“Ed Ochester will be remembered as one of the most productive, caring editors in the pages of American poetry.”

—Billy Collins

“As the director of the creative writing program at Pitt, as the editor of the Pitt Poetry Series, he was a stable presence. A brilliant man whose ego never seemed to get in the way. He was known to be someone who got things done. I will always admire him and celebrate his poetry and his work.”

—Toi Derricotte

“When I submitted Satan Says to Ed Ochester for his consideration for publication in the Pitt Poetry Series, it had been turned down by one or two New York houses. When I opened Ed’s acceptance letter I jumped up and down until I remembered I was in an elevator. He was a pleasure to know.”

—Sharon Olds

“His joy lives on in the people and institutions he championed.”

—Quan Barry

“Ed Ochester was my first poetry teacher. When I dropped his class after a tough workshop, he came to the restaurant where I was waitressing and said, ‘What happened?’ and ‘Come back. Your work is good.’ I was stunned that a professor, the director of creative writing, would show up for a student. Ed published women, queer writers, and writers of color when diversity barely existed in the publishing world. Ed was a visionary editor, teacher, and human. He changed my life.”

—Jan Beatty

“I was lucky to have Ed Ochester as my editor from 2004 until his retirement. He made space for me to be the poet I needed to be as I explored queerness and content some editors would not have allowed. All the opportunities I have had as a poet are because of him. I will miss his generosity and humor.”

—Aaron Smith

“Ed Ochester was a terrific editor. He valued, and taught me to value, idiosyncrasy. He trusted me and my work and expected me to take my time—and that meant a lot to a young writer mostly outside the academy and without mentors in the usual sense of the word. One felt that if Ed was on your side, you might be doing something worthwhile.”

—Daisy Fried

“Ed helped me to embrace a rugged intimacy in my work. We shared an admiration for the work of Donald Hall. There was that, and the famous three rubber duckies, which he sent to those of us who need to remember what’s important in being real. Mine are on my desk now, Ed’s chosen ambassadors for generosity and love.”

—Afaa Michael Weaver

“I was just a bit short of fifty, but I still felt like a beginner. And then, along came the miracle of Ed Ochester. Ed, who had great and broad taste in poetry. Ed, with his voice that crackled and chuckled. Ed, who cared about his poets and worked with them and encouraged them and treated them like people. Ed accepted the manuscript for The Imaginary Lover. He not only accepted it, he line edited with a patience and acuteness that was amazing to me.”

—Alicia Suskin Ostriker

“Ed Ochester was a wonderful poet, teacher, and colleague. He ran the series with ecumenical reach and excellent taste; he edited with a big heart and a keen intellect. Ed should be and will be remembered fondly, his achievement honored, his poetry read and celebrated.”

—David Lehman

“Ed was generous, hilarious, and rigorous, and always let the poems lead the way. I loved working with Ed—he knew when I was repeating myself; he let me take chances; and he edited with both precision and creativity—he was a poet at heart, after all—always letting the work speak for itself.”

—Denise Duhamel

“Ed read carefully but also deeply; what he said about my books went to, and even beyond, the heart of what I’d intended. Ed was more than a fine editor; he was, for me, an ideal reader.”

—Martha Collins

“I will miss his signature wit and humor, his iconoclastic refusal to be bound by the safe and conventional, his capacious wisdom, his large and generous vision of the possible. We will miss him mightily.”

—Ron Wallace

“The qualities that characterized his poetic voice were the same that characterized his editorial style. I was grateful for his continued support. Ed was a giant. The poetry world is a more meager place without him.”

—Barbara Hamby
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The Descent of Artificial Intelligence
A Deep History of an Idea Four Hundred Years in the Making
KEVIN PADRAIC DONNELLY

A Radically Different History of AI Spanning Four Centuries of Research on Human Intelligence and Behavior

“The Descent of Artificial Intelligence is an eye-opening take on the history of AI. This is a sophisticated piece of scholarship that shows us just how strongly AI innovation is connected to our scientific fascination with people. It is a must-read for all who want to look beyond the AI hype.”
—Mona Sloane, University of Virginia

“In The Descent of Artificial Intelligence, Kevin Padraic Donnelly recovers a deep history of AI, going beyond the usual emphasis on computers to focus on the ways our shifting perceptions of intelligence have, over several centuries, led some people to believe it can be modeled in ways that technology can handle. The result is an ambitious and highly readable account that puts the ongoing debates about AI in a new light.”
—Chris Renwick, University of York

The idea that a new technology could challenge human intelligence is as old as the warning from Socrates and Plato that written language eroded memory. With the emergence of generative artificial intelligence programs, we find ourselves once again debating how a new technology might influence human thought and behavior. Researchers, software developers, and “visionary” tech writers even imagine an AI that will equal or surpass human intelligence, adding to a sense of technological determinism where humanity is inexorably shaped by powerful new machines. But among the hundreds of essays, books, and movies that approach the question of AI, few have asked how exactly scientists and philosophers have codified human thought and behavior. Rather than focusing on technical contributions in machine building, The Descent of Artificial Intelligence explores a more diverse cast of thinkers who helped to imagine the very kind of human being that might be challenged by a machine. Kevin Padraic Donnelly argues that what we often think of as the “goal” of AI has in fact been shaped by forgotten and discredited theories about people and human nature as much as it has been by scientific discoveries, mathematical advances, and novel technologies. By looking at the development of artificial intelligence through the lens of social thought, Donnelly deflates the image of artificial intelligence as a technological monolith and reminds readers that we can control the narratives about ourselves.
Although human thought, behavior, and communication have been the goal for AI since Turing, little has been accomplished in the subsequent seventy years that might suggest computer scientists have looked to the history of the social sciences as a guide to understanding their ultimate goal. In fact, to look at the state of artificial intelligence today is to see that questions about the nature of human thought, behavior, and communication have remained unasked, unanswered, or ignored, in large part because AI history has been so narrowly focused on machines and their makers as to bracket out discussions of what kind of person AI is supposed to replicate. For example, in interviews with fifty leading AI experts published in 2018, the futurist and writer Martin Ford asked each subject to provide a year when “human-level AI might be achieved.” 1 While the predictions ranged from a few decades to a century, neither Ford nor any of those interviewed defined “human level” or considered how such a standard could be determined scientifically. Though no scientific account was offered of what it actually means for a person to act and think, all fifty engineers and computer scientists were confident that AI would one day reach this undefined goal.

In perhaps the most vivid illustration of how often the “human level” is ignored in discussions of AI, in both Turing’s legendary “imitation game” and its many subsequent iterations, there is no account of what kind of people might participate alongside the machine. For example, in 2002 the futurist Ray Kurzweil and businessman Mitch Kapor made a bet about the possibility that a machine might one day pass the Turing Test. Although the “rules” of the test ran close to two thousand words, the only mention of the human players was the stipulation that three human “foils” were needed, without any mention of, say, the age, gender, religious background, or personality of the people selected to participate. 2 Even putting a barrier like culture aside, it could be argued that machines would have varying levels of success at the Turing Test with eccentrics, artists, mystics, or children, and it is perhaps unsurprising that the first computer to “pass” the test did so through mimicking the random interruptions, non sequiturs, and “bullshit” of a teenager. 3 In fact, one could imagine in all seriousness that the easiest way for a machine to pass the Turing Test would be to have either a very boring human competitor or a dumb interlocutor.

The idea that new technologies might inhibit human agency and intellect is as old as Plato’s warnings that written language harmed human memory, and the perceived threats of various machines have been debated many times over.” Rather than adopt a simplistic technological determinism that blames machines themselves for a simplification of human thought and behavior, this book argues that the “human level” that AI researchers are trying to reach would be unimaginable without the long history of scientific attempts to understand human thought, action, and behavior. People have of course come up with many other methods for trying to understand one another throughout history outside of the social sciences—from divine explanation to art and literature to intuition—but these approaches are particularly unsuited as forerunners of today’s AI, as they tend to make people’s “singular identity” paramount. An AI system based on individual human beings as divine creations possessing willing souls, complex literary figures rent by deeply personal family histories, or completely absurd and random beings would not make it very far. To give but one small example, the AI that produces automatic responses to email messages works well for scheduling meetings, but less so in response to a dream journal sent from a friend. Conversely, many things that AI does do well would seem completely absurd or pointless to a vast number of people in different times and places who have not relied on scientific explanations for human behavior. To a medieval European peasant, Māori oral historian, Tang dynasty chronicler, or Roman centurion, for example, there would be very little utility or intelligence in today’s machines, or anything “human level” in AI success in playing games, scheduling meetings, summarizing legal texts, or having superficial chats on random topics. What this book attempts to show, therefore, is that the multifaceted phenomenon we know today as AI has been made possible because of a significant effort over the past four hundred years to reduce the “works and customs of mankind” to a point where scientific methodologies could be used to understand them. For the harshest critics of reductive social science traced in this story, then, it was theories about dumb people, rather than smart machines, which proved the stuff of nightmares.
The Art of Freedom
Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay and the Making of Modern India
NICO SLATE

A Revealing New Biography of a Pathbreaking Female Figure in Modern Indian History

“A chiaroscuro of a life has been painted with stunning precision in Slate’s work. His scholarship and insight bring to vivid immediacy the light and shade of a gifted woman’s struggle for self-expression that coalesced with those of her country.”
—Gopalkrishna Gandhi, Ashoka University

“In this magnificent biography, Nico Slate does full justice to the range and richness of Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay’s life and the depth and breadth of her legacy.”
—Ramachandra Guha, author of Gandhi: The Years That Changed the World

“This deeply researched book restores Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay to her rightful place in India’s history as a freedom fighter and nation builder.”
—Sana Aiyar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay (1903–1988) was a prominent socialist, anticolonial and antiracist activist, champion of women’s rights, and advocate for the arts and crafts. Defying the borders of gender, nation, and race, her efforts spanned social movements and played a leading role in the creation of modern India and the development of the Global South. In The Art of Freedom, Nico Slate showcases new archival materials to document Kamaladevi’s campaign to become the first woman elected to provincial office; her confrontation with Gandhi that helped open the salt protests of 1930 to women; her leadership of the All India Women’s Conference and the Congress Socialist Party; her pioneering work with refugees during the Partition of India in 1947; the major impact she had on the arts in postcolonial India; and her own career on the stage and screen. Slate also draws upon underexplored details from her personal life, providing new context for her experiences as a child widow, her remarriage to the mercurial actor/poet Harin Chattopadhyay, and her divorce (among the first civil divorces in modern India). Taken as a whole, Kamaladevi’s life offers a uniquely revealing vantage point on the making of modern India—a vantage point that centers the interconnections between struggles often seen as distinct, and that reminds us of the full promise of Indian democracy.
In the autumn of 1947, a forty-four-year-old woman visited a cavernous building in New Delhi known as the P-Block. The British Raj had just fallen. Two nations—India and Pakistan—had emerged from the wreckage of colonial rule. For generations, imperial authorities had stoked distrust between India’s largest religious communities. As the colonial state retreated, that distrust turned violent on a staggering scale. More than half a million people would die and more than ten million would flee their homes in one of the largest and bloodiest mass migrations in human history.

Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay arrived at the P-Block, the headquarters of the new Relief and Rehabilitation Secretariat, with a plan to resettle thousands of the refugees who had arrived in Delhi. Known throughout the subcontinent by her first name, Kamaladevi had acquired a considerable reputation for her work in the socialist and women’s movements and for having spent years in prison for her opposition to the British Raj. She worked closely with Mahatma Gandhi and with India’s first prime minister, Jawaharlal Nehru. Yet the officials of the Relief and Rehabilitation Secretariat did not respond to her request that land be allocated to the refugees. Undeterred by the bureaucracy’s indifference, she identified a patch of open terrain about twelve miles from the city and informed the authorities that if an appropriate alternative was not provided in the next three days, she would personally escort a group of refugees to claim the land. She hired trucks and worked with the refugees to gather all that was needed to build a temporary settlement. The night before they were to move, a letter arrived providing the land. Kamaladevi helped to organize a new city for refugees just outside of Delhi. Often described as a “model” community, the new town of Faridabad would house 30,000 people on some 1,500 acres. “From an unsightly settlement of ragged tents and squalid huts only a year and a half ago,” the New York Times declared in October 1951, “Faridabad has become a model of combined suburban and rural development with homes, jobs, schools and public health service for all.” With its own electric powerhouse, a 150-bed hospital, and a range of small, collaboratively run businesses—from a dairy farm to a button factory—Faridabad testified to the hope and hard work of thousands of uprooted people, the dedication of dozens of social workers, and the vision and determination of one indomitable woman.

Kamaladevi’s support for refugees was an act of empathy across many divides. Unlike most of the people she strove to empower, she had been born into wealth and status. Kamaladevi Dhareshwar entered the world on April 3, 1903, in Mangalore, a small city on the Arabian Sea in the present-day state of Karnataka. Her family belonged to one of the most affluent and educated communities in colonial India, the Chitrapur Saraswat Brahmans. Her life turned toward adversity when her father died without leaving a will. Most of the family’s wealth was inherited by a male relative, leaving Kamaladevi, her sisters, and her mother in a precarious position. At the age of eleven, Kamaladevi was married to an older boy from one of Mangalore’s wealthiest families. Only a year later, the boy died, leaving Kamaladevi a child widow at a time when widows were often expected to live austere and secluded lives. With support from her mother, Kamaladevi broke social custom by pursuing her own education and, at the age of sixteen, falling in love and remarrying across lines of language, region, and caste.

With her new husband, she sang and acted in plays and films at a time when “respectable” women rarely performed on stage or for a camera, and she traveled to England to pursue a degree in sociology at a time when few Indian women studied abroad. After returning to India to support Gandhi’s noncooperation movement, Kamaladevi became one of the first women to contest a legislative election in colonial India. She played a key role in the creation of the All India Women’s Conference (AIWC) and helped lead that organization as its first secretary. In 1930, when Gandhi launched a civil disobedience campaign while limiting the participation of women, Kamaladevi confronted him, helped to change his mind, and then herself became one of the first women arrested. She spent several years in prison, much of the time in solitary confinement.

Kamaladevi emerged from prison to find that her husband had fathered a child with another woman. She broke yet another taboo by divorcing him. In 1934, she helped found a socialist group within the Indian National Congress and emerged as one of the most influential leaders of the left wing of the freedom struggle. She was also among the most traveled. During the Second World War, she journeyed across the United States, Japan, and war-torn China before returning to India, where she was arrested yet again. After her release, she joined the Congress Working Committee—the party’s highest body—at one of the most crucial junctures in the history of the freedom struggle. Along with her socialist colleagues, she opposed the partition of India, a stance that brought her close to Gandhi toward the end of his life.
Mal Goode Reporting

The Life and Work of a Black Broadcast Trailblazer

LIANN TSOUKAS and ROB RUCK

The First Comprehensive Biography on a Barrier-Breaking Black Radio and Television Newscaster

“This is a stellar biography of an important figure in the history of African American and US television journalism. It also illuminates the complicated process by which a working-class Black man made the transition from wage-earning proletariat to salaried member of the African American professional class.”

—Joseph Trotter, Carnegie Mellon University

Mal Goode (1908–1995) became network news’s first African American correspondent when ABC News hired him in 1962. Raised in Homestead and Pittsburgh, he worked in the mills, graduated from the University of Pittsburgh, and went on to become a journalist for the Pittsburgh Courier and later for local radio. With his basso profundo voice resonating on the airwaves, Goode challenged the police, politicians, and segregation, while providing Black listeners a voice that captured their experience. Race prevented him from breaking into television until Jackie Robinson dared ABC to give him a chance. Goode was uncompromising in his belief that network news needed Black voices and perspectives if it were to authentically reflect the nation’s complexities. His success at ABC initiated the slow integration of network news. Goode’s life and work are remarkable in their own right, but his struggles and achievements also speak to larger issues of American life and the African American experience.
EXCERPT FROM THE INTRODUCTION TO MAL GOODE REPORTING

On October 28, 1962, Americans were stunned when broadcasters interrupted scheduled programming to report the unthinkable. The world was careening toward a nuclear confrontation. Just six days before, President John F. Kennedy had addressed the nation, warning that aerial surveillance of Cuba, the Caribbean island just ninety miles from Florida, confirmed the presence of a Soviet nuclear strike capability. The United States, he announced, had issued an ultimatum to the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics to remove those missiles. After days of back-channel talks, UN Security Council sessions, and Cuban anti-aircraft downing a U-2 aircraft, the Cold War confrontation was about to climax.

As US warships raced to intercept Soviet vessels heading for Cuban waters, Americans perched on couches and kitchen chairs, watching the crisis unfold on television and listening to radio updates. Schoolchildren practiced “duck and cover” drills and the nation’s armed forces mobilized. When ABC broke into programming with updates on the standoff, there was a new face on the screen and a new voice on the radio. A tall, distinguished-looking African American called Mal Goode calmly delivered one report after another with the United Nations building looming behind him. Never before had the world come so close to nuclear warfare, and never before had a Black man conveyed breaking news for a national network. The threat of war soon faded, but Mal Goode wasn’t going anywhere.

Goode made history that day, and the television and radio spots he delivered during the Cuban Missile Crisis were a prologue to his television career, not a one-off. A fixture on ABC News for the next decade, he chipped away and address all TV viewers. The threat of war soon faded, but Mal Goode wasn’t going anywhere.

Goode made history that day, and the television and radio spots he delivered during the Cuban Missile Crisis were a prologue to his television career, not a one-off. A fixture on ABC News for the next decade, he chipped away at one of media’s most stubbornly segregated formats by interpreting the news for a national audience. Goode’s sense of mission was clear: to explain the racial currents of a nation in turmoil, inject an African American perspective into the conversation, serve his profession, and address all TV viewers.

But Goode’s dramatic career launch was inadvertent. ABC’s decision in the summer of 1962 was simply to hire a Black correspondent. Network executives had not thought through what a barrier-breaking national correspondent would do on ABC, much less how and why his presence would matter. The hire was no guarantee that Goode would be on air. His assignment to the United Nations, where most correspondents remained tucked away on what was considered one of least interesting beats for the TV audience, meant that viewers might not catch a glimpse of the historic hire. However, the United Nations was central during the confrontation over Cuba for thirteen harrowing days in October 1962. With tensions rising, ABC news director Jim Hagerty was unable to reach the network’s vacationing chief UN correspondent John McVane. Hagerty did not anticipate that Mal Goode, on the job for less than two months, would easily slide into the role played by McVane, a legendary foreign correspondent. But Goode did deliver seventeen on-air reports. He charted the contours of the crisis and the relief of resolution to a weary audience with a calm cool-headed delivery.

ABC, then lagging behind CBS and NBC in the ratings, had gambled that Goode, the grandson of enslaved people, could attract an African American audience without alienating white viewers. His success was all the more extraordinary given his personal saga. Before Mal Goode’s parents met, they came north separately from two different parts of Virginia during the Great Migration. Mal was born in Virginia and the family frequently traveled between there and Pittsburgh, but he had lived in Pittsburgh from the age of eight and worked there until 1962. From a radio studio on the city’s Hill District, which Claude McKay had dubbed the crossroads of the world, Goode’s basso profundo voice resonated throughout western Pennsylvania. Challenging segregation wherever he saw it and contradicting police accounts of Black men who died in custody, Goode became Black Pittsburgh’s paladin. He celebrated the victories of those who broke through by roaring “And the walls came tumbling down!”

But Goode chafed at his own inability to break into television until his friend Jackie Robinson dared ABC to give him a chance.

Goode’s career, first in Pittsburgh and then with a national network, put him center stage as the civil rights campaign to dismantle segregation reached a tipping point during the 1950s and 1960s. His coverage was tough but fair. Willing to confront the likes of Alabama governor George Wallace and leaders of the American Nazi Party, Goode broke ground in broadcast journalism. He was on the street during the urban rebellions of the 1960s, after Malcolm X’s assassination, and during Martin Luther King Jr.’s final campaign. Whether covering African independence struggles, national political conventions, or Atlanta, Georgia, which he profiled in a 1969 documentary as a city “too busy to hate,” he brought his take on the struggle for equality to a national audience.
Egoism without Permission
The Moral Psychology of Ayn Rand’s Ethics

TARA SMITH

Deepens Our Understanding of Previously Neglected Psychological Aspects of Ayn Rand’s Rational Egoism

“Egoism without Permission will make an important and excellent addition to the growing academic literature on Ayn Rand.”
—Robert Mayhew, Seton Hall University

Ayn Rand controversially defended rational egoism, the idea that people should regard their own happiness as their highest goal. Given that numerous scholars in philosophy and psychology alike are examining the nature of human flourishing and an ethics of well-being, the time is ripe for a close examination of Rand’s theory. Egoism without Permission illuminates Rand’s thinking about how to practice egoism by exploring some of its crucial psychological dimensions. Tara Smith examines the dynamics among four partially subconscious factors in an individual’s well-being: a person’s foundational motivation for being concerned with morality; their attitude toward their desires; their independence; and their self-esteem. A clearer grasp of each, Smith argues, sheds light on the others, and a better understanding of the set, in turn, enriches our understanding of self-interest and its sensible pursuit. Smith then traces the implications for a broader understanding of what a person’s self-interest genuinely is, and, correspondingly, of what its pursuit through rational egoism involves. By highlighting these previously underexplored features of Rand’s conceptions of self-interest and egoism, Smith better our understanding of how vital these psychological levers are to a person’s genuine flourishing.
To Risk It All
General Forbes, the Capture of Fort Duquesne, and the Course of Empire in the Ohio Country
MICHAEL N. MCCONNELL

A Comprehensive History Placing Forbes and His Campaign during the Seven Years’ War within the Context of the Eighteenth-Century British Empire

“McConnell’s latest is a nuanced, illuminating read for scholars of colonial American history and novices alike.”
—Pittsburgh Quarterly

“With impressive scholarship and clear prose, this book is highly recommended.”
—Martin West, former director of Fort Ligonier and editor of Bouquet’s Expedition against the Ohio Indians in 1764

General John Forbes’s campaign against Fort Duquesne was the largest overland expedition during the Seven Years’ War in America. While most histories of the period include the Forbes Campaign as an aside, McConnell documents how and why Forbes and his army succeeded, and what his success meant to the subsequent history of the mid-Atlantic colonies, native inhabitants of the Ohio Country, and the empire he represented.

A close look at the Forbes Campaign and its personnel reveals much about both British relations with native peoples and the nature of Britain’s American empire during a time of stress. Unlike other campaigns, this one consisted largely of colonial—not professional British—troops. In addition, individual colonies negotiated their role in the campaign and frequently placed their own local interests ahead of those of the empire as a whole. The campaign thus suggests the limits of imperial power and how Britain’s hold over its American frontiers was, at best, tenuous and helped lead to an eventual breakdown of empire in the 1760s and 1770s.

Michael N. McConnell is associate professor emeritus of history at University of Alabama at Birmingham and the author of A Country Between: The Upper Ohio Valley and Its Peoples, 1724–1774 and Army and Empire: British Soldiers on the American Frontier, 1758–1775.

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The WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh
Edited by LAURENCE A. GLASCO

A Comprehensive History of Pittsburgh’s Black Population from Colonial Times to the 1930s

“What an absorbing, engaging, from-the-bottom-up history of African descendants in Pittsburgh! It is a history with imagery, joy, disappointment, hope, vision, and, of course, voice—a story of a people told by the people. The editor has made a masterstroke with the use of research results and analysis from the ‘Negro in Pittsburgh’ study from the Depression-era Federal Writers’ Project.”

—Multicultural Review

“Not only tells the history of African Americans in Pittsburgh from the colonial era through the 1930s, but also exquisitely captures the perspective of the period in which it was created.”

—Pennsylvania Heritage

The monumental American Guide Series, published by the Federal Writers’ Project, provided work to thousands of unemployed writers, editors, and researchers in the midst of the Great Depression. Funded by the Works Progress Administration and featuring books on states, cities, rivers, and ethnic groups, it also opened an unprecedented view into the lives of the American people during this time. Untold numbers of projects in progress were lost when the program was abruptly shut down by a hostile Congress in 1939. One of those, “The Negro in Pittsburgh,” lay dormant in the Pennsylvania State Library until it was microfilmed in 1970. The WPA History of the Negro in Pittsburgh marked the first publication of this rich body of information. This unique historical study of the city’s Black population, although never completed, features articles on civil rights, social class, lifestyle, culture, folklore, and institutions from colonial times through the 1930s. Editor Laurence A. Glasco’s introduction and robust bibliography contextualizes the articles and offers a history on the manuscript itself, guiding contemporary readers through this remarkable work.

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Laurence A. Glasco is associate professor of history at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of Ethnicity and Social Structure: Irish, Germans, and Native-Born of Buffalo, N.Y., 1850–1860 and coauthor of Legacy in Bricks and Mortar: African-American Landmarks in Allegheny County.
NEWLY REDESIGNED COVER

The Homestead Strike of 1892

ARTHUR G. BURGOYNE
With an afterword by DAVID P. DEMAREST

A Complete Account of America’s Most Famous Labor Struggle

“This book is rich with portraits of industrial and political leaders. It is especially vivid in its use of the workers’ testimony given at the time of their trials; it provides an outstanding summarization of their cause.”
—Pennsylvania History

In 1893, the Rawsthorne Engraving and Printing Company published journalist Arthur Burgoyne’s complete history of the 1892 Homestead strike and the ensuing conflict between the Carnegie Steel Company and the Amalgamated Association of Iron and Steel Workers. Although popular at the time of publication, it fell out of print until the University of Pittsburgh Press revived it in the late 1970s. Burgoyne, one of Pittsburgh’s most skilled and sensitive journalists, offers an accurate, readable, and judiciously balanced history that gives crucial insight into a turbulent period in Pittsburgh’s history.
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THE PITT POETRY SERIES

Since its inception in 1967, the Pitt Poetry Series has been a vehicle for America’s finest contemporary poets. Throughout its history, the series has provided a voice for the diversity that is American poetry, representing poets from many backgrounds without allegiance to any one school or style.

We are proud to publish debut poets each year through the Agnes Lynch Starrett Prize, and every three years through a collaboration with the Cave Canem Poetry Prize. We also publish the winners of the Association of Writers and Writing Programs’ Donald Hall Prize for Poetry.

Pitt poets have recently won the Norma Farber First Book Award, the Lambda Literary Award for Bisexual Poetry, the PEN/Jean Stein Book Award, the Kate Tufts Discovery Award, the Kingsley Tufts Award, the National Book Critics Circle Award, and others. Our poets have also recently been finalists and semifinalists for the National Book Award in Poetry, National Book Critics Circle Award in Poetry, PEN Award for Poetry in Translation, the Eric Hoffer Award, and numerous regional poetry awards, among other honors.

ABOUT THE SERIES EDITORS

Terrance Hayes’s poetry collections include American Sonnets for My Past and Future Assassin, finalist for the National Book Award; How to Be Drawn, finalist for the National Book Award and the National Book Critics Circle Award; Lighthead, winner of the National Book Award and finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award; and Wind in a Box, finalist for the Hurston-Wright Legacy Award, among others. Hayes is currently professor of English at New York University.

Nancy Krygowski’s book Velocity won the Agnes Lynch Starrett Poetry Prize in 2006, and her most recent poetry collection is The Woman in the Corner. She teaches poetry at Carnegie Mellon University and in Carlow University’s Madwomen in the Attic program.

Jeffrey McDaniel is the author of six books of poetry, most recently Holiday in the Islands of Grief. Other books include Chapel of Inadvertent Joy, The Endarkenment, The Splinter Factory, The Forgiveness Parade, and Alibi School. He teaches at Sarah Lawrence College and lives in the Hudson Valley.

ABOUT THE MANAGING EDITOR

Alex Wolfe has a long-standing connection to university press publishing and poetry in Pittsburgh, starting as a student at Carnegie Mellon University. He has been with the University of Pittsburgh Press since 2006, and he is currently the editorial and production director. An award-winning designer and experienced editor, he enjoys working closely with the poetry series editors, authors, and his colleagues to produce distinguished books.
The Selected Shepherd

REGINALD SHEPHERD
Edited by JERICHO BROWN

An Introduction to the Life, Work, and “Difficulty” of Reginald Shepherd

“The extraordinary Reginald Shepherd remains both a tidal force and an enigmatic planet in contemporary poetry and in legendary Pitt Poetry Series editor Ed Ochester’s vast constellation of stars. The brilliant Jericho Brown has distilled Shepherd’s magnificence—a style born of the Bronx, rural Georgia, Iowa City, Eliot’s Waste Land, and Orpheus’s underworld—to a dynamic, essential volume. The Pitt Poetry Series is proud to present this landmark compilation.”
—Terrance Hayes, author of So to Speak and coeditor, Pitt Poetry Series

“In an age when poets often vanish from larger cultural memory shortly after their last breath, this selected compendium, published fifteen years after Shepherd’s passing, is a true feat of treasure and salvage, ensuring that one of the most vibrant and charged voices of our young twenty-first century stays alive.”
—Ocean Vuong, author of Time is a Mother and Night Sky with Exit Wounds

“The discovery of Reginald Shepherd’s poetry—in an envelope, with a letter and a stamped self-addressed return—was among the highest points of my five years as editor of the Kenyon Review. Of course his poems were published, and a correspondence, a friendship ensued. His premature death was devastating. Rereading these poems, I follow the arc of their music, wit, erudition, narrative, tragedy: the chronicle of an exemplary (Black, gay, American, polymath out of the projects) life, but first of all, I admire, am in a bit of awe of, and thoroughly enjoy them.”
—Marilyn Hacker, author of Calligraphies

Drawing from all six of his collections, The Selected Shepherd offers a new retrospective on the work of an important and sometimes controversial Black, gay poet. Although well known for his erotic poems about white men, Shepherd also wrote consistently about the natural world and its endangerment and his grief over his mother’s death. Presented in both publication order and the order in which they originally appeared within each collection, these poems highlight the most important themes of Shepherd’s work, along with both his predictability and unpredictability as a poet. Jericho Brown’s introduction provides additional context and insight on the life and work of this complex, groundbreaking figure in American poetry.

Dr. Reginald Shepherd (1963–2008) was a Black, gay poet who grew up in the Bronx and went on to receive two MFAs, one from Brown University and one from the Iowa Writers Workshop. He authored two collections of poetry criticism and six poetry collections, all published by the University of Pittsburgh Press. Shepherd received many awards and honors over his career, including grants from the National Endowment for the Arts and the Guggenheim Foundation, among others.

Jericho Brown is author of The Tradition, for which he won the Pulitzer Prize. He is the director of the Creative Writing Program and a professor at Emory University.

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MY BROTHER THE RAIN

Some sleep away the years until the headlands thaw. Some build their sails for April's flood. The ships put out on wheels of salt and leave their foaming spokes behind to shatter on black gravel. One by one they founder and they fail; the sunken-hearted crews breathe water like any other drowners. So you set out in your dinghy to row by that light, the river your note from a mutual friend: you’ll introduce yourself to the sea in stages. Storms come to stir the swell, wind comes churning a course toward the rocks that could calm you like those sailors.

The rapids open onto ocean, you cannot steer except toward true north. So you drift without a rudder except your hand that burns to let you know you’re freezing. (If you had no history you could wash ashore.) You might call that current night, if night weren’t hung behind you, the backdrop to your magic lantern of survivors clinging to a raft in Arctic weather, if the light weren’t frayed and torn around the frame. (If you had no name you could float like some floe.) You lay yourself to sleep with sheets of snow, wake to regret the morning, drifts like waves.

SEIZE THE DAY

The light in this city is summer slouched in classic attitudes. It slaps the face, hunting down a home in every brick and pore of the it-won’t-stay-for-long, a year of ghosts forced into fiction. Air’s violent poetry is saturated with salvation and heavy rains, silt fills the mouth instead of words, settling into red clay gullies erosion scrawls down mobile slopes; black plastic fences try to hold the roadside in. Presume you, presume me, forget: the buried rhyme of poverty and pollution has killed off so many pollinators, this green butterfly or moth has followed us from one house to another, tracing the vanishing margin of safety: a berm of purple flowers lines the driveway. The holly bush makes its complaints known through thorns on every pointed leaf, the prevailing local toxins lie in welcome, make you look through these lush and poisoned landscapes for an exit. The texture of evidence pinched between two fingers or scratching the passing cheek, the living grit that scars, illuminates the war against appearances. You pause to hear the picture postcard yards and lawns, listening at six and then eleven. (News is a desperate mystery, isn’t it, the paradox of dead light staining morning air, drenched in unasked questions.) You learned early how to tell lies as if you were human.
Creature

MARSHA DE LA O

Between Life and Death, Joy Links Human Experience to Animal Existence

“Marsha de la O’s Creature is the rare gift that makes readers feel more whole, more here. Intuitive, wise, vigorous, deep of earth and heart, these pages pulse with ‘the life force whose name is creature.’ I am mesmerized.”
—Jennifer K. Sweeney, author of Foxlogic, Fireweed

“These are psalms of grief and labor for time passing, ones that sing in multiple registers to remind us that life, in the face of many oppressions, continues, resists, and grows despite anything.”
—Sean Thomas Dougherty, author of Death Prefers the Minor Keys

“Creature brims with the wild force these poems seek to track, a holiness lying in ‘needles / in shards’ of brokenness. In poem after exquisite poem de la O turns to that ineffable force as a lens that transfigures the pain of the human condition and discloses that ‘brokenness is made of breath, / blue wash of twilight, a glimmering / spread of wings.’”
—Laura Reece Hogan, author of Butterfly Nebula

Written during the last five years of the poet’s father’s life, Creature is a book about love, destruction, and the self, all standing in relation to family and the natural world. The poems themselves try to move toward what can’t be said by finding connection with other life forms: hawks, hummingbirds, pelicans, lizards, horses, ravens, squid. By moving past linguistic walls into otherness, words become proximate to mystery and inhabit territory where expanses open and embodiment is always on the verge of transformation.

EXCERPT FROM “SUDDEN LIGHT”

. . . If I could
become moonlight on water,
I might be darkness an eye could
train itself to navigate.
A heron takes to air in the end.
Brokenness is made of breath,
brilliant wash of twilight, a glimmering
spread of wings, like that evening
my mother flew out of herself
after they shut off the machine, slipped
the last needle . . .

Marsha de la O is a lecturer in the English Department at California State University, Channel Islands, where she teaches poetry and creative writing. She is the author of Every Ravening Thing, Antidote for Night, and Black Hope. Her poems have appeared in the New Yorker, The Slowdown, and many journals, and she is a recipient of the Morton Marcus Poetry Prize. She lives with her husband in Ventura, California, where they founded the Ventura County Poetry Project to support local poetry.

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In Parachutes Descending

TANA JEAN WELCH

An Odyssey though Yearning, Transformation, and the Liminal Space that Connects Us All

“In a world that treats bodies too often as commodities, Tana Jean Welch offers a counterperspective that insists on the interconnectedness of all living—and nonliving—beings. Through precise, image-centered language, In Parachutes Descending is that rare poetry book that offers not only a critique but a vision, too.”
—Charlotte Pence, author of Code

“These poems are a ship’s log of geographical losses and ecstasies, an erotic map of floating cities orbited by flesh-eating mermaids, soiled grand pianos, and every form of bare infinitive.”
—Simeon Berry, author of Monograph

“The poems of Tana Jean Welch’s In Parachutes Descending float between fact and possibility, destruction and passion, introspection and challenge, between the bodies we create together—lovingly, disastrously, rupturingly, rapturously—and the bodies we dwell in alone.”
—Lauren Russell, author of Descent

In Parachutes Descending follows the speaker’s decision to leave her Bostonian husband for Jane, a San Franciscan artist, while charting the sensual consequences of our bodily entanglements. These poems capture personal desires fermenting among current earthly cataclysms, including climate change and global capitalism. In doing so, this collection asks us to think inclusively about the ways we become with all humans and nonhumans, all of us—past, present, and future—intimately entwined with others.

EXCERPT FROM “BOSTON UNDER WATER BY 2100”

Now and always forgetting
we build our cities to house myths,
our histories to house cities—

Soon the sea
will claim this reclaimed land,
sending these few fragments forever
to the drink. Leaving the cities, leaving
our love

to become something else.

POETRY

January 9, 2024
Paper $18.00 • £15.00
6 x 8 • 112 pp.
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PITT POETRY SERIES

Tana Jean Welch is the author of Latest Volcano, winner of the 2015 Marsh Hawk Press Poetry Prize. Her poetry has appeared in the New York Times, the Southern Review, Prairie Schooner, the Colorado Review, and other national literary journals. Born and raised in Fresno, California, she currently lives in Tallahassee where she is associate professor of medical humanities at the Florida State University College of Medicine.

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A Gaze Hound That Hunteth by the Eye

V. PENELope Pelizzon

A Deeply Felt, Lyric Adventure across the Globe

“Elegies, romances, eco grief, comedies, recipes, histories, and keen instruction: these poems hold the world in their lines. V. Penelope Pelizzon is a poet like no other, straddling centuries and continents with every brilliant line.”
—Camille T. Dungy, author of Trophic Cascade

“V. Penelope Pelizzon’s magnificent poems are epyllions, ‘little epics,’ that synthesize a stunning breadth of experience. Their geographical circuit—from Brooklyn to Africa to the Middle East—provides the backdrop for candid meditations on time and mortality, agency and accident. Like Elizabeth Bishop, that other consummate traveler, Pelizzon riffs on ‘assurance / of ruin’s recurrence’: Awful but cheerful.”
—Ange Mlinko, author of Distant Mandate

“This is a brilliant book. I love its variety of forms and music, its humor and intellectual seriousness (how often does one actually learn things from poems?), its high-spirited embrace of life. This is a book I will keep close over the years.”
—Christian Wiman, author of Zero at the Bone: Fifty Entries against Despair

Written over a decade while the author lived on four continents, A Gaze Hound That Hunteth by the Eye maps the cultural legacies we cherish against those we reject. Playful and wrenching by turns, with lines inflected by the spoken music of their Arabic, Oshiwambo, Xhosa, and Italian contexts, these profound poems explore a life where displacement is the norm. From choosing not to have children to wrestling with a left-hand stick shift in Johannesburg traffic to braising a camel loin for friends in Damascus, V. Penelope Pelizzon’s poems transport us into unexpected depths of feeling with language that is scintillant, luxurious, and wise.

EXCERPT FROM “THE SOOTE SEASON”

Here, with the utmost pleasure, I’ve cupped the tapered chamfer of a greyhound’s skull like a chalice in my palms, and bent to smell her fur’s bouquet, the same flinted floral breath mown grass exhales in summer. Though I am a gaze hound that hunteth by the eye, her master raises his look limply only as far as my chin before he drops it like a gnawed ball to roll across the greensward of his screen. Incarnate time runs past us toward school.

V. Penelope Pelizzon is the author of Nostos, which won the Hollis Summers Prize and the Poetry Society of America’s Norma Farber First Book Award, and Whose Flesh Is Flame, Whose Bone Is Time, which was a finalist for the Anthony Hecht Poetry Prize. Her recognitions include a Hawthornden Fellowship, the Amy Lowell Traveling Scholarship, a Lannan Foundation Writing Residency Fellowship, and a “Discovery”/The Nation Award. A diplomat’s spouse, she has spent the past two decades living and working part-time in Syria, Namibia, South Africa, Italy, and the United States.

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Climbing a Burning Rope

JOHN PAUL DAVIS

Sanctuary against the Perpetual Demands of the Daily Grind

“Through poems that made my face hurt from grinning, Davis reminds us—with music and sweetness and aching—that the real work of our lives, in unequivocal terms, is always love.”

—Caits Meissner, editor of The Sentences That Create Us

“Set in a world of quarterly growth targets, global warming, mergers and acquisitions, and neurotoxins, Climbing a Burning Rope is a delightful exercise in humanizing the drudgery. John Paul Davis centers the worker in imaginative, engaging poems that defy both late-stage capitalism and a faith imposed in childhood. This is a timely collection that makes a heartwarming case for love, for community, and for more poems about key performance indicators.”

—Eugenia Leigh, author of Bianca

“There are poems here that testify to the irruptions of the holy into the mundane, poems that testify to the gap between belief and truth, poems that made me laugh, poems about how love and beauty remain undeniable in spite of the warming seas and the system’s lies.”

—Dougald Hine, cofounder of the Dark Mountain Project and author of At Work in the Ruins

In Climbing a Burning Rope, John Paul Davis focuses his peculiar imagination, philosophical lyricism, and misfit spiritual outlook on life in the hypercapitalist twenty-first century where the inscrutable logic of algorithms haunts our constantly connected selves. Celebrating the weird and wild, lamenting wounds and weariness, Davis’s poems carve out a space in which we can reclaim what is sacred and be reminded to keep something of ourselves for ourselves.

EXCERPT FROM “ZUGZWANG”

We have to build wealth
you replied & I have nothing against money
except what worries me
about the world we live in, how every dollar
is traceable to slavery,
the disintegrating glaciers,
murders by police,
the Great Pacific Garbage Patch,
mass extinctions

& I imagine us scrambling
up a burning rope
trying to keep above the fire.
We can’t let go
& we can’t climb forever

February 13, 2024
Paper $18.00 • £15.00
6 × 9 • 104 pp.
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POETRY SERIES

John Paul Davis is the author of Crown Prince of Rabbits, and his poems have appeared in RATTLE, Bennington Review, Maine Review, MUZZLE, The Journal, and many others. His writing is informed by the many odd jobs he has held, including bike messenger, line cook, warehouse manager, roller-rink deejay, college professor, stablehand, paperboy, soundman, and bookseller, among others. He now works as a web developer and lives in New York City.

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Central Eurasia embodies a rich historical legacy that includes some of the world’s greatest art, epic literature, vast empires, nomadic peoples, and great urban centers. For millennia, this region has exerted a powerful influence on the history of Europe, Asia, and the Middle East. Yet for all its importance, Central Eurasia remains insufficiently explored by modern scholarship. The Press’s Central Eurasia in Context series provides a unique and valuable venue for the publication and promotion of the best scholarly work on and from this region.

Books in these series have recently won the Alice Davis Hitchcock Book Award, the Slovak Studies Association Best Book Prize, the Hungarian Studies Association Book Prize, the Historia Nova Prize, and the Austrian State Prize for the History of Social Sciences and been shortlisted for the Witold Pilecki International Book Award and the Central Eurasian Studies Society Book Award in Social Sciences, among other honors.

ABOUT THE REES SERIES EDITOR

Jonathan Harris is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Pittsburgh. He is the author of several books, including Subverting the System: Gorbachev’s Reform of the Party’s Apparat, 1986–1991 and The Split in Stalin’s Secretariat, 1939–1948.

ABOUT THE CEC SERIES EDITOR

Douglas Northrop is professor of history and Middle East studies at the University of Michigan. He is the author of An Imperial World: Empires and Colonies since 1750, coauthor of Transition to Democracy: Political Change in the Soviet Union, 1987–1991, and editor of A Companion to World History. He is also author of Veiled Empire: Gender and Power in Stalinist Central Asia, which won the Bruce Lincoln Book Prize and the Heldt Prize. Northrop is coeditor of the Cambridge Comparative World History series from Cambridge University Press.
The Making of Dissidents
Hungary’s Democratic Opposition and Its Western Friends, 1973–1998

VICTORIA HARMS

Offers New Perspectives on Local and Western Opposition to State Socialism and the Cold War Order

“The Making of Dissidents is a story of friendship across borders. Victoria Harms gives a riveting account of intellectual milieus in Hungary, Germany, the United States, France, Austria, Poland, and Yugoslavia. It is not only transnational history at its best but also an inspiring blueprint for moral engagement.”
—Joanna Wawrzyniak, University of Warsaw

“The Making of Dissidents is a grandiose account of how an unexpected alliance of Eastern and Western nonconformists emerged by the 1980s. The book also demonstrates how critical thought in North America and Eastern Europe was shaped by the dissidents of Eastern Europe, which is an unusual look into the topic.”
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“Victoria Harms deftly combines a history of ideas with insights into their contexts to show not only how dissident ideas emerged in the East but also how they were received, amplified, and appropriated in the West. Her book provides an unprecedented, in-depth analysis of a crucial East-West network during the late Cold War, the mutual influences between them, and their legacies.”
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Before Hungary’s transition from communism to democracy, local dissidents and like-minded intellectuals, activists, and academics from the West influenced each other and inspired the fight for human rights and civil liberties in Eastern Europe. Hungarian dissidents provided Westerners with a new purpose and legitimized their public interventions in a bipolar world order. The Making of Dissidents demonstrates how Hungary’s Western friends shaped public perceptions and institutionalized their advocacy long before the peaceful revolutions of 1989. But liberalism failed to take root in Hungary, and Victoria Harms explores how many former dissidents retreated and Westerners shifted their attention elsewhere during the 1990s, paving the way for nationalism and democratic backsliding.

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RUSSIAN AND EAST EUROPEAN STUDIES

Victoria Harms is a senior lecturer in the Department of History at Johns Hopkins University. Trained in cultural and intellectual history, her research and teaching focuses on post-1945 European history and the Cold War, including sports history and US-European relations.
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The Composition, Literacy, and Culture series was established in 1989. It publishes in composition and rhetoric, literacy, and culture; the history of writing, reading, and instructional practice; the construction of literacy and letters; and the relations between language and gender, ethnicity, race, and class. The goal of the series is to bring together scholarship that crosses traditional boundaries. The editors welcome investigations that step outside the usual forms and outlines of academic inquiry.

Books in the CLC series recently have won the David H. Russell Award from the National Council of Teachers of English, the Top Book Award from the National Communication Association’s Communication Ethics Division, and several Outstanding Book Awards from the Conference on College Composition and Communication. CLC books also recently received honorable mentions in the Rhetoric Society of America Book Awards and Society for the Study of American Women Writers Book Awards, among other honors.

ABOUT THE SERIES EDITORS

Aja Martinez is associate professor of English at the University of North Texas. She is the author of Counterstory: The Writing and Rhetoric of Critical Race Theory, which won the 2023 Conference on College Composition and Communication’s Outstanding Book Award and the Advancement of Knowledge Award, as well as the 2021 Vision Award from the Coalition for Community Writing. She is also the coeditor of Code-Meshing as World English: Policy, Pedagogy, and Performance.

Stacey Waite is the Susan Rosowski Associate Professor of English at the University of Nebraska and the author of Teaching Queer: Radical Possibilities for Writing and Knowing. Waite is also the coeditor of Ways of Reading: An Anthology for Writers, 11th ed., and The Best of the Independent Rhetoric and Composition Journals 2011 and has published four collections of poetry.
Sensitive Rhetorics

Academic Freedom and Campus Activism

KENDALL GERDES

Shows How a Rhetorical Theory That Centers Sensitivity Can Benefit Scholars and Students

“Sensitive Rhetorics is a clear, insightful, and timely intervention into the popular falsehood that college students are overly sensitive to new ideas and perspectives.”

—Bradford Vivian, Penn State University

“Kendall Gerdes compellingly argues that denigrating sensitivity in debates over trigger warnings, sexual misconduct, safe spaces, and campus carry laws denies ‘our vulnerability to one another as rhetorical subjects.’ With notable energy and lucidity, she contends that demands for sensitivity exemplify the mutual responsibility engendered by our ‘irremissible exposedness,’ and call for rethinking ‘the force and potential trauma’ of affect.”

—Nathan Stormer, University of Maine

“In this timely study, Kendall Gerdes makes a powerful case for sensitivity as an indispensable element of an ethical rhetorical theory. Nuanced readings of journalism, academic studies, institutional documents, and student demands offer fresh perspectives on key terms of debate and especially on marginalized students’ rhetorical situations and achievements.”

—Susan Jarratt, University of California, Irvine

Claims that students are too sensitive are familiar on and around college campuses. The ideas of cancel culture, safe spaces, and political correctness are used to shut down discussion and prevent students from being recognized as stakeholders in higher education and as advocates for their own interests. Further, universities can claim that student activists threaten academic freedom. In Sensitive Rhetorics, Kendall Gerdes puts these claims and common beliefs into conversation with rhetorical theory to argue that critiques of sensitivity reveal a deep societal discomfort with the idea that language is a form of action. Gerdes poses important questions: What kind of harm can language and representation actually do, and how? What responsibilities do college and university teachers bear toward their students? Sensitive Rhetorics explores the answers by surfacing submerged assumptions about higher education, the role of instructors and faculty, and the needs of an increasingly diverse student body.

Kendall Gerdes is assistant professor of writing and rhetoric studies at the University of Utah, coeditor of Reinventing (with) Theory in Rhetoric and Writing Studies, and a lifetime member of the Rhetoric Society of America.

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COMPOSITION, LITERACY, AND CULTURE

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Social Mediations
Writing for Digital Public Spheres

DONNA LE COURT

**Offers a New Rhetorical Repertoire for Interactive Writing in Social Media and Other Digital Spaces**

“*Social Meditations* offers a pressing and important pedagogical intervention. With Donna LeCourt’s astute attention to technologies, identities, and economic realities, the book promises smart analyses in which the author really grapples with the discursive and material complexities of writing for ever-changing digital publics.”

—Jonathan Alexander, University of California, Irvine

“*Social Meditations* is both timely and necessary. LeCourt articulates the various public spheres via thoroughly documented case studies, and the work as a whole represents a significant contribution to the field.”

—Douglas Eyman, George Mason University

Rhetoric and composition scholar Donna LeCourt combines theoretical inquiry, qualitative research, and rhetorical analysis to examine what it means to write for the “public” in an age when the distinctions between public and private have eroded. Public spaces are increasingly privatized, and individual subjectivities have been reconstructed according to market terms. Part critique and part road map, *Social Meditations* begins with a critical reading of digital public pedagogies, then turns to developing a new theory that can guide a more effective writing pedagogy. LeCourt offers a theory based in embodied relationality that uses information economies to develop public spheres. She highlights how information commodities generate value through circulation, orchestrate relationships among people, and support unequal power structures. By demonstrating how we can use information capital for social change rather than market expansion, writers and readers are encouraged to seek out encounters with cultural and political impact.
The University of Pittsburgh Press has published important work on topics central to general philosophy of science since the 1960s. After joining the Press in 2013, editorial director Abby Collier expanded this distinguished program into the history and philosophy of science, technology, and medicine. Our HPSTM titles cover a wide range of subjects that explore the development of scientific thought and practice across broad spans of time, geography, and diverse cultures.

The Press has several book series under this umbrella, including Science and Culture in the Nineteenth Century; Histories and Ecologies of Health; The Correspondence of John Tyndall; Science, Values, and the Public; and Intersections: Histories of Environment, Science, and Technology in the Anthropocene.

Our HPSTM titles have recently won the American Institute for the History of Science’s Edward Kremers Award, the Royal History Society’s Whitfield Prize for a first monograph in the field of British and Irish history, the History of Science Society Philip J. Pauly Prize for best first book on the history of American science, the American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics’ Gardner-Lasser Aerospace History Literature Award, the Society for Renaissance Studies Book Prize, and numerous Outstanding Academic Title honors from Choice, among other honors.

SERIES EDITORS

Science and Culture in the Nineteenth Century
Bernard Lightman, York University

Histories and Ecologies of Health
Robert Peckham, independent historian and writer on science, technology, and medicine

The Correspondence of John Tyndall
Roland Jackson, the Royal Institution; Bernard Lightman, York University; and Michael S. Reidy, Montana State University

Science, Values, and the Public
Heather E. Douglas, Michigan State University

Intersections: Histories of Environment, Science, and Technology in the Anthropocene
Sarah S. Elkind, San Diego State University, and Finn Arne Jørgensen, University of Stavanger, Norway

ABOUT THE ACQUIRING EDITOR

Abby Collier comes from three generations of printers, earned her MA in editorial studies from Boston University, and is a proud advocate of authors and books. She joined Pittsburgh in 2013 from the University of Chicago Press, where she worked in the sciences group of the books division and acquired new manuscripts in geography and cartography.
The Graft Hybrid
Challenging Twentieth-Century Genetics

MATTHEW HOLMES

A New Physiological History of Biotechnology

“The Graft Hybrid is well composed, thoughtful, and an original contribution to the history of biology.”
—Luis Campos, Rice University

“Holmes’s new history of graft hybrids offers new insights into the most celebrated and controversial topics in biology over the last century. From Darwin’s questions to the emergence of genetics to the challenge of Lysenko, the figure of the graft hybrid has been a central part of the story of biology. Told with clarity, Holmes’s book informs our own biological moment of biological engineering.”
—David Munns, John Jay College

The global triumph of Mendelian genetics in the twentieth century was not a foregone conclusion, thanks to the existence of graft hybrids. These chimera plants and animals are created by grafting tissue from one organism to another with the goal of passing the newly hybridized genetic material on to their offspring. But prevailing genetic theory insisted that heredity was confined to the sex cells and there was no inheritance of characteristics acquired during an organism’s lifetime. Under sustained attacks from geneticists, scientific belief in the existence of graft hybrids slowly began to decline. Yet ordinary horticulturalists and breeders continued to believe in the power of grafting. Matthew Holmes tells the story of these organisms—which include multicolored chickens and black nightshades that grew tomatoes—and their enduring influence on twentieth-century biology. Their creators sought a goal as ambitious as the wildest dreams of genetic engineering today: to smash the barriers between species and freely exchange genes between organisms. The Graft Hybrid presents a greater understanding of the controversial history of graft hybrids, offering a crucial intervention in the history of genetics and the future of biological science.

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Matthew Holmes is a postdoctoral fellow in environmental history at the University of Stavanger, where he examines the modern history of the house sparrow in urban spaces. He writes on the history of biotechnology, morphology, and natural history.
The People’s Spaceship

NASA, the Shuttle Era, and Public Engagement after Apollo

AMY PAIGE KAMINSKI

How Everyday Citizens Played an Integral Role in the Development of NASA’s Space Shuttle

“Authoritative, comprehensive, and unique as a scholarly resource, The People’s Spaceship demonstrates an impressive grasp of space history and illuminates efforts by NASA to build public consensus in support of the space shuttle during its forty-year lifetime.”

—Matthew Hersch, Harvard University

“The People’s Spaceship is a richly evidenced new angle on the social/cultural history of NASA and the evolution of the agency’s public relations enterprise. Kaminski’s research offers the reader a solid understanding of NASA’s public engagement effort on many fronts, and thus a different view into NASA. The impressive wealth of new information is quite engaging and prompts many moments of genuine revelation.”

—Valerie Neal, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum

When the Apollo 11 astronauts returned from humanity’s first voyage to the moon in 1969, NASA officials advocated for more ambitious missions. But with the civil rights movement, environmental concerns, the Vietnam War, and other social crises taking up much of the public’s attention, they lacked the support to make those ambitions a reality. Instead, the space agency had to think more modestly and pragmatically, crafting a program that could leverage the excitement of Apollo while promising relevance for average Americans. The resulting initiative, the space shuttle, would become the centerpiece of NASA human space flight activity for forty years, opening opportunities for the public to engage with and participate in space projects in new ways. The People’s Spaceship traces how and why NASA painstakingly connected the vehicle to so many segments of society. Underscoring the successes and challenges endured in the process, Amy Paige Kaminski shares the story of how the space shuttle became an American technological icon.
Victorian Interdisciplinarity and the Sciences
Rethinking the Specialization Thesis

Edited by BERNARD LIGHTMAN and EFRAM SERA-SHRIAR

A Complex and Innovative Analysis of Discipline Formation in Nineteenth-Century Science

“This volume provides a comprehensive, varied, and highly readable account of how the nascent disciplines of nineteenth-century science were regularly brought together into new intellectual configurations. As such, it provides a welcome corrective to the customary emphasis on the academic specialization that seemed to otherwise characterize the period.”
—Gowan Dawson, University of Leicester

“From our twenty-first century vantage point, it may appear that the Victorians drew up and abided by the firm disciplinary boundaries that we work within today. But the close and nuanced reading in this volume reveals a messier, mobile, and more interesting nineteenth-century ecology of Western knowledge. Exploring both consensus and contest, Bernard Lightman and Efram Sera-Shriar have assembled a cadre of leading and emerging scholars to unpack interdisciplinary ways of knowing via a range of scientists, sites, and media. At times surprising and otherwise challenging, Victorian Interdisciplinarity and the Sciences is always engaging.”
—Samuel Alberti, National Museums Scotland

The specialization thesis—the idea that nineteenth-century science fragmented into separate forms of knowledge that led to the creation of modern disciplines—has played an integral role in the way historians have described the changing disciplinary map of nineteenth-century British science. This volume critically reevaluates this dominant narrative in the historiography. While new disciplines did emerge during the nineteenth century, the intellectual landscape was far muddier, and in many cases new forms of specialist knowledge continued to cross boundaries while integrating ideas from other areas of study. Through a history of Victorian interdisciplinarity, this volume offers a more complicated and innovative analysis of discipline formation. Harnessing the techniques of cultural and intellectual history, studies of visual culture, Victorian studies, and literary studies, contributors break out of subject-based silos, exposing the tension between the rhetorical push for specialization and the actual practice of knowledge sharing across disciplines during the nineteenth century.

Bernard Lightman is distinguished research professor in the Humanities Department at York University and past president of the History of Science Society. He is the editor of Rethinking History and Science and Religion and coeditor of Science Periodicals in Nineteenth-Century Britain and Identity in a Secular Age.

Efram Sera-Shriar is associate professor in English studies at the University of Copenhagen. He is the author of Psychic Investigators: Anthropology, Modern Spiritualism, and Credible Witnessing in the Late Victorian Age and The Making of British Anthropology, 1813–1871.

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SCIENCE AND CULTURE IN THE NINETEENTH CENTURY

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The Lung Block
Plagues, Parks, and Power in Progressive-Era New York

ADRIENNE D. deNOYELLES

Lays Bare the Class Struggles Inherent in Public Health and Urban Parks Campaigns of the Early Twentieth Century

“The Lung Block is a wonderful contribution to American public health history. This important topic has found its perfect historian in Adrienne deNoyelles.”
—Howard Markel, author of The Secret of Life: Rosalind Franklin, James Watson, Francis Crick, and the Discovery of DNA’s Double Helix

“DeNoyelles takes a familiar story—progressive reform in New York City—and tells it anew with a depth of coverage that is unique.”
—Jennifer Koslow, Florida State University

Public health, housing, poverty, and immigration dominated social and political discourse in early twentieth-century New York, much as they do today. The Lower East Side provided an urban environment where infectious disease and other public health concerns flourished. One city block in particular, known in muckraking circles as “The Lung Block,” housed four thousand first- and second-generation Americans in dilapidated tenements where deadly tuberculosis spread uninhibited. The Lung Block looks at a 1903 reform crusade to demolish this working-class tenement neighborhood and replace it with a park. Progressive reformers aimed to confront the area’s moral and environmental dangers, but their conceptualization of the problem and methods for addressing it placed them into direct conflict with the hand-to-mouth priorities of the residents. The campaign and its eventual failure illuminate the formidable social barriers distancing urban reformers and the marginalized populations they intend to help.

ADRIENNE D. deNOYELLES is a writer and researcher who earned her PhD in American history from the University of Florida.

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HISTORY OF THE URBAN ENVIRONMENT
The Correspondence of John Tyndall, Volume 14

The Correspondence, October 1873–October 1875

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Letters Covering Tyndall’s Infamous Belfast Address

The 499 letters in the fourteenth volume of The Correspondence of John Tyndall cover a number of particularly intense and acrimonious disputes. More notably, this volume spans the period of the composition, delivery, and furious reaction to Tyndall’s famous—or, more accurately, infamous—Belfast Address. This prestigious lecture, which he delivered as the newly inaugurated president of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, has long been heralded as one of the most momentous events of the nineteenth century. The letters in this volume provide a new, and unprecedentedly detailed, account of all aspects of the era-defining address. For Tyndall himself, it afforded a new level of prominence as a public intellectual, and he deployed his position to engage directly with some of the most contentious issues in Victorian society, especially the role of religion in relation to science. But Tyndall’s expertise was also required on more practical matters, and the letters in this volume document his extensive role in determining official government policy on urgent questions such as safety at sea and public health. Additionally, they chart a dramatic shift in his personal life, with his initial correspondence with Louisa Hamilton, with whom he had previously communicated only through her family, marking the point where their burgeoning friendship developed into a formal relationship.
With a vigorous and wide-ranging list in Latin American studies, including multiple dedicated series and a peer-reviewed journal, the University of Pittsburgh Press seeks to highlight not only Latin American history, politics, and culture but also important artists, writers, and performers. Our interdisciplinary list includes many titles that explore Latin American cultural practices, histories, and institutions, and their effect on our present moment.

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Titles in our Latin American studies series have recently won the Conference on Latin American History’s Socolow-Johnson Prize, Bolton-Johnson Prize, and Warren Dean Prize; the Brazilian Studies Association’s Roberto Reis Award; and prizes from the Latino Book Awards and the Mexico Section, the Southern Cone Studies Section, and the Venezuelan Studies Section of the Latin American Studies Association.

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Jorge Coronado, Northwestern University

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Alejandro de la Fuente, Harvard University

**ABOUT THE ACQUIRING EDITOR**

Joshua Shanholtzer joined the University of Pittsburgh Press in 2007. Previously, he was an editor at the Modern Language Association.
Foucault in Brazil
Dictatorship, Resistance, and Solidarity

MARCELO HOFFMAN

Captures the Complexity of Foucault’s Political Engagements and Breaks with the Orthodox View That He Was Anti-Marxist

“Brilliant and chock-full of insights and impeccably researched historical portraits, Foucault in Brazil is a luminous, indispensable book in a range of fields, and constitutes a landmark for scholars interested in the French philosopher in the continent and beyond.”
—Adam Joseph Shellhorse, Temple University

“Foucault in Brazil develops a meticulous and riveting historical account of the philosopher’s trips through that country. Hoffman’s scholarship employs rigorous historical investigation to excavate nothing short of a model of what it can mean to marshal one’s social capital to contest power publicly. This work is outstanding and without peer.”
—Kevin Thompson, DePaul University

Philosopher Michel Foucault’s cultural criticism crosses disciplines and is well known as an influence on modern conceptions of knowledge and power. Less well known are the five trips he took to Brazil between 1965 and 1976. Although a coup in 1964 had installed a military dictatorship, Foucault kept his opinion on the Brazilian government largely to himself until October 23, 1975. On that date, he delivered a manifesto at a student assembly in São Paulo expressing his solidarity with students and professors protesting a wave of arrests and torture. This manifesto caught the government’s attention and became the focal point of the dictatorship’s surveillance of Foucault. Foucault in Brazil explores the production of the public antagonism between the philosopher and the dictatorship through a meticulous consideration of each of his visits to Brazil. Marcelo Hoffman connects history, philosophy, and political theory to open new ways of thinking about Foucault as a person and thinker and about Brazil and authoritarianism.

Marcelo Hoffman is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science of the Dyson College of Arts and Sciences at Pace University in New York City. He is the author of two books, Militant Acts: The Role of Investigations in Radical Political Struggles and Foucault and Power: The Influence of Political Engagement on Theories of Power.
The Other Border Wars
Conflict and Stasis in Latin American Culture

SHANNON DOWD

Highlights the Transformative Effects of Border Conflicts on Culture and Politics

“Brilliantly argued and full of unique and important insights, The Other Border Wars is certain to become required reading for scholars and students interested in questions of politics, sovereignty, war, literature, and visual culture in Latin America.”
—Patrick Dove, Indiana University

The Other Border Wars: Conflict and Stasis in Latin American Culture questions bordering as an organizing principle of culture, conflict, and politics. Shannon Dowd argues that Central and South American border conflicts such as the Chaco War, between Bolivia and Paraguay (1932–1935); the Soccer War, between El Salvador and Honduras (1969); and the Falklands/Malvinas War, between Argentina and the United Kingdom (1982); can be considered as stasis, meaning civil strife, rather than polemos, meaning international war. Through analyses of literature, film, and theater, Dowd shows that border conflict is entwined with domestic strife, reinforced by stagnant geographical lines, and magnified under globalization. Deploying a capacious theory of stasis to question modern sovereignty and bordering, Dowd examines border zones from the outbreak of hostilities to the present, highlighting the lasting legacies of enclosure and violence. The Other Border Wars asks readers to consider how cultural expression challenges the purported fixity of Latin American borders, and even the very idea of bordering.

Shannon Dowd is assistant professor of Spanish at Niagara University in New York. Her research examines twentieth- and twenty-first-century Latin American literature, film, and theory.

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The Slum and the City
Culture and Dissidence in the Villas Miseria of Buenos Aires

AGNESE CODEBÒ

An Original Intervention into Theorizations of Buenos Aires’s Urban History

“The Slum and the City is a brilliant book that challenges not only the historical boundaries between the formal and informal neighborhoods of Buenos Aires but also those that separate ‘high’ and ‘popular’ culture. Codebò masterfully restores the unity of a complex metropolis, without losing sight of the contradictions that cross this particular urban space.”
—Valeria Snitcofsky, University of Buenos Aires

“By situating proletarian culture and grassroots politics at the center of her analysis, Codebò offers a paradigm-shifting account of the contemporary cultural history of Buenos Aires. Far from being marginal sites, slums are constitutive of the city’s—and the nation’s—history. They are key sites of knowledge production, political organizing, and artistic expression, as Codebò demonstrates in this fascinating and important book.”
—Jennifer S. Ponce de León, author of Another Aesthetics Is Possible: Arts of Rebellion in the Fourth World War

The Argentine capital is largely perceived as a middle-class space. Yet in reality, urban poverty and precarious settlements are defining features of the city. Agnese Codebò investigates how slums have produced culture as well as their representation in literature and the visual arts from the 1950s to the present. Looking at government-led urban projects, as well as novels, artworks, films, militant magazines, poems, and music, she tells the story of how villas miseria have mattered culturally and socially as spaces that produce new aesthetics, cultural trends, and social alliances, while offering a vantage point to understand the city and its problems. Slums represent a heterogeneous urban space, and Codebò makes the case for their relevance in Argentine culture, demonstrates the need to rethink spaces of production, and develops a new premise for a decolonial approach to Argentine cultural production.
A New No-Man’s-Land
Writing and Art at Guantánamo, Cuba

ESTHER WHITFIELD

Reveals a New Story of Unexpected Sympathies, Solidarities, and Care in the Guantánamo Borderlands

“In this definitive study of Guantanamera cultural production, Whitfield highlights not divisions but the site’s environmental commonalities, unexpected and asymmetric connections, and moments of care and beauty. The fascinating, little-known stories of creativity and life illuminated here map a potential postconflict terrain—one already blooming in the fissures of the ostensible no-man’s-land.”

—Rachel Price, Princeton University

“This outstanding book humanizes one of the most complex areas of the world in the last decades. The excellent research and elegant, measured prose reveal the human cost involved in indefinite isolation and extreme vulnerability, the intimacies that arise in the process, and the value of artistic expression to remain human even in inhuman conditions.”

—Guillermina De Ferrari, University of Wisconsin–Madison

“A New No-Man’s-Land’s careful analysis of Spanish and Anglophone local and transnational texts offers a vital corrective to singular readings of Guantánamo since it first began housing War on Terror detainees in 2002. Be sure to read to the end.”

—Alexandra S. Moore, Binghamton University

Guantánamo sits at the center of two of the most vexing issues of US policy of the past century: relations with Cuba and the Global War on Terror. It is a contested, extralegal space. In A New No-Man’s-Land, Esther Whitfield explores a multilingual archive of materials produced both at the US naval base and in neighboring Cuban communities and proposes an understanding of Guantánamo as a coherent borderland region, where experiences of isolation are opportunities to find common ground. She analyzes poetry, art, memoirs, and documentary films produced on both sides of the border. Authors and artists include prisoners, guards, linguists, chaplains, lawyers, and journalists, as well as Cuban artists and dissidents. Their work reveals surprising similarities: limited access to power and self-representation, mobility restricted by geography if not captivity, and immersion in political languages that have ascribed them rigid roles. Read together, the work of these disparate communities traces networks that extend among individuals in the Guantánamo region, inward to Cuba, and outward to the Caribbean, the Americas, Europe, and the Middle East.
The Persistence of Local Caudillos in Latin America
Informal Political Practices and Democracy in Unitary Countries

TOMÁŠ DOŠEK

Illustrates the Unevenness of Democracy in Latin America

“Prior work on subnational undemocratic regimes has largely focused on federal countries, and mostly on second-tier governments. This book departs from that tradition by shifting the locus of analysis to unitary countries and third-tier governments (i.e., municipalities). Drawing on extensive fieldwork, rigorous analysis, and theoretical depth, Došek offers a new and critical understanding of subnational political regimes dynamics. The Persistence of Local Caudillos in Latin America is essential reading for scholars of subnational politics and democracy.”
—Agustina Giraudy, American University

Despite democratization at the national level, local political bosses still govern many municipalities in Latin America. Caudillos and clans often use informal political practices—ranging from clientelism and patronage to harassment of political opposition—to control local political dynamics. These arbitrary and, at times, abusive practices pose important challenges to how Latin American democracy works and how power is exercised after the decentralization reforms in the region. These reforms promised to bring the government closer to the people and to promote popular participation. In many cases, these ideals are unmet, and newly empowered local politicians have been able to turn municipalities into personal fiefdoms. This book explores how local caudillos stay in power and why some are more successful than others in retaining office. Tomáš Došek provides an in-depth analysis of six cases from Chile, Paraguay, and Peru to show the strategies that caudillos pursue to secure power and the mistakes they commit that drive them out.

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PITT LATIN AMERICAN SERIES

Tomáš Došek is associate professor of political science in the Departamento de Ciencias Sociales at the Pontificia Universidad Católica del Perú and researcher with the Centro de Investigaciones Sociológicas, Económicas, Políticas y Antropológicas. He is coeditor of Women, Politics, and Democracy in Latin America and Mujeres en la política: Experiencias nacionales y subnacionales en América Latina.
Dependency and Crisis in Brazil and Argentina
A Critique of Market and State Utopias

FELIPE ANTUNES DE OLIVEIRA

Provides a Detailed Analysis of Argentine and Brazilian Political Economy Over the Last Three Decades

“Dependency and Crisis in Brazil and Argentina: A Critique of Market and State Utopias is an excellent study of the tensions between neoliberalism and neodevelopmentalism in these two countries. Antunes de Oliveira’s comparative approach and his deep knowledge provide a new, rich history of political and economic disappointment. This study is a major contribution to development studies and Latin American studies.”
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“At a moment when dependency theory is having a revival, Antunes de Oliveira’s deep and innovative reading of key insights from Latin American dependency theorists is timely. The book is a must-read for anyone interested in efforts to understand trajectories of social, political, and economic change in Brazil and Argentina from a non-Eurocentric starting point.”
—Ingrid Harvold Kvangraven, King’s College

In the two largest countries in South America, successive waves of structural reforms adopted in the name of development invariably have ended in disappointment. The promise of development never seems to materialize. Dependency and Crisis in Brazil and Argentina examines why. Instead of looking for policy failures, Felipe Antunes de Oliveira’s focus is on the parameters of the public debate about “development” itself. An unfruitful dispute between neoliberalism and neodevelopmentalism has dominated Brazilian and Argentine political economy debates to the detriment of both countries. Antunes de Oliveira presents a comprehensive theoretical and empirical critique of the neoliberal and neodevelopmentalist structural reform cycles in Brazil and Argentina and applies insights from dependency theory to craft an alternative political economy framework for the analysis of development challenges.

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Felipe Antunes de Oliveira is a senior lecturer in international relations at Queen Mary University of London and coordinating editor at Latin American Perspectives. Before joining Queen Mary, he worked as a diplomat at the Brazilian Ministry of Foreign Affairs.

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Welcome to Oxnard

Race, Place, and Chicana Adolescence in Michele Serros’s Writings

Cristina Herrera

A Literary Exploration of Chicana Coming of Age, Identity, and Belonging

“Herrera’s tour de force book takes us on a riveting scholarly journey through the trailblazing work of the late, great Latina maverick Michele Serros. This is more than a biographical ode or YA lit crit. Herrera beautifully weaves in her own coming-of-age struggles in the shared ‘no-love’ hometown of Oxnard, along with insights from ‘rurban’ ethnography, sociocultural geography, borderland and Latinx cultural studies, and feminist theory, breaking wide open the mold for all future scholarship. Heartfelt. Astute. Brilliant!”
—Frederick Luis Aldama, University of Texas at Austin

“Welcome to Oxnard is nothing short of brilliant. Well written and well argued, Herrera’s scholarship adds humor, heart, and style that only mirror and highlight the Chicana author it explores. Redressing the absence of scholarship on Michele Serros, this book sets the tone and raises the bar for Chicanx and US Latinx literary analyses.”
—Ella Maria Diaz, San José State University

Michele Serros (1966–2015) is widely known for her groundbreaking book *Chicana Falsa and Other Stories of Death, Identity, and Oxnard*. Despite her status as a major figure in Chicana literature, no scholar has written a book-length examination of her body of poetry, fiction, and nonfiction—until now. Cristina Herrera, also from Oxnard, weaves in history, autoethnography, and literary analysis to explore Chicana adolescence and young womanhood with a focus on place-making. Factoring in location, region, and landscape, Herrera asks what it means to grow up Chicana in settings that carry centuries of colonial violence, segregation, and everyday racism against Mexican American communities. She contends that Serros used her hometown to broaden understandings of who and what constitutes Chicana communities and identities. By reading Serros’s work in tandem with her lived experience in the same setting, Herrera uncovers moments of adolescent subjectivity that could only be vocalized and constructed within this particular locale. Herrera pushes against the tendency to separate the author from the text and argues for a spatial understanding of Chicana adolescence, race, class, and young womanhood.

Cristina Herrera was born and raised in Oxnard, California, and is now professor and director of Chicanx/Latinx studies at Portland State University. She is the author of *ChicaNerds in Chicana Young Adult Literature: Brown and Nerdy* and editor of *Nerds, Goths, Geeks, and Freaks: Outsiders in Chicanx and Latinx Young Adult Literature*, which won the 2022 Children’s Literature Association Edited Book Award.
Staging Buenos Aires
Theater, Society, and Politics in Argentina, 1860–1920

KRISTEN L. McCLEARY

How Theater Expanded the Public Sphere and Contributed to Argentina’s Democratization

“Staging Buenos Aires is a well-researched interdisciplinary work that rigorously examines the multiple facets of urban theater, including popular and middle-class plays, space/place of the theater, audiences, and fire safety. With an impressive bibliography, painstaking research of rare materials and ‘forgotten histories,’ this book is a must-read for scholars; graduate and advanced undergraduate students of Latin American studies, urban studies, and performance studies; and theater historians.”
—Yovanna Pineda, University of Central Florida

Staging Buenos Aires centers theater as a source of historical inquiry to understand how nonelites experienced and shaped a city undergoing dramatic transformations. Commercial theater constituted the core of the city’s public sphere, one in which middle-class playwrights and audiences assumed the leading role. Audiences and critics often disagreed about what was “acceptable” entertainment. Playwrights used theater to promote their own ideas of sociopolitical change, creating a space for working- and middle-class audiences to identify and push back against imposed regulations and attitudes. Cultural production on the city’s stages revealed fissures and social anxieties about the expansion of the political system and of the public sphere as women became increasingly visible in urban spaces. At the same time, theater also gave structure and meaning to these rapid changes, providing the space for the city’s playwrights and complex publics to play a key role in identifying, processing, and shaping the transforming nation. Plays helped audience members work through dramatic shifts in societal norms as urbanization and industrialization resulted in the visible decline of patriarchal social structures, made most visible in the urban sphere.

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Kristen L. McCleary is associate professor of history at James Madison University. Her research explores the intersection between social history and urban culture. She writes about how cultural activities (theater, carnival, film, and music) provide spaces for people to connect and build community, which in turn creates new pathways toward political and social power.

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The Weak and the Powerful
Omar Torrijos, Panama, and the Non-Aligned Movement in the World

JONATHAN C. BROWN

Demonstrates How Public Opinion Can Be Brought to Bear against Powerful Nations

“Jonathan Brown has once again turned to challenge stereotypical understandings of Latin America in the world. This time he explores how Panama’s Omar Torrijos engaged the United States in post-Vietnam, post-Nixon times, lobbying Jimmy Carter to claim control of the Panama Canal for his small and weak nation, furthering the Non-Aligned Movement in a world still shaped by Cold War tensions.”
—John Tutino, Georgetown University

Panama is a country whose geopolitical importance outweighs its size because of the volume of trade that passes the Central American isthmus through the canal. For nearly a century, the United States occupied and controlled the Panama Canal Zone and its shipping operations. In 1999, control was passed to Panama’s Canal Authority. This peaceful transfer was a result of the 1977 Torrijos-Carter Treaties. The Weak and the Powerful studies how a weak country negotiated the Cold War and how a strongman navigated between competing power blocs. Omar Torrijos took power in Panama through a 1968 coup d’état and ruled that country until his death in 1981. He committed his country to the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM), which purported to stand for noninterference and against imperialism. Jonathan C. Brown looks at how Torrijos and the NAM were able to mobilize world opinion of the weak against the powerful to pressure the United States to live up to its democratic and international ideals regarding sovereignty of the canal. The author also demonstrates how world opinion was unable to address the problems of ideologically motivated warfare in neighboring Central American states.

Jonathan C. Brown is professor emeritus in history at the University of Texas at Austin. He has researched and written books on Latin American colonial history, Argentina’s economic expansion of the early nineteenth century, the beginnings of the Mexican oil industry, a brief history of Argentina, and the Cuban Revolution of the 1960s.

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March 14–17 | Seattle, WA

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April 25–27 | Seattle, WA
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American Association for the History of Medicine (AAHM)
May 9–12 | Kansas City, MO
*Online sale only.*

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June 12–15 | Bogotá, Colombia
*Online sale only.*

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