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LITERATURE

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

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

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

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

304 pages, May 2021
9781503615250 Cloth $35.00 $28.00 sale

Crowds
The Stadium as a Ritual of Intensity
Hans Ulrich Gumbrecht

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

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

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

128 pages, May 2021
9781503628830 Paper $14.00 $11.20 sale
The Point Alma Venus Manuscripts
Preliminary Versions of The Women at Point Sur
Robinson Jeffers
Edited by Tim Hunt and Robert Kafka
During the period 1921 to 1927 Robinson Jeffers not only wrote many of his most well-known lyric poems but also Tamar, The Tower Beyond Tragedy, Roan Stallion, and The Women at Point Sur—the long poems that first established his reputation as a major American poet. Including an introduction, chronology, and critical afterword, The Point Alma Venus Manuscripts gather Jeffers’s four unfinished but substantial preliminary attempts at what became The Women at Point Sur, shedding important light on its composition and themes, and offering necessary context for those who wish to clarify Jeffers’s poetic development and to reinterpret his practice of narrative poetry. The Point Alma Venus Manuscripts call on general and scholarly readers alike to reconsider Jeffers’s place in the canon of modern American poetry.

The Novel and the New Ethics
Dorothy J. Hale
For a generation of contemporary Anglo-American novelists, “Why write?” has been answered with a renewed will to believe in the ethical value of literature. Examining a broad array of novelist-critics—including J.M. Coetzee, Toni Morrison, Zadie Smith, Gish Jen, Ian McEwan, and Jonathan Franzen—Dorothy J. Hale investigates how the contemporary emphasis on literature’s social relevance sparks a new ethical description of the novel’s social value that is in fact rooted in the modernist notion of narrative form that Henry James inaugurated. In Hale’s reading, the art of the novel becomes defined with increasing explicitness as an aesthetics of alterity made visible as a formalist ethics. It is this commitment to otherness as a narrative act which has conferred on the genre an artistic intensity and richness that extends to the novel’s every word.

“Astute and probing.” —Rita Felski, University of Virginia

360 pages, 2020
9781503614062 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

Incremental Realism
Postwar American Fiction, Happiness, and Welfare-State Liberalism
Mary Esteve
Mary Esteve offers a bold, revisionist literary and cultural history of efforts undertaken by literary realists, public intellectuals, and policy activists to advance the value of public institutions and the claims of socioeconomic justice. As Esteve argues, era-defining authors of realist fiction, including Philip Roth, Gwendolyn Brooks, Patricia Highsmith, Paula Fox, Peter Taylor, and Mary McCarthy, embraced specific symbols of happiness and developed narrative modes—“incremental realism”—that made justifiable the claims of disadvantaged Americans on the nation-state and promoted a small-canvas aesthetics of moderation. With this powerful demonstration of the way postwar literary fiction linked the era’s familiar trope of happiness to political arguments about socioeconomic fairness and individual flourishing, Incremental Realism enlarges our sense of the postwar liberal imagination and its attentiveness to better, possible worlds.

“Speaks to the priorities and questions of our own time.” —Bruce Robbins, Columbia University

296 pages, January 2021
9781503614376 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale
A Violent Peace
Race, U.S. Militarism, and Cultures of Democratization in Cold War Asia and the Pacific
Christine Hong
This book offers a radical cultural account of the midcentury transformation of the United States into a total-war state. As the Cold War turned hot, writers—including James Baldwin, Ralph Ellison, and W.E.B. Du Bois—discerned in U.S. domestic strategies to quell racial protests and urban riots the same logic of racial counterintelligence structuring America’s devastating hot wars in Asia. Hong examines the centrality of U.S. militarism to the Cold War cultural imagination. She assembles a transpacific archive—including war writings, Japanese accounts of the U.S. atomic bombing of Hiroshima, black radical human rights petitions, Korean War-era GI photographs, Filipino novels on guerrilla resistance, and Marshallese critiques of U.S. human radiation experiments—and places these materials alongside U.S. government documents to theorize these works as homologous responses to unchecked U.S. war and police power.
“A tour de force.”
—Robin D. G. Kelley, University of California, Los Angeles
320 pages, 2020 9781503636129 $24.00

UNESCO and the Fate of the Literary
Sarah Brouillette
Shortlisted in the 2020 ASAP Book Prize, sponsored by the Association for the Study of the Arts of the Present (ASAP)
A case study of one of the most important global institutions of cultural policy formation, UNESCO and the Fate of the Literary demonstrates the relationship between such policymaking and transformations in the economy. Focusing on UNESCO’s use of books, Sarah Brouillette identifies three phases in the agency’s history and explores the literary and cultural programming of each. She charts a trajectory that might appear to be one of triumphant success—literary tourism and festival programming can be quite lucrative for some people—but is also, under a different light, a story of decline.
“In Brouillette’s impressive and bracingly severe account, UNESCO becomes an institutional lens through which we can see the much larger and more powerful set of economic realities that have shaped our sense of what role literature should play in the world at large.”
—Mark McGurl, Stanford University
192 pages, 2019 9781503610316 $20.00

Networking Print in Shakespeare’s England
Influence, Agency, and Revolutionary Change
Blaine Greteman
In early modern England, printed books were a technology that connected an increasingly expansive community of printers, publishers, and booksellers. As Greteman reveals, network analysis of the nearly 500,000 books printed in England before 1800 makes it possible to speak once again of a “print revolution,” identifying a sudden tipping point at which the early modern print network became a small world where information could spread in new and powerful ways. Providing new insights into canonical literary figures like Milton and Shakespeare, data analysis also uncovers the hidden histories of key figures in this transformation who have been virtually ignored. Both a primer on the power of network analysis and a critical intervention in early modern studies, the book is ultimately an extended meditation on agency and the complexity of action in context.
“As delightful to read as it is deeply engaged in all the relevant scholarship.”
—Laura Mandell, Texas A&M University
240 pages, August 2021 9781503627987 $22.40

Post*45
A SERIES EDITED BY LOREN GLASS AND KATE MARSHALL

Stanford Text Technologies
Notework
Victorian Literature and Nonlinear Style
Simon Reader

Notework begins with a striking insight: the writer's notebook is a genre in itself. Simon Reader pursues this argument in original readings of unpublished writing by prominent Victorians, offering a more expansive approach to literary formalism for the twenty-first century. Presenting notes in terms of genre allows Reader to suggest inventive new accounts of key Victorian texts, including The Picture of Dorian Gray, On the Origin of Species, and Hopkins's devotional lyrics, and to reinterpret these works as meditations on the ethics of compiling and using data. In this way, Notework recasts information collection as a personal and expressive activity that comes into focus against large-scale systems of knowledge organization. Finding resonance between today's digital culture and its nineteenth-century precursors, Reader honors our most disposable, improvised, and fleeting textual gestures.

“Carves out fresh and rewarding territory in the landscape of Victorian studies.”
—Andrew Stauffer, University of Virginia

232 pages, June 2021
9781503615267 Cloth $65.00 $52.00 sale

The Connected Condition
Romanticism and the Dream of Communication
Yohei Igarashi

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

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

256 pages, 2019
9781503610040 Cloth $60.00 $48.00 sale

Text Technologies
A History
Elaine Treharne and Claude Willan

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

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

“This clear and lucid book has ample material for a wide variety of curious readers.”
—Andrew Piper, McGill University

222 pages, 2019
9781503603844 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
The Afterlife of Enclosure
British Realism, Character, and the Commons
Carolyn Lesjak

The enclosure of the commons was an act of “slow violence” that transformed lands, labor, and basic concepts of public life leading into the nineteenth century. The Afterlife of Enclosure examines three canonical British writers—Charles Dickens, George Eliot, and Thomas Hardy—as narrators of this history, which required new literary forms to capture the lived experience.

This study boldly reconceives the realist novel as witness to this material and environmental dispossession—and bearer of utopian energies. Illuminating the common at the heart of the novel—from common characters to commonplace events—Carolyn Lesjak reveals an experimental figuration of a once defining feature of the British landscape and political imaginary.

In the face of privatization, climate change, and the other forms of slow violence today, this book looks back to a literature of historical trauma and locates within it a radical path forward. “Powerful and timely.”

—Amanda Anderson, Brown University

Toward the Critique of Violence
A Critical Edition
Walter Benjamin
Edited by Peter Fenves and Julia Ng

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

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

“The most comprehensible version yet of Benjamin’s compelling and demanding essay.”

—Kevin McLaughlin, Brown University

Two Studies of Friedrich Hölderlin
Werner Hamacher
Edited by Peter Fenves and Julia Ng

Two Studies of Friedrich Hölderlin shows how the poet enacts a radical theory of meaning that culminates in a unique and still groundbreaking concept of revolution, one that begins with a revolutionary understanding of language. The product of an intense engagement with both Walter Benjamin and Jacques Derrida, the book presents Werner Hamacher’s major attempts at developing a critical practice commensurate with the immensity of Hölderlin’s late writings.

Readers will not only come away with a new appreciation of Hölderlin’s poetic and political-theoretical achievements but will also discover the motivating force behind Hamacher’s own achievements as a literary scholar and political theorist.

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

“A fitting tribute to Werner Hamacher.”

—Susan Bernstein, Brown University

MERIDIAN: CROSSING AESTHETICS
240 pages, 2020
9781503611115 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
Close Reading with Computers
Textual Scholarship, Computational Formalism, and David Mitchell’s Cloud Atlas
Martin Paul Eve
Most contemporary digital studies are interested in distant-reading paradigms for large-scale literary history. This book asks what happens when such telescopic techniques function as a microscope instead, bringing a range of computational methods to bear on a single genre-bending novel—Cloud Atlas (2004)—in a sustained fashion. Published in two very different versions worldwide without anyone taking much notice, David Mitchell’s novel is ideal fodder for a textual-genetic publishing history, reflections on micro-tectonic shifts in language by authors who move between genres, and explorations of how we imagine people wrote in bygone eras. With this important work, Martin Paul Eve demonstrates a set of methods and provides open-source software tools that others can use in their own literary-critical practices.

“An impressive achievement.”
—Ted Underwood, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign

NOW IN PAPERBACK
Failures of Feeling
Insensibility and the Novel
Wendy Anne Lee
This book recovers the curious history of the “insensible” in the Age of Sensibility. A fresh take on emotions in the history of the novel, Failures of Feeling opens up literary history’s most provocative cases of unfeeling, from the iconic scrivener who would prefer not to and the reviled stock figure of the prude, to the heroic rape survivor, the burnt-out man-of-feeling, and the hard-hearted Jane Austen herself. The result is a new theory of mind and of the novel predicated on an essential paradox: the very phenomenon that would appear to halt feeling and plot actually compels them. Contrary to the assumption that fictional investment relies on a richness of interior life, Wendy Anne Lee shows instead that nothing incites the passions like dispassion.

“Stunningly original.”
—Deidre Lynch, Harvard University

248 pages, 2020
9781503615014 Paper $26.00 $20.80 sale

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

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

280 pages, April 2021
9781503615311 Paper $25.00 $20.00 sale
Ordinary Unhappiness
The Therapeutic Fiction of David Foster Wallace
Jon Baskin

In recent years, the American fiction writer David Foster Wallace has been treated as a symbol, as an icon, and even a film character. Ordinary Unhappiness returns us to the reason we all know about him in the first place: his fiction. By closely examining Infinite Jest, Brief Interviews with Hideous Men, and The Pale King, Jon Baskin points readers to the work at the center of Wallace’s oeuvre and places that work in conversation with a philosophical tradition that includes Wittgenstein, Kierkegaard, and Cavell, among others. What emerges is a Wallace who not only speaks to our postmodern addictions in the age of mass entertainment and McDonald’s but who seeks to address a quiet desperation at the heart of our modern lives. Freud said that the job of the therapeutic process was to turn “hysterical misery into ordinary unhappiness.” This book makes a case for how Wallace achieved this in his fiction.

“Persuasive, bold, enterprising, and unafraid.”
—James Wood, Harvard University

200 pages, 2019
9781503609303 Paper $22.00 $17.60 sale

Poetic Thinking Today
An Essay
Amir Eshel

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

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

240 pages, 2019
9781503610514 Paper $22.00 $17.60 sale

The Long Public Life of a Short Private Poem
Reading and Remembering Thomas Wyatt
Peter Murphy

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

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

272 pages, 2019
9781503609280 Paper $28.00 $22.40 sale
CulTuRal sTuDIes 9

Divining Nature
Aesthetics of Enchantment in Enlightenment France
Tili Boon Cuillé

The Enlightenment remains widely associated with the rise of scientific progress and the loss of religious faith. In her wide-ranging and richly illustrated book, Tili Boon Cuillé questions the accuracy of this narrative by investigating the fate of the marvelous in the age of reason.

Exploring the affinities between the natural sciences and the fine arts, Cuillé examines the representation of natural phenomena, demonstrating responses to the “spectacle of nature” in eighteenth-century France included wonder, enthusiasm, melancholy, and the “sentiment of divinity.” These “passions of the soul,” traditionally associated with religion and considered antithetical to enlightenment, were linked to contemporary theorizations of the sublime. The marvelous was not eradicated but instead preserved through the establishment and reform of major French cultural institutions.

This book has been made possible in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities: Exploring the human endeavor.

“A remarkable achievement.”
—Joanna Stalnaker, Columbia University

350 pages, 2020
9781503613362 Cloth $65.00  $52.00 sale

Nothing Happened
A History
Susan A. Crane

What does it mean to look at the past and to remember that “nothing happened”? Why might we feel as if “nothing is the way it was”? This book transforms these utterly ordinary observations and redefines “Nothing” as something we have known and can remember. By paying attention to how we understand Nothing to be happening in the present, what it means to “know Nothing” or to “do Nothing,” we can begin to ask how those experiences will be remembered. Susan A. Crane moves effortlessly between different modes of seeing Nothing, drawing on visual analysis and cultural studies to suggest a new way of thinking about history. By remembering how Nothing happened, we can recover histories that were there all along.

“Clever and funny and serious and illuminating. You won’t want to put it down.”
—Marita Sturken, author of *Tourists of History*

264 pages, January 2021
9781503613478 Cloth $28.00  $22.40 sale

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

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

“Before Trans is an exceedingly well-written, layered, and compelling account of three overlapping gender-variant biographies. Rachel Mesch’s beautiful braiding of their lives and loves, their desires and disappointments, offers a fresh and original take on trans history.”
—Jack Halberstam, author of *The Queer Art of Failure*

360 pages, 2020
9781503606739 Cloth $30.00  $24.00 sale
CulTuRal sTuDIes

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

There is a tendency to think of Korean American literature—and Asian American literature writ large—as a field of study involving only two spaces, the United States and Korea. The same rings true with Korean Japanese (Zainichi) literature involving only Japan and Korea. This book posits that both fields must account for all three spaces: Korean American literature has to grapple with the legacy of Japanese imperialism in the United States, and Zainichi literature must account for American interventions in Japan. Working in Japanese and English, David S. Roh builds a theoretical framework for articulating moments of contact between minority literatures in a third national space.

“A definitive overview of one of online culture’s least understood phenomena, and a fascinating ride through internet history.”
—Ethan Zuckerman, MIT

A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet
E.J. White

The line “the internet is made of cats” seems to need no explanation. Everyone understands the joke, but few know how it started. A Unified Theory of Cats on the Internet is the first book to explore how the cat became the internet’s best friend. Bringing together fun anecdotes, thoughtful analyses, and hidden history of the communities that built the internet, White shows how japonisme, punk culture, cute culture, and the battle among different communities for the soul of the internet informed the sensibility of online felines. Internet cats thus offer a playful—and useful—way to understand how culture shapes and is shaped by technology.

“A refreshing piece of scholarship that will advance important conversations surrounding transnational minor literature and Korean American cultural production.”
—Lisa Yoneyama, University of Toronto

Minor Transpacific
Triangulating American, Japanese, and Korean Fictions
David S. Roh

There is a tendency to think of Korean American literature—and Asian American literature writ large—as a field of study involving only two spaces, the United States and Korea. The same rings true with Korean Japanese (Zainichi) literature involving only Japan and Korea. This book posits that both fields must account for all three spaces: Korean American literature has to grapple with the legacy of Japanese imperialism in the United States, and Zainichi literature must account for American interventions in Japan. Working in Japanese and English, David S. Roh builds a theoretical framework for articulating moments of contact between minority literatures in a third national space.

“A refreshing piece of scholarship that will advance important conversations surrounding transnational minor literature and Korean American cultural production.”
—Lisa Yoneyama, University of Toronto

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

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

“Offering fascinating new insights, Caroline Yang’s nuanced comparative analyses enrich by challenging us to reconceptualize minstrelsy in US literature and our ideas of the ‘West.’”
—Edlie L. Wong, University of Maryland, College Park

ASIAN AMERICA

224 pages, July 2021
9781503628007 Paper $30.00 $24.00 sale

168 pages, 2020
9781503604636 Paper $14.00 $11.20 sale

168 pages, 2020
9781503604636 Paper $14.00 $11.20 sale
Giving Form to an Asian and Latinx America
Long Le-Khac

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

“Long Le-Khac expertly demonstrates how aesthetic form can reveal solidarities within and across ethnic and racial differences.”
—Crystal Parikh, New York University

Giving Way
Thoughts on Unappreciated Dispositions
Steven Connor

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

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

The Implicated Subject
Beyond Victims and Perpetrators
Michael Rothberg

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

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

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

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

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

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

Jewish Primitivism
Samuel J. Spinner

Around the beginning of the twentieth century, Jewish writers and artists across Europe began depicting fellow Jews as savages or "primitive" tribesmen. Primitivism, the European appreciation of and fascination with so-called "primitive," non-Western peoples who were also subjugated and denigrated, was a powerful artistic critique of the modern world and was adopted by Jewish writers and artists to explore the urgent questions surrounding their own identity and status in Europe as insiders and outsiders. Jewish Primitivism argues that Jewish modernists developed a distinct primitivist aesthetic that challenged prevailing forms of primitivism that relied on idea of the threatening savage "other" from outside Europe: in Jewish primitivism, the savage is already there.

“Spinner uncovers the paradoxical primitivist yearnings motivating a generation of Jewish visual artists and writers in Yiddish, German, and Hebrew.”
—Gabriella Safran, Stanford University

304 pages, July 2021
9781503628274 Cloth $65.00  $52.00 sale

Uncle Tom
From Martyr to Traitor
Adena Spingarn
Foreword by Henry Louis Gates, Jr.

Honorable mention in the 2019 MLA Prize for a First Book

From his origins as the Christ-like protagonist of Harriet Beecher Stowe's anti-slavery novel, Uncle Tom has become a widely recognized epithet for a black person deemed so subservient to whites that he betrays his race. Adena Spingarn offers the first comprehensive account of this figure in the American imagination, demonstrating his centrality to American conversations about race and racial representation from 1852 to the present. We learn of the radical political potential of the novel's many theatrical spinoffs, its changing fortunes in the post-Civil War and Jim Crow eras, and how Tom was censored by black cultural figures of the Harlem Renaissance. Through Uncle Tom, black Americans have contested the viability of various strategies for racial progress and defined the most desirable and harmful images of black personhood in literature and popular culture.

272 pages, 2018
9780804799157 Cloth $40.00  $32.00 sale
It Could Lead to Dancing
Mixed-Sex Dancing and Jewish Modernity
Sonia Gollance

Dances and balls appear throughout world literature as venues for young people to meet, flirt, and form relationships, as any reader of Pride and Prejudice or Romeo and Juliet can attest. While traditional Jewish law prohibits men and women from dancing together, Jewish mixed-sex dancing was understood as the very sign of modernity—and the ultimate boundary transgression. In Jewish literature of the long nineteenth century, dance scenes become a charged and complex arena for understanding the limits of acculturation, the dangers of ethnic mixing, and the implications of shifting gender norms and marriage patterns. Combining cultural history with literary analysis, Sonia Gollance illustrates how mixed-sex dancing functions as a flexible metaphor for the concerns of Jewish communities in the face of cultural transitions.

“A fascinating exploration of the role of dance in literary representations of Jewish modernization and secularization.”
—Naomi Seidman, University of Toronto

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Wild Visionary
Maurice Sendak in Queer Jewish Context
Golan Y. Moskowitz

Wild Visionary reconsiders Maurice Sendak’s life and work in the context of his experience as a Jewish gay man. Maurice (Moishe) Bernard Sendak (1928–2012) was a fierce, romantic, and shockingly funny truth seeker who intervened in modern literature and culture. Sendak painted childhood with the dark realism and wild imagination of his own sensitive “inner child,” drawing on the queer and Yiddish sensibilities that shaped his singular voice. Interweaving literary biography and cultural history, Golan Y. Moskowitz analyzes Sendak’s creativity in relation to the momentous events that shaped his perspective, including the Great Depression, the Holocaust, and the AIDS crisis. Through a deep exploration of Sendak’s picture books, interviews, and previously unstudied personal correspondence, Wild Visionary offers a sensitive portrait of the most beloved and enchanting picture-book artist of our time.

“Easy the best study of Sendak to appear, deeply researched and utterly engaging.”
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Writing Occupation
Jewish Émigré Voices in Wartime France
Julia Elsky

Among the Jewish writers who emigrated from Eastern Europe to France between the two world wars, a number chose to switch from writing in their languages of origin to writing primarily in French. Under the Nazi occupation of France from 1940 to 1944, these Jewish émigré writers continued to write in their adopted language, even as the Vichy regime and Nazi occupiers denied their French identity through xenophobic and antisemitic laws. In this book, Julia Elsky considers how these writers reexamined both their Jewishness and their place as authors in France. By writing in French, they expressed multiple cultural, religious, and linguistic identities, even when their sense of belonging was being violently denied.

“Clearly and gracefully written, Writing Occupation will be of interest to all those concerned by the fate of Jews in France, before and after the Second World War.”
—Susan Rubin Suleiman, author of The Némirovsky Question

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German as a Jewish Problem
The Language Politics of Jewish Nationalism
Marc Volovici

The German language has held an ambivalent and controversial place in the modern history of European Jews, representing different—often conflicting—historical currents. The crucial role of German in the formation of Jewish national culture and politics in the late nineteenth century has been largely overshadowed by the catastrophic events that befell Jews under Nazi rule. German as a Jewish Problem tells the Jewish history of the German language, focusing on Jewish national movements in Central and Eastern Europe and Palestine/Israel. Marc Volovici considers key writers and activists whose work reflected the multilingual nature of the Jewish national sphere and the centrality of the German language within it. This book offers a new understanding of the language problem in modern Jewish history.

“A fascinating, superbly told story.”
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Reading Israel, Reading America
The Politics of Translation between Jews
Omri Asscher

American and Israeli Jews have historically clashed over the contours of Jewish identity, and their experience of modern Jewish life has been radically different. But what happens when the encounter between American and Israeli Jewishness takes place in literary form—when Jewish American novels make aliyah, or when Israeli novels are imported for consumption by the diaspora? Reading Israel, Reading America explores the politics of translation as it shapes the understandings and misunderstandings of Israeli literature in the United States and American Jewish literature in Israel. Asscher decodes the literary encounter between Israeli and American Jews, provocatively untangling cultural relations between these “rival siblings” of the Jewish world.

“With impressive literary sophistication, Asscher reveals how translation has served not only as a bridge but as a site of encounter and even confrontation.”
—David Myers, University of California, Los Angeles

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Conversion and Sephardi History in Contemporary Literature and Culture
Dalia Kandiyoti

Five centuries after the forced conversion of Spanish and Portuguese Jews to Catholicism, stories of conversos’ descendants uncovering long-hidden Jewish roots inspired a wave of contemporary writing pointing to a past that had been presumed dead and buried. The Converso’s Return explores the cultural politics and literary impact of this reawakened interest in converso and crypto-Jewish history, and asks what this fascination with lost-and-found heritage can tell us about how we relate to and make use of the past.

Dalia Kandiyoti turns to contemporary fiction and memoirs that imagine what might be missing from the historical archive, suggesting that these works propose an alternative historical consciousness that reveals convergences and solidarities within Sephardi, Christian, Muslim, converso, and Sabbatean histories.

“Theoretically sophisticated, historically rigorous, and superbly written.”
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