Modern Presidency

Summary
“It may be cold comfort in this chaotic era, but Americans should know that there are adults in the room. . . . And we are trying to do what’s right even when Donald Trump won’t.”—An anonymous senior administrative official in an op-ed published in a New York Times op-ed, September 5, 2018

Every president faces criticism and caricature. Donald Trump, however, is unique in that he is routinely characterized in ways more suitable for a toddler. What’s more, it is not just Democrats, pundits, or protestors who compare the president to a child; Trump’s staffers, subordinates, and allies on Capitol Hill also describe Trump like a small, badly behaved preschooler.

In April 2017, Daniel W. Drezner began curating every example he could find of a Trump ally describing the president like a toddler. So far, he’s collected more than one thousand tweets—a rate of more than one a day. In The Toddler-in-Chief, Drezner draws on these examples to take readers through the different dimensions of Trump’s infantile behavior, from temper tantrums to poor impulse control to the possibility that the President has had too much screen time. How much damage can really be done by a giant man-baby? Quite a lot, Drezner argues, due to the winnowing away of presidential checks and balances over the past fifty years. In these pages, Drezner follows his theme—the specific ways in which sharing some of the traits of a toddler makes a person ill-suited to the presidency—to show the lasting, deleterious impact the Trump administration will have on American foreign policy and democracy.

The “adults in the room” may not be able to rein in Trump’s toddler-like behavior, but, with the 2020 election fast approaching, the American people can think about whether they want the most powerful office turned into a poorly run political day care facility. Drezner exhorts us to elect a commander-in-chief, not a toddler-in-chief. And along the way, he shows how we must rethink the terrifying powers we have given the presidency.

Contributor Bio
Daniel W. Drezner is professor of international politics at the Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy at Tufts University and a regular contributor to the Washington Post. He is the father of two former toddlers, both of whom were more mature than President Trump.

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**Political Perversion**  
*Rhetorical Aberration in the Time of Trumpeteering*

**Key Selling Points**
A timely account of the rise of “mean-spiritedness” in American political discourse

Argues that Trump’s perverse rhetoric is emblematic of a cultural trend present in daily interactions

Connects communication studies to the current cultural and political climate

**Summary**
When Trump became president, much of the country was repelled by what they saw as the vulgar spectacle of his ascent, a perversion of the highest office in the land. In his bold, innovative book, *Political Perversion*, rhetorician Joshua Gunn argues that this “mean-spirited turn” in American politics (of which Trump is the paragon) is best understood as a structural perversion in our common culture, on a continuum with infantile and “gotcha” forms of entertainment meant to engender provocation and sadistic enjoyment.

Drawing on insights from critical theory, media ecology, and psychoanalysis, Gunn argues that perverse rhetorics dominate not only the political sphere but also our daily interactions with others, in person and online. From sexting to campaign rhetoric, Gunn advances a new way to interpret our contemporary political context that explains why so many of us have difficulty deciphering the appeal of aberrant public figures. In this book, Trump is only the tip of a sinister, rapidly growing iceberg, one to which we ourselves unwittingly contribute on a daily basis.

**Contributor Bio**
*Joshua Gunn* is associate professor of communication studies at the University of Texas at Austin. He is the author of *Speech Craft*.

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Congress Overwhelmed
The Decline in Congressional Capacity and Prospects for Reform

Summary
Congress today is falling short. Fewer bills, worse oversight, and more dysfunction. But why? In a new volume of essays, the contributors investigate an underappreciated reason Congress is struggling: it doesn’t have the internal capacity to do what our constitutional system requires of it. Leading scholars chronicle the institutional decline of Congress and the decades-long neglect of its own internal investments in the knowledge and expertise necessary to perform as a first-rate legislature. Today’s legislators and congressional committees have fewer—and less expert and experienced—staff than the executive branch or K Street. This leaves them at the mercy of lobbyists and the administrative bureaucracy.

The essays in Congress Overwhelmed assess Congress’s declining capacity and explore ways to upgrade it. Some provide broad historical scope. Others evaluate the current decay and investigate how Congress manages despite the obstacles. Collectively, they undertake the most comprehensive, sophisticated appraisal of congressional capacity to date, and they offer a new analytical frame for thinking about—and improving—our underperforming first branch of government.

Contributor Bio
Timothy M. LaPira is associate professor of political science at James Madison University. He is coauthor, with Herschel F. Thomas, of Revolving Door Lobbying. Lee Drutman is a senior fellow in the Political Reform Program at the New America Foundation think tank. He is the author of The Business of America is Lobbying.
How the Tea Party Captured the GOP
Insurgent Factions in American Politics

Summary
The rise of the Tea Party redefined both the Republican Party and how we think about intraparty conflict. What initially appeared to be an anti-Obama protest movement of fiscal conservatives matured into a faction that sought to increase its influence in the Republican Party by any means necessary. Tea Partiers captured the party’s organizational machinery and used it to replace established politicians with Tea Party–style Republicans, eventually laying the groundwork for the nomination and election of a candidate like Donald Trump.

In How the Tea Party Captured the GOP, Rachel Marie Blum approaches the Tea Party from the angle of party politics, explaining the Tea Party’s insurgent strategies as those of a party faction. Blum offers a novel theory of factions as miniature parties within parties, discussing how fringe groups can use factions to increase their political influence in the US two-party system. In this richly researched book, the author uncovers how the electoral losses of 2008 sparked disgruntled Republicans to form the Tea Party faction, and the strategies the Tea Party used to wage a systematic takeover of the Republican Party. This book not only illuminates how the Tea Party achieved its influence, but also provides a framework for identifying other factional insurrections.

Contributor Bio
Rachel Marie Blum is assistant professor of political science at Miami University of Ohio.
The Myth of the Imperial Presidency
How Public Opinion Checks the Unilateral Executive

Summary
Throughout the history of the United States, the nation’s presidents have shown a startling power to act independently of Congress and the courts. Using such tools as executive orders and memoranda, presidents have taken the country to war, abolished slavery, authorized widespread electronic surveillance, shielded undocumented immigrants from deportation, and more. As a result, executive authority has at times been accused of verging on the imperial. In this book, Dino P. Christenson and Douglas L. Kriner consider an oft-overlooked question: Given the strength of unilateral executive action and the steep barriers for Congress and the courts to successfully check it, what stops presidents from asserting control even more broadly than they already do? The answer, Christenson and Kriner argue, lies in the reactions of everyday Americans.

With robust empirical data and compelling case studies, the authors reveal the extent to which domestic public opinion limits executive might. Presidents are emboldened to pursue their own agendas when they enjoy high levels of public support, and constrained when they are down in the polls, as unilateral action could jeopardize future initiatives and render presidents even more politically vulnerable. Although they find little evidence that the public instinctively recoils against the use of unilateral action, Congress and the courts can sway the public’s view via their criticism of unilateral policies. Thus, other branches can still check the executive branch through political means. On the whole, as long as presidents are concerned with public opinion, Christenson and Kriner contend that fears of an imperial presidency are overblown. However, a president who responds only to the narrow base and ignores the mass public could pose a unique threat to checks and balances.

Contributor Bio
Dino P. Christenson is associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Boston University and an institute fellow at the Hariri Institute for Computational Science and Engineering. He is a coauthor of Applied Social Science Methodology.
Douglas L. Kriner is assistant professor of political science at Boston University and coauthor of The Casualty Gap: The Causes and Consequences of American Wartime Inequalities.

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**Democracy Declined**
*
The Failed Politics of Consumer Financial Protection

**Summary**

As Elizabeth Warren memorably wrote, "It is impossible to buy a toaster that has a one-in-five chance of bursting into flames and burning down your house. But it is possible to refinance an existing home with a mortgage that has the same one-in-five chance of putting the family out on the street." More than a century after the government embraced credit to fuel the American economy, consumer financial protections in the increasingly complex financial system still place the onus on individuals to sift through fine print for assurance that they are not vulnerable to predatory lending and other pitfalls of consumer financing and growing debt. In *Democracy Declined*, Mallory E. SoRelle argues that the failure of federal policy makers to curb risky practices can be explained by the evolution of consumer finance policies aimed at encouraging easy credit in part by foregoing more stringent regulation. Furthermore, SoRelle explains how angry borrowers’ experiences with these policies teach them to focus their attention primarily on banks and lenders instead of demanding that lawmakers address predatory behavior. As a result, advocacy groups have been mostly unsuccessful in mobilizing borrowers in support of stronger consumer financial protections. The absence of safeguards on consumer financing is particularly dangerous because the consequences extend well beyond harm to individuals—they threaten the stability of entire economies. SoRelle identifies pathways to mitigate these potentially disastrous consequences through greater public participation.

**Contributor Bio**

**Mallory E. SoRelle** is assistant professor in the Department of Government and Law at Lafayette College and has contributed to popular politics and current events blogs like the Washington Post Monkey Cage and Scholars Strategy Network.

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The Economic Other
Inequality in the American Political Imagination

Summary
Economic inequality is at a record high in the United States, but public demand for redistribution is not rising with it. Meghan Condon and Amber Wichowsky show that this paradox and other mysteries about class and US politics can be solved through a focus on social comparison. Powerful currents compete to propel attention up or down—toward the rich or the poor—pulling politics along in the wake.

Through an astute blend of experiments, surveys, and descriptions people offer in their own words, The Economic Other reveals that when less-advantaged Americans compare with the rich, they become more accurate about their own status and want more from government. But American society is structured to prevent upward comparison. In an increasingly divided, anxious nation, opportunities to interact with the country’s richest are shrinking, and people prefer to compare to those below to feel secure. Even when comparison with the rich does occur, many lose confidence in their power to effect change.

Laying bare how social comparisons drive political attitudes, The Economic Other is an essential look at the stubborn plight of inequality and the measures needed to solve it.

Contributor Bio
Meghan Condon is assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at Loyola University Chicago.
Amber Wichowsky is associate professor in the Department of Political Science and director of the Marquette Democracy Lab at Marquette University.

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**Difference without Domination**
*Pursuing Justice in Diverse Democracies*

**Summary**
Around the globe, democracy appears broken. With political and socioeconomic inequality on the rise, we are faced with the urgent question of how to better distribute power, opportunity, and wealth in diverse modern societies. This volume confronts the dilemma head-on, exploring new ways to combat current social hierarchies of domination.

Using examples from the United States, India, Germany, and Cameroon, the contributors offer paradigm-changing approaches to the concepts of justice, identity, and social groups while also taking a fresh look at the idea that the demographic make-up of institutions should mirror the make-up of a populace as a whole. After laying out the conceptual framework, the volume turns to a number of provocative topics, among them the pernicious tenacity of implicit bias, the logical contradictions inherent to the idea of universal human dignity, and the paradoxes and problems surrounding affirmative action. A stimulating blend of empirical and interpretive analyses, *Difference without Domination* urges us to reconsider the idea of representation and to challenge what it means to measure equality and inequality.

**Contributor Bio**
**Danielle Allen** is the James Bryant Conant University Professor and director of the Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics at Harvard University. The recipient of a MacArthur fellowship, she is the author or coeditor of many books, including *Education and Equality, From Voice to Influence: Understanding Citizenship in a Digital Age*, and *Education, Justice, and Democracy*, all published by the University of Chicago Press. **Rohini Somanthan** is professor of economics at the Delhi School of Economics.

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Urs Lindner

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Claudio López-Guerra
Making Social Welfare Policy in America
Three Case Studies since 1950

Summary
American social welfare policy has produced a health system with skyrocketing costs, a disability insurance program that consigns many otherwise productive people to lives of inactivity, and a welfare program that attracts wide criticism. Making Social Welfare Policy in America explains how this happened by examining the historical development of three key programs—Social Security Disability Insurance, Medicare, and Temporary Aid to Needy Families. Edward D. Berkowitz traces the developments that led to each program’s creation. Policy makers often find it difficult to dislodge a program’s administrative structure, even as political, economic, and cultural circumstances change. Faced with this situation, they therefore solve contemporary problems with outdated programs and must improvise politically acceptable solutions. The results vary according to the political popularity of the program and the changes in the conventional wisdom. Some programs, such as Social Security Disability Insurance, remain in place over time. Policy makers have added new parts to Medicare to reflect modern developments. Congress has abolished Aid to Families of Dependent Children and replaced with a new program intended to encourage work among adult welfare recipients raising young children.

Written in an accessible style and using a minimum of academic jargon, this book illuminates how three of our most important social welfare programs have come into existence and how they have fared over time.

Contributor Bio
Edward D. Berkowitz is emeritus professor of history and public policy at George Washington University. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including The Other Welfare.

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In recent decades, and particularly since the Supreme Court’s controversial *Citizens United* decision, lawmakers and other elites have told Americans that stricter campaign finance laws are needed to improve people’s faith in the election process, increase trust in the government, and counter cynicism toward politics more generally. But as David M. Primo and Jeffrey D. Milyo argue, politicians and the public alike would do well to reconsider the conventional wisdom in light of surprising empirical evidence to the contrary.

Primo and Milyo probe original survey data to determine Americans’ sentiments on the role of money in politics, what drives these sentiments, and why they matter. What Primo and Milyo find is that while many individuals support the idea of reform, they are also skeptical that reform would successfully limit corruption, which Americans believe stains almost every fiber of the political system. Moreover, support for campaign finance restrictions is deeply divided along party lines, reflecting the polarization of our times. Ultimately, Primo and Milyo contend, American attitudes toward money in politics reflect larger fears about the health of American democracy, fears that will not be allayed by campaign finance reform.

**Contributor Bio**

**David M. Primo** is the Ani and Mark Gabrellian Professor at the University of Rochester. He is the author or coauthor of several books, including *Rules and Restraint*, also published by the University of Chicago Press. **Jeffrey D. Milyo** is professor of economics at the University of Missouri.
Race to the Bottom
How Racial Appeals Work in American Politics

Summary
African American voters are a key demographic to the modern Democratic base, and conventional wisdom has it that there is political cost to racialized “dog whistles,” especially for Democratic candidates. However, politicians from both parties and from all racial backgrounds continually appeal to negative racial attitudes for political gain.

Challenging what we think we know about race and politics, LaFleur Stephens-Dougan argues that candidates across the racial and political spectrum engage in “racial distancing,” or using negative racial appeals to communicate to racially moderate and conservative whites—the overwhelming majority of whites—that they will not disrupt the racial status quo. Race to the Bottom closely examines empirical data on racialized partisan stereotypes to show that engaging in racial distancing through political platforms that do not address the needs of nonwhite communities and charged rhetoric that targets African Americans, immigrants, and others can be politically advantageous. Racialized communication persists as a well-worn campaign strategy because it has real electoral value for both white and black politicians seeking to broaden their coalitions. Stephens-Dougan reveals that claims of racial progress have been overstated as our politicians are incentivized to employ racial prejudices at the expense of the most marginalized in our society.

Contributor Bio
LaFleur Stephens-Dougan is assistant professor in the Department of Politics at Princeton University.

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Chemically Imbalanced
Everyday Suffering, Medication, and Our Troubled Quest for Self-Mastery

Key Selling Points
Exploration of the shift from feelings-based focus on mental well being to brain-based focus on mental well being.

Demonstrates the growing prominence of psychotropic medication in dealing with difficult feelings.

Brings new insight to research on medical treatment of mental health issues.

Summary
Everyday suffering—those conditions or feelings brought on by trying circumstances that arise in everyone's lives—is something that humans have grappled with for millennia. But the last decades have seen a drastic change in the way we approach it. In the past, a person going through a time of difficulty might keep a journal or see a therapist, but now the psychological has been replaced by the biological: instead of treating the heart, soul, and mind, we take a pill to treat the brain.

Chemically Imbalanced is a field report on how ordinary people dealing with common problems explain their suffering, how they're increasingly turning to the thin and mechanistic language of the “body/brain,” and what these encounters might tell us. Drawing on interviews with people dealing with struggles such as underperformance in school or work, grief after the end of a relationship, or disappointment with how their life is unfolding, Joseph E. Davis reveals the profound revolution in consciousness that is underway. We now see suffering as an imbalance in the brain that needs to be fixed, usually through chemical means. This has rippled into our social and cultural conversations, and it has affected how we, as a society, imagine ourselves and envision what constitutes a good life. Davis warns that what we envision as a neurological revolution, in which suffering is a mechanistic problem, has troubling and entrapping consequences. And he makes the case that by turning away from an interpretive, meaning-making view of ourselves, we thwart our chances to enrich our souls and learn important truths about ourselves and the social conditions under which we live.

Contributor Bio
Joseph E. Davis is research professor of sociology and moderator of the picturing the human colloquy of the Institute for Advanced Studies in Culture at the University of Virginia. He is the author of Accounts of Innocence: Sexual Abuse, Trauma, and the Self, also from the University of Chicago Press, and coeditor, most recently, of To Fix or to Heal: Patient Care, Public Health, and the Limits of Biomedicine and The Evening of Life: The Challenges of Aging and Dying Well.

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Writing for Social Scientists (3rd Edition)
How to Start and Finish Your Thesis, Book, or Article, Third Edition

Summary
For more than thirty years, Writing for Social Scientists has been a lifeboat for writers in all fields, from beginning students to published authors. It starts with a powerful reassurance: Academic writing is stressful, and even accomplished scholars like sociologist Howard S. Becker struggle with it. And it provides a clear solution: In order to learn how to write, take a deep breath and then begin writing. Revise. Repeat.

This is not a book about sociological writing. Instead, Becker applies his sociologist’s eye to some of the common problems all academic writers face, including trying to get it right the first time, failing, and therefore not writing at all; getting caught up in the trappings of “proper” academic writing; writing to impress rather than communicate with readers; and struggling with the when and how of citations. He then offers concrete advice, based on his own experiences and those of his students and colleagues, for overcoming these obstacles and gaining confidence as a writer.

While the underlying challenges of writing have remained the same since the book first appeared, the context in which academic writers work has changed dramatically, thanks to rapid changes in technology and ever greater institutional pressures. This new edition has been updated throughout to reflect these changes, offering a new generation of scholars and students encouragement to write about society or any other scholarly topic clearly and persuasively.

As Becker writes in the new preface, “Nothing prepared me for the steady stream of mail from readers who found the book helpful. Not just helpful. Several told me the book had saved their lives; less a testimony to the book as therapy than a reflection of the seriousness of the trouble writing failure could get people into.” As academics are being called on to write more often, in more formats, the experienced, rational advice in Writing for Social Scientists will be an important resource for any writer’s shelf.

Contributor Bio
Howard S. Becker has made major contributions to the sociology of deviance, sociology of art, and sociology of music. He received a PhD from the University of Chicago, where he was also an instructor in sociology and social sciences. He was professor of sociology at Northwestern University for twenty-five years and later became a professor of sociology and an adjunct professor of music at the University of Washington. He lives and works in San Francisco and Paris.

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Daemons are Forever
Contacts and Exchanges in the Eurasian Pandemonium

Key Selling Points
An ambitious and far-ranging examination of how different cultures examine daemons
Draws powerful connections between many Eurasian religious and cultural traditions

Written with verve by one of the leading figures in comparative religions

Summary
A richly illustrated tapestry of interwoven studies spanning some six thousand years of history, Daemons Are Forever is at once a record of archaic contacts and transactions between humans and protean spirit beings—daemons—and an account of exchanges, among human populations, of the science of spirit beings: daemon-ology. Since the time of the Indo-European migrations, and especially following the opening of the Silk Road, a common daemonological vernacular has been shared among populations ranging from East and South Asia to Northern Europe. In this virtuoso work of historical sleuthing, David Gordon White recovers the trajectories of both the “inner demons” cohabiting the bodies of their human hosts and the “outer daemons” that those same humans recognized each time they encountered them in their enchanted haunts: sylvan pools, sites of geothermal eruptions, and dark forest groves. Along the way, he invites his readers to reconsider the potential and promise of the historical method in religious studies, suggesting that a “connected histories” approach to Eurasian daemonology may serve as a model for restoring history to its proper place, at the heart of the history of religions discipline.

Contributor Bio
David Gordon White is Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Religion at the University of California, Santa Barbara. He is the author of several books, including The Alchemical Body, Kiss of the Yogini, and Sinister Yogis, all published by the University of Chicago Press.
**Puritan Spirits in the Abolitionist Imagination**

**Key Selling Points**
A subtle and revealing analysis of the wellsprings of abolitionist rhetoric and politics

Recasts our understanding of Puritans as more than humorless scolds; they were honing the tools of worldly transformation, too

Features fresh and incisive portraits of key abolitionist figures like Ralph Waldo Emerson and William Lloyd Garrison

**Summary**
The Puritans of popular memory are dour figures, characterized by humorless toil at best and witch trials at worst. "Puritan" is an insult reserved for prudes, prigs, or oppressors. Antebellum American abolitionists, however, would be shocked to hear this. They fervently embraced the idea that Puritans were in fact pioneers of revolutionary dissent and invoked their name and ideas as part of their antislavery crusade.

*Puritan Spirits in the Abolitionist Imagination* reveals how the leaders of the nineteenth-century abolitionist movement—from landmark figures like Ralph Waldo Emerson to scores of lesser-known writers and orators—drew upon the Puritan tradition to shape their politics and personae. In a striking instance of selective memory, reimagined aspects of Puritan history proved to be potent catalysts for abolitionist minds. Black writers lauded slave rebels as new Puritan soldiers, female antislavery militias in Kansas were cast as modern Pilgrims, and a direct lineage of radical democracy was traced from these early New Englanders through the American and French Revolutions to the abolitionist movement, deemed a "Second Reformation" by some. Kenyon Gradert recovers a striking influence on abolitionism and recasts our understanding of puritanism, often seen as a strictly conservative ideology, averse to the worldly rebellion demanded by abolitionists.

**Contributor Bio**
*Kenyon Gradert* is a postdoctoral fellow in the Department of English at Auburn University.
Unequal Partners
In Search of Transnational Catholic Sisterhood

Key Selling Points
An ethnographic account of female Catholic religious orders in the twenty-first century
Unique in its focus on the Global South and transnational relationships
Explores the intersection of gender, race, economic inequality, and colonial history

Summary
When we think of Catholicism, we think of Europe and the United States as the seats of its power. But while much of Catholicism remains headquartered in the West, the Church’s center of gravity has shifted to Africa, Latin America, and developing Asia. Focused on the transnational Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, Unequal Partners explores the ways gender, race, economic inequality, and colonial history play out in religious organizations, revealing how their members are constantly negotiating and reworking the frameworks within which they operate.

Taking us from Belgium and the US to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, sociologist Casey Clevenger offers rare insight into how the sisters of this order work across national boundaries, shedding light on the complex relationships among individuals, social groups, and formal organizations. Throughout, Clevenger skillfully weaves the sisters’ own voices into her narrative, helping us understand how the order has remained whole over time. A thoughtful analysis of the ties that bind—and divide—the sisters, Unequal Partners is a rich look at transnationalism’s ongoing impact on Catholicism.

Contributor Bio
Casey Clevenger is a visiting research scholar at Brandeis University.

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Religious Intolerance, America, and the World
A History of Forgetting and Remembering

Key Selling Points
A captivating and brisk account of how American churches act on sublimated national traumas
A fresh view of American foreign relations as the product of psychological projection
A landmark work by perhaps our leading scholar of American Christianity

Summary
As the news shows us every day, contemporary American culture and politics are rife with people who demonize their enemies by projecting their own failings and flaws onto them. But this is no recent development. Rather, as John Corrigan argues here, it’s an expression of a trauma endemic to America’s history, particularly involving our long domestic record of religious conflict and violence.

*Religious Intolerance, America, and the World* spans from Christian colonists’ intolerance of Native Americans and the role of religion in the new republic’s foreign-policy crises to Cold War witch hunts and the persecution complexes that entangle Christians and Muslims today. Corrigan reveals how US churches and institutions have continuously campaigned against intolerance overseas even as they’ve abetted or performed it at home. This selective condemnation of intolerance, he shows, created a legacy of foreign-policy interventions promoting religious freedom and human rights that was not reflected within America’s own borders. This timely, captivating book forces America to confront its claims of exceptionalism based on religious liberty—and perhaps begin to break the grotesque cycle of projection and oppression.

Contributor Bio
John Corrigan is the Lucius Moody Bristol Distinguished Professor of Religion and professor of history at Florida State University. He is the author of *Emptiness: Feeling Christian in America*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.
The Lives of Objects
Material Culture, Experience, and the Real in the History of Early Christianity

Key Selling Points
A fresh, original study of ancient Judaism and Christianity based around physical artifacts
Overturns previous modes of study with a materialist analysis of religious history
Wide appeal across the humanities, with an emphasis on ancient literature and culture

Summary
Our lives are filled with objects—ones that we carry with us, that define our homes, that serve practical purposes, and that hold sentimental value. When these are broken, lost, left behind, or removed from their context, they change. An object out of place can feel alien, take on a different use, or become trash. The lives of the objects change when our relationships to them change.

Left-behind objects are a source of fascination for scholars of the ancient world, and the field of Jewish and Early Christian studies is no exception. Maia Kotrosits offers a fresh perspective, looking beyond physical material to consider how collective imagination shapes the formation of objects and the experience of reality. Bringing a psychoanalytical approach to her analysis of material culture in ancient religion and history, she examines objects of attachment—relationships, ideas, and beliefs that live on in the psyche. By looking at objects of attachment, Kotrosits illustrates how people across time have tied value systems to the materiality of life. Engaging with the fields of classics, history, anthropology, and literary, gender, and queer studies, Kotrosits shows how different disciplines address historical knowledge and how looking closely at an expanded definition of materiality—one that considers both physical objects and their subtexts—can help us make connections between antiquity and the contemporary world.

Contributor Bio
Maia Kotrosits is assistant professor of religion at Denison University and author of Rethinking Early Christian Identity: Affect, Violence, and Belonging.
**Rousseau’s Reader**

**Strategies of Persuasion and Education**

**Summary**

On his famous walk to Vincennes to visit the imprisoned Diderot, Rousseau had what he called an “illumination”—the realization that man was naturally good but becomes corrupted by the influence of society—a fundamental change in Rousseau’s perspective that would animate all of his subsequent works. At that moment, Rousseau “saw” something he had hitherto not seen, and he made it his mission to help his readers share that vision through an array of rhetorical and literary techniques.

In *Rousseau’s Reader*, John T. Scott looks at the different strategies Rousseau used to engage and persuade the readers of his major philosophical works, including the *Social Contract*, *Discourse on Inequality*, and *Emile*. Considering choice of genre; textual structure; frontispieces and illustrations; shifting authorial and narrative voice; addresses to readers that alternately invite and challenge; apostrophe, metaphor, and other literary devices; and, of course, paradox, Scott explores how the form of Rousseau’s writing relates to the content of his thought and vice versa. Through this skillful interplay of form and content, Rousseau engages in a profoundly transformative dialogue with his readers.

While most political philosophers have focused, understandably, on Rousseau’s ideas, Scott shows convincingly that the way he conveyed them is also of vital importance, especially given Rousseau’s enduring interest in education. Giving readers the key to Rousseau’s style, Scott offers fresh and original insights into the relationship between the substance of his thought and his literary and rhetorical techniques, which enhance our understanding of Rousseau’s project and the audiences he intended to reach.

**Contributor Bio**

**John T. Scott** is chair and professor of political science at the University of California, Davis; he has edited or translated several volumes on Rousseau and is coauthor of *The Philosophers’ Quarrel: Rousseau, Hume, and the Limits of Human Understanding*.

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List of Abbreviations

Introduction

Chapter 1: Appearance and Reality in the *Discourse on the Sciences and the Arts*

Chapter 2: Picturing Natural Man in the *Discourse on Inequality*

Chapter 3: The Education of the Reader in *Emile*

Chapter 4: The Illustrative Education of *Emile*

Chapter 5: The Narrative Frame of the "Profession of Faith"

Chapter 6: Reading with *Emile* and Sophie

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Old Thiess, a Livonian Werewolf
A Classic Case in Comparative Perspective

Key Selling Points
A study of the trial of "Old Thiess," an 80-year-old man who admitted to being a werewolf fighting for humanity and the forest against Satan and his witches. For the crime of stealing livestock on occasion, the judges ordered him floged and banished from Swedish Livonia in 1692.

The book is simultaneously the first complete English translation of the seventeenth-century trial; a sourcebook of the early twentieth-century recovery of the case and later Nazi appropriation; and reflections by two influential scholars (one using microhistory, the other using comparative religion) in gathering evidence and drawing conclusions on the same material.

A model for students on how to conduct scholarly investigation, amicable debate, and congenial conversation and exchange of ideas.

Summary
In 1691, a Livonian peasant known as Old Thiess boldly announced before a district court that he was a werewolf. Yet far from being a diabolical monster, he insisted, he was one of the "hounds of God," fierce guardians who battled sorcerers, witches, and even Satan to protect the fields, flocks, and humanity—a baffling claim that attracted the notice of the judges then and still commands attention from historians today.

In this book, eminent scholars Carlo Ginzburg and Bruce Lincoln offer a uniquely comparative look at the trial and startling testimony of Old Thiess. They present the first English translation of the trial transcript, in which the man’s own voice can be heard, before turning to subsequent analyses of the event, which range from efforts to connect Old Thiess to shamanistic practices to the argument that he was reacting against cruel stereotypes of the "Livonian werewolf" a Germanic elite used to justify their rule over the Baltic peasantry. As Ginzburg and Lincoln debate their own and others’ perspectives, they also reflect on broader issues of historical theory, method, and politics. Part source text of the trial, part discussion of historians’ thoughts on the case, and part dialogue over the merits and perils of their different methodological approaches, Old Thiess, a Livonian Werewolf opens up fresh insight into a remarkable historical occurrence and, through it, the very discipline of history itself.

Contributor Bio
Carlo Ginzburg is professor emeritus of history at the University of California, Los Angeles, and the Scuola Normale Superiore di Pisa. His many books include Fear, Reverence, Terror and Ecstasies: Deciphering the Witches’ Sabbath, the latter published by the University of Chicago Press.

Bruce Lincoln is the Caroline E. Haskell Distinguished Service Professor Emeritus of the History of Religions at the University of Chicago. His recent books include Apples and Oranges: Explorations In, On, and With Comparison and Between History and Myth: Stories of Harald Fairhair and the Founding of the State, both published by the University of Chicago Press.
Phyllostomid Bats
A Unique Mammalian Radiation

Summary
With more than two hundred species distributed across most of mainland Mexico, Central and South America, and islands in the Caribbean Sea, the Phyllostomidae bat family (American leaf-nosed bats) is one of the world’s most diverse mammalian families in terms of its trophic, or feeding, diversity. From an insectivorous ancestry, extant species have evolved into several dietary classes, including blood-feeding, vertebrate carnivory, and the consumption of nectar, pollen, and fruit, in a period of about 30 million years. Phyllostomidae’s plant-visiting species are responsible for pollinating more than five hundred species of neotropical shrubs, trees, vines, and epiphytes—many of which are economically and ecologically important—and they also disperse the seeds of at least another five-hundred plant species. Fruit-eating and seed-dispersing members of this family thus play a crucial role in the regeneration of neotropical forests, and the fruit eaters are among the most abundant mammals in these habitats.

Coauthored by leading experts in the field and synthesizing the latest advances in molecular biology and ecological methods, Phyllostomid Bats is the first overview in more than forty years of the evolution of the many morphological, behavioral, physiological, and ecological adaptations in this family. Featuring abundant illustrations as well as details on the current conservation status of phyllostomid species, it is both a comprehensive reference for these ecologically vital creatures and a fascinating exploration of the evolutionary process of adaptive radiation.

Contributor Bio
Theodore H. Fleming is professor emeritus of biology at the University of Miami, where he worked for thirty years. Liliana M. Dávalos is professor of conservation biology at Stony Brook University. She is coeditor of The Origins of Cocaine and coauthor of the 2016 World Drug Report. Marco A. R. Mello is professor of ecology at the University of São Paulo, Brazil. He served as the president of the Brazilian Bat Research Society and is the author, in Portuguese, of Sobrevivendo na Ciência: Um Pequeno Manual para a Jornada do Cientista.
Summary
In this lavishly illustrated, first-ever book on how spider webs are built, function, and evolved, William Eberhard provides a comprehensive overview of spider functional morphology and behavior related to web building, and of the surprising physical agility and mental abilities of orb weavers. For instance, one spider spins more than three precisely spaced spiral attachments per second for up to fifteen minutes at a time. Spiders even adjust the mechanical properties of their famously strong silken lines to different parts of their webs and different environments, and make dramatic modifications in orb designs to adapt to available spaces. This extensive adaptive flexibility, involving decisions influenced by up to sixteen different cues, is unexpected in such small, supposedly simple animals.

As Eberhard reveals, the extraordinary diversity of webs includes ingenious solutions to access prey in esoteric habitats, from blazing hot and shifting sand dunes to the surfaces of tropical lakes (to capture water striders). Some webs are nets that are cast onto prey, while others form baskets into which the spider flicks prey. Some aerial webs are tramways used by spiders searching for chemical cues from their prey below, while others feature landing sites for flying insects and spiders where the spider stalks prey. In some ground webs, long trip lines are delicately sustained by tiny rigid silk poles.

Stemming from more than five decades observing spider webs, this book will be the definitive reference for years to come.

Contributor Bio
William Eberhard is an emeritus scientist at the Smithsonian Tropical Research Institute in Panama and emeritus professor at the Universidad de Costa Rica.
Dangerous Earth
What We Wish We Knew about Volcanoes, Hurricanes, Climate Change, Earthquakes, and More

Summary
The Earth is a beautiful and wondrous planet, but also frustratingly complex and, at times, violent: much of what has made it livable can also cause catastrophe. Volcanic eruptions create land and produce fertile, nutrient-rich soil, but they can also bury forests, fields, and entire towns under ash, mud, lava, and debris. The very forces that create and recycle Earth’s crust also spawn destructive earthquakes and tsunamis. Water and wind bring and spread life, but in hurricanes they can leave devastation in their wake. And while it is the planet’s warmth that enables life to thrive, rapidly increasing temperatures are causing sea levels to rise and weather events to become more extreme.

Today, we know more than ever before about the powerful forces that can cause catastrophe, but significant questions remain. Why can’t we better predict some natural disasters? What do scientists know about them already? What do they wish they knew? In Dangerous Earth, marine scientist and science communicator Ellen Prager explores the science of investigating volcanoes, earthquakes, tsunamis, hurricanes, landslides, rip currents, and—maybe the most perilous hazard of all—climate change. Each chapter considers a specific hazard, begins with a game-changing historical event (like the 1980 eruption of Mt. St. Helens or the landfall and impacts of Hurricane Harvey), and highlights what remains unknown about these dynamic phenomena. Along the way, we hear from scientists trying to read Earth’s warning signs, pass its messages along to the rest of us, and prevent catastrophic loss.

A sweeping tour of some of the most awesome forces on our planet—many tragic, yet nonetheless awe-inspiring—Dangerous Earth is an illuminating journey through the undiscovered, unresolved, and in some cases unimagined mysteries that continue to frustrate and fascinate the world’s leading scientists: the “wish-we-knews” that ignite both our curiosity and global change.

Contributor Bio
Ellen Prager is a marine scientist and author, widely recognized for her expertise and ability to make science entertaining and understandable for people of all ages. She was formerly the chief scientist at the world’s only undersea research station, Aquarius Reef Base in the Florida Keys, and assistant dean at the University of Miami’s Rosenstiel School of Marine and Atmospheric Sciences. Currently, she is a freelance writer, consultant, and science advisor to Celebrity Cruises in the Galapagos Islands.
The Chemical Age
How Chemists Fought Famine and Disease, Killed Millions, and Changed Our Relationship with the Earth

Summary
For thousands of years, we've found ways to scorch, scour, and sterilize our surroundings to make them safer. Sometimes these methods are wonderfully effective. Often, however, they come with vast unintended consequences—typically not truly understood for generations.

The Chemical Age tells the captivating story of the scientists who waged war on famine and disease with chemistry. With depth and verve, Frank A. von Hippel explores humanity’s uneasy coexistence with pests, and how their existence, and the battles to exterminate them, have shaped our modern world. Beginning with the potato blight tragedy of the 1840s, which led scientists on an urgent mission to prevent famine using pesticides, von Hippel traces the history of pesticide use to the 1960s, when Rachel Carson’s Silent Spring revealed that those same chemicals were insidiously damaging our health and driving species toward extinction. Telling the story of these pesticides in vivid detail, von Hippel showcases the thrills and complex consequences of scientific discovery. He describes the invention of substances that could protect crops, the emergence of our understanding of the way diseases spread, the creation of chemicals used to kill pests and people, and, finally, how scientists turned those war-time chemicals on the landscape at a massive scale, prompting the vital environmental movement that continues today.

For fans of Jared Diamond and Rachel Carson, The Chemical Age is a dynamic and sweeping history that exposes how humankind’s affinity for pesticides made the modern world possible—while also threatening its essential fabric.

Contributor Bio
Frank A. von Hippel is a professor of ecotoxicology at Northern Arizona University. He has taught ecology field courses in over twenty countries, and conducted research in the Americas, Africa and Australia. He hosts the Science History Podcast.

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**Tacit Racism**

**Summary**

We need to talk about racism before it destroys our democracy. And that conversation needs to start with an acknowledgement that racism is coded into even the most ordinary interactions.

Every time we interact with another human being, we unconsciously draw on a set of expectations to guide us through the encounter. What many of us in the United States—especially white people—do not recognize is that centuries of institutional racism have inescapably molded those expectations. This leads us to act with implicit biases that can shape everything from how we greet our neighbors to whether we take a second look at a resume. This is tacit racism, and it is one of the most pernicious threats to our nation.

In *Tacit Racism*, Anne Warfield Rawls and Waverly Duck illustrate the many ways in which racism is coded into the everyday social expectations of Americans, in what they call Interaction Orders of Race. They argue that these interactions can produce racial inequality, whether the people involved are aware of it or not, and that by overlooking tacit racism in favor of the fiction of a “color-blind” nation, we are harming not only our society’s most disadvantaged—but endangering the society itself.

Ultimately, by exposing this legacy of racism in ordinary social interactions, Rawls and Duck hope to stop us from merely pretending we are a democratic society and show us how we can truly become one.

**Contributor Bio**

**Waverly Duck** is assistant professor of sociology at the University of Pittsburgh.  
**Anne Rawls** is professor of sociology at Bentley University, research professor of socioinform at the University of Siegen, Germany, and senior fellow with the Yale Urban Ethnography Project.
Above the Fray
The Red Cross and the Making of the Humanitarian NGO Sector

Key Selling Points
This book traces the emergence of global humanitarian movements like the Red Cross to their relatively recent origins in the late nineteenth century through to the present day.

The book uncovers the theologies that guided such organizations and their growth from relatively fringe Calvinist social movements to ones with broad social appeal among wealthy socialites and the working class alike.

The book will appeal to historians of medicine, philanthropy, and sociology.

Summary
From Lake Chad to Iraq, nongovernmental organizations (NGOs) provide relief around the globe, and their scope is growing every year. Policymakers and activists often assume that humanitarian aid is best provided by these organizations, which are generally seen as impartial and neutral. In Above the Fray, Shai M. Dromi investigates why the international community overwhelmingly trusts humanitarian NGOs by looking at the historical development of their culture. With a particular focus on the Red Cross, Dromi reveals that NGOs arose because of the efforts of orthodox Calvinists, demonstrating for the first time the origins of the unusual moral culture that has supported NGOs for the past 150 years.

Drawing on archival research, Dromi traces the genesis of the Red Cross to a Calvinist movement working in mid-nineteenth-century Geneva. He shows how global humanitarian policies emerged from the Red Cross founding members’ faith that an international volunteer program not beholden to the state was the only ethical way to provide relief to victims of armed conflict. By illustrating how Calvinism shaped the humanitarian field, Dromi argues for the key role belief systems play in establishing social fields and institutions. Ultimately, Dromi shows the immeasurable social good that NGOs have achieved, but also points to their limitations and suggests that alternative models of humanitarian relief need to be considered.

Contributor Bio
Shai Dromi is a college fellow in the Department of Sociology at Harvard University.
Power in Modernity
Agency Relations and the Creative Destruction of the King's Two Bodies

Summary
In *Power in Modernity*, Isaac Ariail Reed proposes a bold new theory of power that describes overlapping networks of delegation and domination. Chains of power and their representation, linking together groups and individuals across time and space, create a vast network of intersecting alliances, subordinations, redistributions, and violent exclusions. Reed traces the common action of "sending someone else to do something for you" as it expands outward into the hierarchies that control territories, persons, artifacts, minds, and money.

He mobilizes this theory to investigate the onset of modernity in the Atlantic world, with a focus on rebellion, revolution, and state formation in colonial North America, the early American republic, the English Civil war, and French Revolution. Modernity, Reed argues, dismantled the "King's Two Bodies"—the monarch's physical body and his ethereal, sacred second body that encompassed the body politic—as a schema of representation for forging power relations. Reed's account then offers a new understanding of the democratic possibilities and violent exclusions forged in the name of "the people," as revolutionaries sought new ways to secure delegation, build hierarchy, and attack alterity.

Reconsidering the role of myth in modern politics, Reed proposes to see the creative destruction and eternal recurrence of the King's Two Bodies as constitutive of the modern attitude, and thus as a new starting point for critical theory. Modernity poses in a new way an eternal human question: what does it mean to be the author of one's own actions?

Contributor Bio
Isaac Ariail Reed is associate professor of sociology at the University of Virginia. He is the author of *Interpretation and Social Knowledge: On the Use of Theory in the Human Sciences* and coeditor of *Social Theory Now*, both published by the University of Chicago Press.
The Problem with Feeding Cities
The Social Transformation of Infrastructure, Abundance, and Inequality in America

Key Selling Points
History of the social infrastructural changes to the food distribution and supply chain and their affects on food access in Philadelphia.
Details the infrastructural and social forces that give some neighborhoods and communities access to abundant food and others food scarcity.
For sociologists working on urban development and inequality, particularly as they relate to food access.

Summary
For most people, grocery shopping is a mundane activity. Few stop to think about the massive, global infrastructure that makes it possible to buy Chilean grapes in a Philadelphia supermarket in the middle of winter. Yet every piece of food represents an interlocking system of agriculture, manufacturing, shipping, logistics, retailing, and nonprofits that controls what we eat—or don’t.

The Problem with Feeding Cities is a sociological and historical examination of how this remarkable network of abundance and convenience came into being over the last century. It looks at how the US food system transformed from feeding communities to feeding the entire nation, and it reveals how a process that was once about fulfilling basic needs became focused on satisfying profit margins. It is also a story of how this system fails to feed people, especially in the creation of food deserts. Andrew Deener shows that problems with food access are the result of infrastructural failings stemming from how markets and cities were developed, how distribution systems were built, and how organizations coordinate the quality and movement of food. He profiles hundreds of people connected through the food chain, from farmers, wholesalers, and supermarket executives, to global shippers, logistics experts, and cold-storage operators, to food bank employees and public health advocates. It is a book that will change the way we see our grocery store trips and will encourage us all to rethink the way we eat in this country.

Contributor Bio
Andrew Deener is associate professor of sociology at the University of Connecticut.

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