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The Great White Way
Race and the Broadway Musical

WARREN HOFFMAN

The complex role of race as reflected in the footlights of the American Broadway musical

“In this lively and engaging book, Hoffman examines the Broadway musical’s attribution of American utopian visions exclusively to those with white skin.”
—Lary May, University of Minnesota

Broadway musicals are one of America’s most beloved art forms and play to millions of people each year. But what do these shows, which are often thought to be just frothy entertainment, really have to say about our country and who we are as a nation?

The Great White Way is the first book to reveal the racial politics, content, and subtexts that have haunted musicals for almost one hundred years from Show Boat (1927) to The Scottsboro Boys (2011). Musicals mirror their time periods and reflect the political and social issues of their day. Warren Hoffman investigates the thematic content of the Broadway musical and considers how musicals work on a structural level, allowing them to simultaneously present and hide their racial agendas in plain view of their audiences. While the musical is informed by the cultural contributions of African Americans and Jewish immigrants, Hoffman argues that ultimately the history of the American musical is the history of white identity in the United States.

Presented chronologically, The Great White Way shows how perceptions of race altered over time and how musicals dealt with those changes. Hoffman focuses first on shows leading up to and comprising the Golden Age of Broadway (1927-1960s), then turns his attention to the revivals and nostalgic vehicles that defined the final quarter of the twentieth century. He offers entirely new and surprising takes on shows from the American musical canon—Show Boat (1927), Oklahoma! (1943), Annie Get Your Gun (1946), The Music Man (1957), West Side Story (1957), A Chorus Line (1975), and 42nd Street (1980), among others.

New archival research on the creators who produced and wrote these shows, including Leonard Bernstein, Jerome Robbins, Stephen Sondheim, and Edward Kleban, will have theater fans and scholars rethinking forever how they view this popular American entertainment.

WARREN HOFFMAN, PhD, is the author of The Passing Game: Queering Jewish American Culture. He has worked professionally in the theater for more than ten years as a program director, producer, theater critic, and playwright.
Why have American women gone through a feminist revolution but remain enthralled with the old story of romance?

“The Glass Slipper is a fine addition to gender and popular culture studies. Its sound scholarship and engaging, witty style demonstrate that the more things change, the more they too often stay the same.”
—Elayne Rapping, State University of New York at Buffalo

“With her lively and witty style, Weisser argues that our culture is dominated by fundamentally conservative assumptions about romantic love, marriage, and gender in this absorbing and ambitious work.”
—Robyn Warhol, The Ohio State University

Why is the story of romance in books, magazines, and films still aimed at women rather than men? Even after decades of feminism, traditional ideas and messages about romantic love still hold sway and, in our ‘postfeminist’ age, are more popular than ever. Increasingly, we have become a culture of romance: stories of all kinds shape the terms of love. Women, in particular, love a love story.

The Glass Slipper is about the persistence of a familiar Anglo-American love story into the digital age. Comparing influential classics to their current counterparts, Susan Ostrov Weisser relates in highly amusing prose how these stories are shaped and defined by and for women, the main consumers of romantic texts. Following a trajectory that begins with Jane Austen and concludes with Internet dating sites, Weisser shows the many ways in which nineteenth-century views of women's nature and the Victorian idea of romance have survived the feminist critique of the 1970s and continue in new and more ambiguous forms in today's media, with profound implications for women.

More than a book about romance in fiction and media, The Glass Slipper illustrates how traditional stories about women's sexuality, femininity, and romantic love have survived as seemingly protective elements in a more modern, feminist, sexually open society, confusing the picture for women themselves. Weisser compares diverse narratives—historical and contemporary from high literature and 'low' genres—discussing novels by Jane Austen and Charlotte Brontë, Victorian women's magazines, and D. H. Lawrence's Lady Chatterley's Lover; Disney movies; popular Harlequin romance novels; masochistic love in films; pornography and its relationship to romance; and reality TV and Internet ads as romantic stories.

Ultimately, Weisser shows that the narrative versions of the Glass Slipper should be taken as seriously as the Glass Ceiling as we see how these representations of romantic love are meant to inform women's beliefs and goals. In this book, Weisser's goal is not to shatter the Glass Slipper, but to see through it.

SUSAN OSTROV WEISSER is a professor of English at Adelphi University. She is the author of several books, including A Craving Vacancy: Women and Sexual Love in the British Novel 1740-1880, and the editor of Women and Romance: A Reader as well as three scholarly editions of classic novels by Jane Austen and D. H. Lawrence.
American Dictators
Frank Hague, Nucky Johnson, and the Perfection of the Urban Political Machine

STEVEN HART

A comparative biography of two legendary New Jersey political bosses who used their power to influence local, state, and national events

“Hart’s tale of the rise and fall of these legendary bosses is shot through with crisp insights that can only come from decades covering the murky political swamps of Jersey.” —Seamus McGraw, author of The End of Country

One man was tongue-tied and awkward around women, in many ways a mama’s boy at heart, although his reputation for thuggery was well earned. The other was a playboy, full of easy charm and ready jokes, his appetite for high living a matter of public record. One man tolerated gangsters and bootleggers as long as they paid their dues to his organization. The other was effectively a gangster himself, so crooked that he hosted a national gathering of America’s most ruthless killers. One man never drank alcohol. The other, from all evidence, seldom drank anything else.

American Dictators is the dual biography of two of America’s greatest political bosses: Frank Hague and Enoch ‘Nucky’ Johnson. Packed with compelling information and written in an informal, sometimes humorous style, the book shows Hague and Johnson at the peak of their power and the strength of their political machines during the years of Prohibition and the Great Depression. Steven Hart compares how both men used their influence to benefit and punish the local citizenry, amass huge personal fortunes, and sometimes collaborate to trounce their enemies.

Similar in their ruthlessness, both men were very different in appearance and temperament. Hague, the mayor of Jersey City, intimidated presidents and wielded unchallenged power for three decades. He never drank and was happily married to his wife for decades. He also allowed gangsters to run bootlegging and illegal gambling operations as long as they paid protection money. Johnson, the political boss of Atlantic City, and the inspiration for the hit HBO series Boardwalk Empire, presided over corruption as well, but for a shorter period of time. He was notorious for his decadent lifestyle. Essentially a gangster himself, Johnson hosted the infamous Atlantic City conference that fostered the growth of organized crime.

Both Hague and Johnson shrewdly integrated otherwise disenfranchised groups into their machines and gave them a stake in political power. Yet each failed to adapt to changing demographics and circumstances. In American Dictators, Hart paints a balanced portrait of their accomplishments and their failures.

STEVEN HART is a journalist and freelance writer whose work has appeared in the New York Times, the Philadelphia Inquirer, and Salon. He is the author of The Last Three Miles: Politics, Murder, and the Construction of America’s First Superhighway and two novels. He has been a featured guest on National Public Radio’s On the Media and on WNYC’s The Brian Lehrer Show and The Leonard Lopate Show.

A volume in the Rivergate Regionals Collection

“Combining a writer’s eye for detail and a historian’s breadth of perspective, Hart gives life to Jersey’s two most notorious characters—and the magnificently corrupt worlds they created.” —Helene Stapinski, author of Five-Finger Discount: A Crooked Family History

176 pages 7 illustrations 5 ½ x 8 ½ 978-0-8135-6213-1 cloth $23.95T ebook available October 2013
Disaster!
Stories of Destruction and Death in Nineteenth-Century New Jersey
ALAN A. SIEGEL

The unforgettable stories of some of the deadliest natural and human-caused calamities to strike New Jersey

By every measure, Hurricane Sandy was a disaster of epic proportions. The deadliest storm to strike the East Coast since Hurricane Diane in 1955, Sandy killed thirty-seven people and caused more than $30 billion in damages in 2012 to New Jersey alone. But earlier centuries experienced their own catastrophes.

In Disaster!, Alan A. Siegel brings readers face-to-face with twenty-eight of the deadliest natural and human-caused calamities to strike New Jersey between 1821 and 1906, ranging from horrific transportation accidents to uncontrolled fires of a kind rarely seen today. As Siegel writes in his introduction, “None of the stories end well—there are dead and injured by the thousands as well as millions in property lost.” Accounts of these fires, steamboat explosions, shipwrecks, train wrecks, and storms are told in the words of the people who experienced the events firsthand, lending a sense of immediacy to each story.

Disasters bring out the worst as well as the best in people. Siegel focuses on the bravest individuals, including harbor pilot Thomas Freeborn who drowned while attempting to save fifty passengers and crew of a ship foundering on the Jersey Shore, and Warwicke Greene, a fourteen-year-old schoolboy who rescued the injured “like the hero of an epic poem” after a train wreck in the Hackensack Meadows. These and many other stories of forgotten acts of courage in the face of danger will make Disaster! an unforgettable read.

ALAN A. SIEGEL, a lawyer practicing in Chatham, New Jersey, has published numerous books, including Smile: A Picture History of Olympic Park, 1887-1965; Beneath the Starry Flag: New Jersey’s Civil War Experience (both Rutgers University Press); Images of America: Irvington; Images of America: Warren Township; and Somerset County in Vintage Postcards. He has served as president of the Warren and Irvington historical societies.
Fires
- Newark  October 27, 1836
- Cape May City  September 5, 1856
- Cape May City  August 31, 1869
- Cape May City  November 9, 1878
- Newton  September 22, 1873
- Caven Point, Jersey City Refinery Fire  May 10, 1883
- The Standard Oil Fire, Bayonne  July 5, 1900

Steamboat Disasters
- New Jersey, Camden  March 15, 1856
- Isaac Newton, Fort Lee  December 5, 1863

Train Wrecks
- Burlington  August 29, 1855
- Hackensack Meadows  January 15, 1894
- May's Landing  August 11, 1880
- Absecon Island  July 30, 1896
- Bordentown  February 21, 1901
- The Thoroughfare  October 28, 1906

Shipwrecks
- John Minturn, South of Mantoloking  February 15, 1846
- Powhatan, Beach Haven  April 15, 1854
- New Era, Deal Beach  November 13, 1854
- New York, North of Barnegat Inlet  December 20, 1856
- Vizcaya and Cornelius Hargraves, Off Barnegat Bay  October 30, 1890
- Delaware, Barnegat Bay  July 8, 1898

Natural Disasters
- Blizzard of ’88  March 11-14, 1888
- The Great September Gale  September 3, 1821
- Statewide Hurricane  September 10, 1889
- New Brunswick Tornado  June 19, 1835
- Camden Tornado  July 26, 1860
- Camden Tornado  August 3, 1885
- Cherry Hill Tornado  July 13, 1895
Charles Lee
Self Before Country

DOMINICK MAZZAGETTI

Who was Charles Lee: a revolutionary firebrand and spirited American officer, or a military opportunist and traitor to the cause?

“Lee's story is one of those stranger than fiction tales, well told by Mazzagetti. It also illustrates the central role New Jersey played in the American Revolution.”
—Maxine N. Lurie, editor of New Jersey: A History of the Garden State

Dominick Mazzagetti presents an engaging account of the life of Charles Lee, the forgotten man of the American Revolution. History has not been kind to Lee—for good reason. In this compelling biography, Mazzagetti compares Lee's life and attributes to those of George Washington and offers significant observations omitted from previous Lee biographies, including extensive correspondence with British officers in 1777 that reflects Lee's abandonment of the Patriots' cause.

Lee, a British officer, a veteran of the French and Indian War, and a critic of King George III, arrived in New York City in 1773 with an ego that knew no bounds and tolerated no rivals. A highly visible and newsworthy personality, he quickly took up the American cause and encouraged rebellion. As a result of this advocacy and his military skills, Lee was granted a commission as a major general in the Continental Army and soon became second-in-command to George Washington. He helped organize the defense of Boston, designed defenses for New York City, and commanded the force that repelled the British attack on Charleston.

Upon his return to New York in 1776, Lee was considered by some leaders of the Revolution to be an alternative to George Washington, who was in full retreat from British forces. Lee's capture by the British in December 1776 put an end to that possibility. Lee's subsequent release in a prisoner exchange in 1777 and return to an American command led to a dramatic confrontation with Washington on the battlefield at Monmouth, New Jersey, in June 1778. Washington chastised Lee publicly for ordering an unnecessary retreat. Lee suffered the ignominy of a court-martial conviction for this blunder and spent the remaining years to his death in 1782 attacking Washington. Although few doubted Lee's loyalty at the time, his actions at Monmouth fueled speculation that he switched sides during his imprisonment.

A discovery years after his death completed Lee's tale. In 1862, a researcher discovered 'Mr. Lee's Plan,' a detailed strategy for the defeat of the American rebels delivered to British General William Howe while Lee was held in captivity. This discovery sealed Lee's historical record and ended all further discussion of his contributions to the American Revolution. Today, few people even realize that Fort Lee, on the New Jersey side of the George Washington Bridge, was named in his honor.

DOMINICK MAZZAGETTI is the author of True Jersey Blues: The Civil War Correspondence of Lucien A. Voorhees and William Mackenzie Thompson. A lawyer and banker with a fervent interest in American history, he has served as law secretary to the chief justice of the New Jersey Supreme Court.

A volume in the Rivergate Regionals Collection
Rogues, aristocrats, and a future U.S. president. These and other governors are portrayed in this revised and updated edition of the classic reference work on the chief executives of New Jersey. Editors Michael J. Birkner, Donald Linky, and Peter Mickulas present new essays on the governors of the last three decades—Brendan T. Byrne, James Florio, Christine Todd Whitman, Donald DiFrancesco, James McGreevey, Richard Codey, and Jon Corzine. The essays included in the original edition are amended, edited, and corrected as necessary in light of new and relevant scholarship.

The authors of each governor’s life story represent a roster of such notable scholars as Larry Gerlach, Stanley Katz, Arthur Link, and Clement Price, as well as many other experts on New Jersey history and politics. As a result, this revised edition is a thorough and current reference work on the New Jersey governorship—one of the strongest in the nation.

MICHAEL J. BIRKNER is a professor of history and Benjamin Franklin Professor of Liberal Arts at Gettysburg College. He is the author or editor of twelve books, including McCormick of Rutgers: Scholar, Teacher, Public Historian; A Country Place No More: The Transformation of Bergenfield, New Jersey; and Samuel L. Southard: Jeffersonian Whig. He was a contributor to New Jersey: A History of the Garden State (Rutgers University Press).

DONALD LINKY has served as a visiting professor and senior policy fellow at the Eagleton Institute of Politics at Rutgers University and was counsel and director of policy and planning for Governor Brendan T. Byrne. He was the editor of The New Jersey Directory: The Insider Guide to New Jersey Leaders and a monthly columnist for New Jersey Reporter and New Jersey Business.

PETER MICKULAS is an editor at Rutgers University Press and the author of Britton’s Botanical Empire.

THE GOVERNORS OF NEW JERSEY
Biographical Essays

REVISED AND UPDATED

NEW JERSEY HISTORY • POLITICAL SCIENCE
Tainted Earth
Smelters, Public Health, and the Environment
MARIANNE SULLIVAN

Smelting is an industrial process involving the extraction of metal from ore. During this process, impurities in ore—including arsenic, lead, and cadmium—may be released from smoke stacks, contaminating air, water, and soil with toxic-heavy metals.

The problem of public health harm from smelter emissions received little official attention for much of the twentieth century. Though people living near smelters periodically complained that their health was impaired by both sulfur dioxide and heavy metals, for much of the century there was strong deference to industry claims that smelter operations were a nuisance and not a serious threat to health. It was only when the majority of children living near the El Paso, Texas, smelter were discovered to be lead-exposed in the early 1970s that systematic, independent investigation of exposure to heavy metals in smelting communities began. Following El Paso, an even more serious led poisoning epidemic was discovered around the Bunker Hill smelter in northern Idaho. In Tacoma, Washington, a copper smelter exposed children to arsenic—a carcinogenic threat.

Thoroughly grounded in extensive archival research, Tainted Earth traces the rise of public health concerns about nonferrous smelting in the western United States, focusing on three major facilities: Tacoma, Washington; El Paso, Texas; and Bunker Hill, Idaho. Marianne Sullivan documents the response from community residents, public health scientists, the industry, and the government to pollution from smelters as well as the long road to protecting public health and the environment. Placing the environmental and public health aspects of smelting in historical context, the book connects local incidents to national stories on the regulation of airborne toxic metals.

The nonferrous smelting industry has left a toxic legacy in the United States and around the world. Unless these toxic metals are cleaned up, they will persist in the environment and may sicken people—children in particular—for generations to come. The twentieth-century struggle to control smelter pollution shares many similarities with public health battles with such industries as tobacco and asbestos where industry supported science created doubt about harm, and reluctant government regulators did not take decisive action to protect the public’s health.

MARIANNE SULLIVAN is an assistant professor of public health at William Paterson University of New Jersey and served as an epidemiologist for Public Health-Seattle and King County in Washington. She is the author of numerous articles in peer-reviewed public health journals.

A volume in the Critical Issues in Health and Medicine series, edited by Rima D. Apple and Janet Golden
The Business of Private Medical Practice
Doctors, Specialization, and Urban Change in Philadelphia, 1900-1940

JAMES A. SCHAFER

“Schafer's book beautifully explicates the geography of private medical practice in Philadelphia, telling us about the evolution of medicine in the fast-changing city and lending perspective on the conditions that shape the business of medicine in America today.”
—Christopher Crenner, Robert Hudson and Ralph Major Chair, History of Medicine, University of Kansas School of Medicine

Unevenly distributed resources and rising costs have become enduring problems in the American health care system. Health care is more expensive in the United States than in other wealthy nations, and access varies significantly across space and social classes. James Schafer shows that these problems are not inevitable features of modern medicine, but instead reflect the informal organization of health care in a free market system in which profit and demand, rather than social welfare and public health needs, direct the distribution and cost of crucial resources.

*The Business of Private Medical Practice* is a case study of how market forces influenced the office locations and career paths of doctors in one early twentieth-century city, Philadelphia, the birthplace of American medicine. Without financial incentives to locate in poor neighborhoods, Philadelphia doctors instead clustered in central business districts and wealthy suburbs. In order to differentiate their services in a competitive marketplace, they also began to limit their practices to particular specialties, thereby further restricting access to primary care. Such trends worsened with ongoing urbanization.

Illustrated with numerous maps of the Philadelphia neighborhoods he studies, Schafer’s work helps underscore the role of economic self-interest in shaping the geography of private medical practice and the growth of medical specialization in the United States.

JAMES SCHAFER is an assistant professor in the history department at the University of Houston. His work examines the social, political, and economic history of American medicine and health care.

*A volume in the Critical Issues in Health and Medicine series, edited by Rima D. Apple and Janet Golden*
Classrooms and Clinics
Urban Schools and the Protection and Promotion of Child Health, 1870–1930

RICHARD A. MECKEL

Classrooms and Clinics is the first book-length assessment of the development of public school health policies from the late nineteenth century through the early years of the Great Depression. Richard A. Meckel examines the efforts of early twentieth-century child health care advocates and reformers to utilize urban schools to deliver health care services to socioeconomically disadvantaged and medically underserved children in the primary grades. Their goal, Meckel shows, was to improve the children’s health and thereby improve their academic performance.

Meckel situates these efforts within a larger late nineteenth- and early twentieth-century public discourse relating schools and schooling, especially in cities and towns, to child health. He describes and explains how that discourse and the school hygiene movement it inspired served as critical sites for the constructive negotiation of the nature and extent of the public school’s— and by extension the state’s— responsibility for protecting and promoting the physical and mental health of the children for whom it was providing a compulsory education.

Tracing the evolution of that negotiation through four overlapping stages, Meckel shows how, why, and by whom the health of schoolchildren was discursively constructed as a sociomedical problem and charts and explains the changes that construction underwent over time. He also connects the changes in problem construction to the design and implementation of various interventions and services and evaluates how that design and implementation were affected by the response of the civic, parental, professional, educational, public health, and social welfare groups that considered themselves stakeholders and took part in the discourse. And, most significantly, he examines the responses called forth by the question at the heart of the negotiations: what services are necessitated by the state’s and school’s taking responsibility for protecting and promoting the health and physical and mental development of schoolchildren. He concludes that the negotiations resulted both in the partial medicalization of American primary education and in the articulation and adoption of a school health policy that accepted the school’s responsibility for protecting and promoting the health of its students while largely limiting the services called for to the preventive and educational.

RICHARD A. MECKEL is an associate professor of American studies at Brown University. He is the author of Save the Babies: American Public Health Reform and the Prevention of Infant Mortality, 1850-1929 and coeditor of Children and Youth in Sickness and in Health.

A volume in the Critical Issues in Health and Medicine series, edited by Rima D. Apple and Janet Golden

“This book adds an important dimension to our understanding of children’s health and the contested role of the state in providing health services to needy populations. Meckel illuminates the sometimes promising, sometimes disappointing evolution of school health in America during a critical period of growing public institutions, philanthropies, and private entities.”
— Alexandra Minna Stern, University of Michigan

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Laura Hirshbein's analysis of the explosive growth of depression in American society, psychiatry, and pharmacology emphasizes the overlapping roles of the medicalization and commercialization of mental states; the contemporary hyper-consumerist American's habits; the quest of psychiatric communities for professional and scientific security; and the drive, relentless and resourceful, by global pharmaceutical companies for new markets. This book is likely to be regarded eventually as the finest and most in-depth account around of gender and depression.

—Mark S. Micale, University of Illinois

“Hirshbein illustrates how and why depression became a medical, social, and cultural phenomenon. In paying careful attention to the role of gender in shaping the conception and treatment of depression, Hirshbein adds a new component to the literature on and understanding of depression. Highly recommended.”

—Choice

“An interesting, useful, and exceptionally readable review of the evolution of the idea of depression as a diagnosis in the United States.”

—Journal of the American Medical Association

Laura Hirshbein demonstrates that the modern diagnosis of depression is only a recent creation and reveals more about our society and culture than our mental states. In tracing the manner in which depression entered medical diagnostic systems, she has made a major contribution that should force us to question claims about the pervasive nature of this diagnosis.

—Gerald N. Grob, the Henry E. Sigerist Professor of the History of Medicine Emeritus, Rutgers University

“American Melancholy provides new insight into a diagnostic category that has become central not only to modern psychiatry but also to the very definition of ordinary life in late twentieth-century America. Perhaps its greatest contribution lies in Hirshbein's careful attention to the role of gender in shaping the conception and treatment of depression.”

—Nancy Tomes, author of Madness in America

LAURA D. HIRSHBEIN is a practicing clinical psychiatrist and medical historian at the University of Michigan.

A volume in the Critical Issues in Health and Medicine series, edited by Rima D. Apple and Janet Golden

February 2014
Against a backdrop in which the mere mention of ‘asbestos’ strikes fear, Rachel Maines reminds readers of the valuable role asbestos has played as an insulating and fire-stopping material. She shows the complexity of technological solutions through the example of asbestos: how and why a material developed for the purpose of saving lives was withdrawn from the market when its risks were perceived to outweigh its benefits. Anyone wanting to know about the history of asbestos use will find this book to be an excellent reference.” —Sara E. Wermiel, PhD, author of The Fireproof Building: Technology and Public Safety in the Nineteenth-Century American City

For much of the industrial era, asbestos was a widely acclaimed benchmark material. During its heyday, it was manufactured into nearly three thousand different products, most of which protected life and property from heat, flame, and electricity. It was used in virtually every industry—from hotel-keeping to military technology to chemical manufacturing, and was integral to construction from shacks to skyscrapers—in every community across the United States. Beginning in the mid-1960s, however, this once popular mineral began a rapid fall from grace as growing attention to the serious health risks associated with it began to overshadow the protections and benefits it provided.

In this thought-provoking and controversial book, Rachel Maines challenges the recent vilification of asbestos by providing a historical perspective on Americans’ changing perceptions about risk. She suggests that the very success of asbestos and other fire-prevention technologies in containing deadly blazes has led to a sort of historical amnesia about the very risks they were supposed to reduce. 

Asbestos and Fire is not only the most thoroughly researched and balanced look at the history of asbestos, it is also an important contribution to a larger debate that considers how the risks of technological solutions should be evaluated. As technology offers us ever-increasing opportunities to protect and prevent, Maines urges that learning to accept and effectively address the unintended consequences of technological innovations is a growing part of our collective responsibility.

RACHEL MAINES, PhD, is a visiting scientist in the Cornell University School of Electrical and Computer Engineering. She is the author of The Technology of Orgasm: Hysteria, the Vibrator, and Women’s Sexual Satisfaction and Hedonizing Technologies: Pathways to Pleasure in Hobbies and Leisure.
The Star of Bethlehem
The Legacy of the Magi

MICHAEL R. MOLNAR

Over 8,000 copies sold in cloth

“[A] fresh theory providing new scientific support for the biblical story, making the ‘star of wonder’ a little less of a mystery.”
—U.S. News and World Report

“Michael Molnar writes with great style, clarity and originality. . . . If you are one of the many people interested in the Star then you should buy [this] book!”
—Science & Christian Belief

“This book has stunning new insight and approach, which finally gives a confident answer to a question that has fascinated all Christians through the ages.”
—Bradley E. Schaefer, Yale University

“In support of an original interpretation of the Star, Molnar has assembled an impressive range of astrological and numismatic data, much of which will be new even to expert readers.”
—Virginia Trimble, author of Visit to a Small Universe

MICHAEL R. MOLNAR, an astronomer, is retired from the Physics and Astronomy Department at Rutgers University. Currently, he is making violins.
“Killer Fat is a significant contribution to the project of skepticism about the so-called ‘obesity’ epidemic and a compassionate exploration of the burdens it imposes on individuals’ lives.”
— Marilyn Wann, author of FAT!SO?

“Boero’s analysis provides an insightful perspective on the framing of the obesity epidemic. Her book is an engaging and fascinating read, as well as a vital contribution to medical sociology.”
— Jennifer Fosket, McGill University

“Boero weighs in powerfully for healthy sanity in the ‘war against obesity.’ Killer Fat clarifies complex science, punitive clinical care, and the relentless screech of the media with aplomb. Brava!”
— Adele E. Clarke, University of California, San Francisco

“This book is both an enjoyable read and incredibly informative. Written in a style that is both authoritative and accessible, Natalie Boero’s Killer Fat is a must-read for anyone seeking to understand the so-called ‘Obesity Epidemic.’”
— Kjerstin Gruys, author of Mirror, Mirror Off the Wall

“Boero . . . deals with an accusation of the media for the spread and perpetuation of the ‘obesity panic,’ . . . the role of medical intervention, especially bariatric surgery, for obese individuals, and of government activities in harnessing this ‘postmodern epidemic’ and in the now open warfare against obesity waged by public health officials. Recommended.”
— Choice

Killer Fat examines how and why obesity emerged as a major public health concern and national obsession in recent years. Using primary sources and in-depth interviews, Natalie Boero enters the world of bariatric surgeries, Weight Watchers, and Overeaters Anonymous to show how common expectations of what bodies are supposed to look like help to determine what sorts of interventions and policies are considered urgent in containing this new kind of disease.

Boero argues that obesity, like the traditional epidemics of biological contagion and mass death, now incites panic, a doomsday scenario that must be confronted in a struggle for social stability. The “war” on obesity, she concludes, is a form of social control. Killer Fat ultimately offers an alternate framing of the nation’s obesity problem based on the insights of the “Health at Every Size” movement.

NATALIE BOERO is an associate professor of sociology at San Jose State University. She is the author of “Bypassing Blame: Bariatric Surgery and the Case of Biomedical Failure” in Biomedicalization: Technoscience, Health, and Illness in U.S. Biomedicine and “Fat Kids, Working Moms, and the ‘Epidemic of Obesity’: Race, Class, and Mother-Blame,” in The Fat Studies Reader.
“Amigas y Amantes makes a significant contribution to understanding the lives of ‘sexually nonconforming’ Latina women. Acosta compellingly reveals the life experiences of these women, the challenges they face, and the way they handle these challenges.”
—Anita Garey, author of Weaving Work and Motherhood

Amigas y Amantes explores the experiences of sexually nonconforming Latinas in the creation and maintenance of families. It is based on forty-two in-depth ethnographic interviews with women who identify as lesbian, bisexual, or queer (LBQ). Additionally, it draws from fourteen months of participant observation at LBQ Latina events that Katie L. Acosta conducted in 2007 and 2008 in a major northeast city. With this data, Acosta examines how LBQ Latinas manage loving relationships with the families who raised them, and with their partners, their children, and their friends.

Acosta provides a gendered analysis of how sexually nonconforming Latinas negotiate cultural expectations, combat compulsory heterosexuality, and reconcile tensions with their families. She offers a new way of thinking about the emotion work involved in everyday lives, which highlights the informal, sometimes invisible, labor required in preserving family ties. Acosta contends that the work LBQ Latinas take on to preserve connections with biological families, lovers, and children results in a unique way of doing family.

Paying particular attention to the negotiations that LBQ Latinas undertake in an effort to maintain familial order, Amigas y Amantes explores how they understand femininity, how they negotiate their religious faiths, how they face the unique challenges of being in interracial/interethnic relationships, and how they raise their children while integrating their families of origin.

KATIE L. ACOSTA is an assistant professor of sociology at Georgia State University.

A volume in the Families in Focus series, edited by Anita Ilta Garey, Naomi R. Gerstel, Karen V. Hansen, Rosanna Hertz, Margaret K. Nelson

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Queering Marriage
Challenging Family Formation in the United States
KATRINA KIMPORT

“Queering Marriage is a careful, fair, and compelling analysis of how same-sex couples navigate the multiple and often conflicting meanings of marriage; impressive, tidy, and accessible, it will also appeal to an audience unfamiliar with sociology.”
—Jaye Cee Whitehead, author of The Nuptial Deal: Same-Sex Marriage and Neo-Liberal Governance

Over four thousand gay and lesbian couples married in the city of San Francisco in 2004. The first large-scale occurrence of legal same-sex marriage, these unions galvanized a movement and reignited the debate about whether same-sex marriage, as some hope, challenges heterosexual privilege or, as others fear, preserves that privilege by assimilating queer couples.

In Queering Marriage, Katrina Kimport uses in-depth interviews with participants in the San Francisco weddings to argue that same-sex marriage cannot be understood as simply entrenching or contesting heterosexual privilege. Instead, she contends, these new legally sanctioned relationships can both reinforce as well as disrupt the association of marriage and heterosexuality.

During her deeply personal conversations with same-sex spouses, Kimport learned that the majority of respondents did characterize their marriages as an opportunity to contest heterosexual privilege. Yet, in a seeming contradiction, nearly as many also cited their desire for access to the normative benefits of matrimony, including social recognition and legal rights. Kimport’s research revealed that the pattern of ascribing meaning to marriage varied by parenthood status and, in turn, by gender. Lesbian parents were more likely to embrace normative meanings for their unions; those who are not parents were more likely to define their relationships as attempts to contest dominant understandings of marriage.

By posing the question—can queers ‘queer’ marriage?—Kimport provides a nuanced, accessible, and theoretically grounded framework for understanding the powerful effect of heterosexual expectations on both sexual and social categories.

KATRINA KIMPORT is an assistant professor at the University of California, San Francisco. She is the coauthor of Digitally Enabled Social Change.

A volume in the Families in Focus series, edited by Anita Iltu Garey, Naomi R. Gerstel, Karen V. Hansen, Rosanna Hertz, Margaret K. Nelson
Daughters and Granddaughters of Farmworkers
Emerging from the Long Shadow of Farm Labor

BARBARA WELLS

“This important, well-written, and accessible book adds substantially to our knowledge of a group that is much misunderstood, sometimes even maligned, and little-studied: American born women who are the children of Mexican immigrant farm workers.”
—Ann R. Tickamyer, Pennsylvania State University

In Daughters and Granddaughters of Farmworkers, Barbara Wells examines the work and family lives of Mexican American women in a community near the U.S.-Mexican border in California’s Imperial County. Decades earlier, their Mexican parents and grandparents had made the momentous decision to migrate to the United States as farmworkers. This book explores how that decision has worked out for these second- and third-generation Mexican Americans.

Wells provides stories of the struggles, triumphs, and everyday experiences of these women. She analyzes their narratives on a broad canvas that includes the social structures that create the barriers, constraints, and opportunities that have shaped their lives. The women have constructed far more settled lives than the immigrant generation that followed the crops, but many struggle to provide adequately for their families.

These women aspire to achieve the middle-class lives of the American Dream. But upward mobility is an elusive goal. The realities of life in a rural, agricultural border community strictly limit social mobility for these descendants of immigrant farm laborers. Reliance on family networks is a vital strategy for meeting the economic challenges they encounter. Well illustrates clearly the ways in which the ‘long shadow’ of farm work continues to permeate the lives and prospects of these women and their families.

BARBARA WELLS is a professor of sociology and Vice President and Dean of Maryville College. She is a coauthor of the award-winning textbook Diversity in Families.

A volume in the Families in Focus series, edited by Anita Ilta Garey, Naomi R. Gerstel, Karen V. Hansen, Rosanna Hertz, Margaret K. Nelson
Electronic Iran
The Cultural Politics of an Online Evolution

NIKI AKHAVAN

“Using a highly original and unique approach, Akhavan charts unknown territories in the vast Iranian blogosphere ranging from state to dissident voices.”
—Negar Mottahedeh, author of Displaced Allegories: Post-Revolutionary Iranian Cinema

Electronic Iran introduces the concept of the Iranian Internet, a framework that captures interlinked, transnational networks of virtual and offline spaces.

Taking her cues from early Internet ethnographies that stress the importance of treating the Internet as both a site and product of cultural production, accounts in media studies that highlight the continuities between old and new media, and a range of works that have made critical interventions in the field of Iranian studies, Niki Akhavan traces key developments and confronts conventional wisdom about digital media in general, and contemporary Iranian culture and politics in particular.

Akhavan focuses largely on the years between 1998 and 2012 to reveal a diverse and combative virtual landscape where both geographically and ideologically dispersed individuals and groups deployed Internet technologies to variously construct, defend, and challenge narratives of Iranian national identity, society, and politics. While it tempers celebratory claims that have dominated assessments of the Iranian Internet, Electronic Iran is ultimately optimistic in its outlook. As it exposes and assesses overlooked aspects of the Iranian Internet, the book sketches a more complete map of its dynamic landscape, and suggests that the transformative powers of digital media can only be developed and understood if attention is paid to both the specificities of new technologies as well as the local and transnational contexts in which they appear.

NIKI AKHAVAN is an assistant professor of media studies at the Catholic University of America.

A volume in the New Directions in International Studies series, edited by Patrice Petro
“Prime offers an analysis of the work of Hollywood exiles in Western Europe with extraordinary depth and clarity. It is a significant contribution to the field.”
—Rebecca M. Schreiber, author of Cold War Exiles in Mexico: U.S. Dissidents and the Culture of Critical Resistance

Rebecca Prime documents the untold story of the American directors, screenwriters, and actors who exiled themselves to Europe as a result of the Hollywood blacklist. During the 1950s and 1960s, these Hollywood émigrés directed, wrote, or starred in almost one hundred European productions, their contributions ranging from crime film masterpieces like Du rififi chez les hommes (1955, Jules Dassin, director) to international blockbusters like The Bridge on the River Kwai (1957, Carl Foreman and Michael Wilson, screenwriters) and acclaimed art films like The Servant (1963, Joseph Losey, director).

At once a lively portrait of a lesser-known American ‘lost generation’ and an examination of an important transitional moment in European cinema, the book offers a compelling argument for the significance of the blacklisted émigrés to our understanding of postwar American and European cinema and Cold War relations. Prime provides detailed accounts of the production and reception of their European films that clarify the ambivalence with which Hollywood was regarded within postwar European culture. Drawing upon extensive archival research, including previously classified material, Hollywood Exiles in Europe suggests the need to rethink our understanding of the Hollywood blacklist as a purely domestic phenomenon. By shedding new light on European cinema’s changing relationship with Hollywood, the book illuminates the postwar shift from national to transnational cinema.

REBECCA PRIME is the Libman Professor of the Humanities and an assistant professor of art at Hood College. Her work has appeared in the edited volumes Un-American Hollywood: Politics and Film in the Blacklist Era (Rutgers University Press); World Film Locations: Paris; and World Film Locations: Marseilles.

A volume in the New Directions in International Studies series, edited by Patrice Petro
“With ingenuity, nuance, and an eye for visual detail, Coon’s timely and significant book explores the tendency of recent media narratives to question the sanitized, simplistic myth of suburbia.”
—Steve Macek, North Central College

In recent years, the media landscape in the United States has followed a pattern similar to that of the physical landscape by becoming increasingly suburbanized. Although it is a far cry from reality, the fantasy of a perfect suburban life still exists in the collective imagination of millions of Americans. This dream of suburban perfection is built around a variety of such ideologically conservative values and ideals as the importance of tradition, the centrality of the nuclear family, the desire for a community of like-minded neighbors, the need for clearly defined gender roles, and the belief that with hard work and determination, anyone can succeed.

Building on the relationships between suburban life and American identity, Look Closer examines and interprets recent narratives that challenge the suburban ideal to reveal how directors and producers are mobilizing the spaces of suburbia to tell new kinds of stories about America. David R. Coon argues that the myth of suburban perfection, popularized by postwar sitcoms and advertisements, continues to symbolize a range of intensely debated issues related to tradition, family, gender, race, and citizenship. Through close examinations of such films as American Beauty, The Truman Show, and Mr. & Mrs. Smith as well as such television series as Desperate Housewives, Weeds, and Big Love, the book demonstrates how suburbia is used to critique the ideologies that underpin the suburban American Dream.

DAVID R. COON is an assistant professor of media studies at the University of Washington Tacoma.
Television in the Age of Radio
Modernity, Imagination, and the Making of a Medium

PHILIP W. SEWELL

““This brilliant example of a materialist analysis of technology shows how the fevered fantasies of television’s early years were ‘acts of invention as real as soldering together circuits in a lab.’””
—Thomas Streeter, author of The Net Effect: Romanticism, Capitalism, and the Internet

“With valuable scholarship, Sewell provides a useful corrective to the existing account of the prehistory of television and illuminates the formative processes of television as a medium.”
—Alexander Russo, author of Points on the Dial: Golden Age Radio beyond the Networks

Television existed for a long time before it became commonplace in American homes. Even as cars, jazz, film, and radio heralded the modern age, television haunted the modern imagination. During the 1920s and 1930s, U.S. television was a topic of conversation and speculation. Was it technically feasible? Could it be commercially viable? What would it look like? How might it serve the public interest? And what was its place in the modern future? These questions were not just asked by the American public, but also posed by the people intimately involved in television’s creation. Their answers may have been self-serving, but they were also statements of aspiration. Idealistic imaginations of the medium and its impact on social relations became a de facto plan for moving beyond film and radio into a new era.

In Television in the Age of Radio, Philip Sewell offers a unique account of how television came to be—not just from technical innovations or institutional struggles, but from cultural concerns that were central to the rise of industrial modernity. This book provides sustained investigations of the values of early television amateurs and enthusiasts, the fervors and worries about competing technologies, and the ambitions for programming that together helped mold the medium.

Sewell presents a major revision of the history of television, telling us about the nature of new media and how hopes for the future pull together diverse perspectives that shape technologies, industries, and audiences.

PHILIP SEWELL is an assistant professor in the Program in Film and Media Studies at Washington University in St. Louis.
This collection looks at the post-network television industry’s heady experiments with new forms of interactive storytelling—or wired TV—that took place from 2005 to 2010 as the networks responded to the introduction of broadband into the majority of homes and the proliferation of popular, participatory Web 2.0 companies like Facebook, YouTube, and Twitter.

Contributors address a wide range of issues, from the networks’ sporadic efforts to engage fans using transmedia storytelling to the production inefficiencies that continue to dog network television to the impact of multimedia convergence and multinational, corporate conglomerate on entrepreneurial creativity. With essays from such top scholars as Henry Jenkins, John T. Caldwell, and Jonathan Gray and from new and exciting voices emerging in this field, *Wired TV* elucidates the myriad new digital threats and the equal number of digital opportunities that have become part and parcel of today’s post-network era. Readers will quickly recognize the familiar television franchises on which the contributors focus—including *Lost*, *The Office*, *Entourage*, *Battlestar Galactica*, *The L Word*, and *Heroes*—in order to reveal their impact on an industry in transition.

While it is not easy for vast bureaucracies to change course, executives from key network divisions engaged in an unprecedented period of innovation and collaboration with four important groups: members of the Hollywood creative community who were keen to rethink television distribution for the digital era; members of the Madison Avenue advertising community who were eager to rethink ad-supported content; and fans who were enthusiastic and willing to use social media story extensions to proselytize on behalf of a favorite network series.

In the aftermath of the lengthy Writers Guild of America strike of 2007/2008, the networks clamped down on such collaborations and began to reclaim control over their operations, locking themselves back into an aging system of interconnected bureaucracies, entrenched hierarchies, and traditional partners from the past.

Contributors: Vincent Brook, Will Brooker, John T. Caldwell, M. J. Clarke, Jonathan Gray, Derek Johnson, Robert V. Kozinets, Denise Mann, Katynka Z. Martínez, and Julie Levin Russo

DENISE MANN is an associate professor and head of the UCLA Producer’s Program, University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author or editor of numerous books and articles on the film and television industries, including *Hollywood Independents: The Postwar Takeover* and *Private Screenings: Television and the Female Consumer*.
“Lewis provides a rigorous examination of hate crimes as a cultural product. The first analysis of its kind, the author has eloquently captured hate crimes as a seemingly impossible marriage of an oppressive criminal justice system and an aspiring civil rights movement. A deeply valuable contribution.”

—Michael J. Coyle, California State University, Chico

Why do we know every gory crime scene detail about such victims as Matthew Shepard and James Byrd Jr. and yet almost nothing about the vast majority of other hate crime victims? Now that federal anti-hate-crimes laws have been passed, why has the number of these crimes not declined significantly? To answer such questions, Clara S. Lewis challenges us to reconsider our understanding of hate crimes. In doing so, she raises startling issues about the trajectory of civil and minority rights.

Tough on Hate? is the first book to examine the cultural politics of hate crimes both within and beyond the law. Drawing on a wide range of sources—including personal interviews, unarchived documents, television news broadcasts, legislative debates, and presidential speeches—the book calls attention to a disturbing irony: the sympathetic attention paid to certain shocking hate crime murders further legitimizes an already pervasive unwillingness to act on the urgent civil rights issues of our time. Worse still, it reveals the widespread acceptance of ideas about difference, tolerance, and crime that work against future progress on behalf of historically marginalized communities.

CLARA S. LEWIS is a language lecturer in the Department of Expository Writing at New York University.

A volume in the Critical Issues in Crime and Society series, edited by Raymond J. Michalowski
Why We Harm

LOIS PRESSER

“Intelligent, creative and theoretically sophisticated. Presser succeeds in developing an understanding of the ‘shared cultural logics’ that precede and promote harm.” —Ron Kramer, Western Michigan University

Criminologists are primarily concerned with the analysis of actions that violate existing laws. But a growing number have begun analyzing crimes as actions that inflict harm, regardless of the applicability of legal sanctions. Even as they question standard definitions of crime as law-breaking, scholars of crime have few theoretical frameworks with which to understand the etiology of harmful action.

In Why We Harm, Lois Presser scrutinizes accounts of acts as diverse as genocide, environmental degradation, war, torture, terrorism, homicide, rape, and meat-eating in order to develop an original theoretical framework with which to consider harmful actions and their causes. In doing so, this timely book presents a general theory of harm, revealing the commonalities between actions that impose suffering and cause destruction.

Harm is built on stories in which the targets of harm are reduced to one-dimensional characters—sometimes a dangerous foe, sometimes much more benign, but still a projection of our own concerns and interests. In our stories of harm, we are licensed to do the harmful deed and, at the same time, are powerless to act differently. Chapter by chapter, Presser examines statements made by perpetrators of a wide variety of harmful actions. Appearing vastly different from one another at first glance, Presser identifies the logics they share that motivate, legitimize, and sustain them. From that point, she maps out strategies for reducing harm.

LOIS PRESSER is an associate professor of sociology at the University of Tennessee and the author of Been a Heavy Life: Stories of Violent Men.

A volume in the Critical Issues in Crime and Society series, edited by Raymond J. Michalowski
Jewish on Their Own Terms
How Intermarried Couples are Changing American Judaism

JENNIFER A. THOMPSON

“Thompson’s book is an original and powerfully suggestive intervention in the scholarship on intermarriage. Her argument is fresh and sound. She is particularly persuasive presenting her compelling ethnographic material.”
—Deborah Dash Moore, Frederick G. L. Huetwell Professor of History, University of Michigan

Over half of all American Jewish children are being raised by intermarried parents. This demographic group will have a tremendous impact on American Judaism as it is lived and practiced in the coming decades. To date, however, in both academic studies about Judaism and in the popular imagination, such children and their parents remain marginal.

Jennifer A. Thompson takes a different approach. In Jewish on Their Own Terms, she tells the stories of intermarried couples, the rabbis and other Jewish educators who work with them, and the conflicting public conversations about intermarriage among American Jews. Thompson notes that in the dominant Jewish cultural narrative, intermarriage symbolizes individualism and assimilation. Talking about intermarriage allows American Jews to discuss their anxieties about remaining distinctively Jewish despite their success in assimilating into American culture.

In contrast, Thompson uses ethnography to describe the compelling concerns of all of these parties and places their anxieties firmly within the context of American religious culture and morality. She explains how American and traditional Jewish gender roles converge to put non-Jewish women in charge of raising Jewish children. Interfaith couples are like other Americans in often harboring contradictory notions of individual autonomy, universal religious truths, and obligations to family and history.

Focusing on the lived experiences of these families, Jewish on Their Own Terms provides a complex and insightful portrait of intermarried couples and the new forms of American Judaism that they are constructing.

JENNIFER A. THOMPSON is the Maurice Amado Assistant Professor of Applied Jewish Ethics and Civic Engagement in the Jewish Studies Interdisciplinary Program at California State University, Northridge.
In Yiddish, shtetl simply means 'town.' How does such an unassuming word come to loom so large in modern Jewish culture, with a proliferation of uses and connotations? By examining the meaning of shtetl, Jeffrey Shandler asks how Jewish life in provincial towns in Eastern Europe has become the subject of extensive creativity, memory, and scholarship from the early modern era in European history to the present.

In the post-Holocaust era, the shtetl looms large in public culture as the epitome of a bygone traditional Jewish communal life. People now encounter the Jewish history of these towns through an array of cultural practices, including fiction, documentary photography, film, memoirs, art, heritage tourism, and political activism. At the same time, the shtetl attracts growing scholarly interest, as historians, social scientists, literary critics, and others seek to understand both the complex reality of life in provincial towns and the nature of its wide-ranging remembrance.

Shtetl: A Vernacular Intellectual History traces the trajectory of writing about these towns—by Jews and non-Jews, residents and visitors, researchers, novelists, memoirists, journalists and others—to demonstrate how the Yiddish word for 'town' emerged as a key word in Jewish culture and studies. Shandler proposes that the intellectual history of the shtetl is best approached as an exemplar of engaging Jewish vernacularity, and that the variable nature of this engagement, far from being a drawback, is central to the subject's enduring interest.
“Well-written and informative, this book is an incredibly in-depth, sensitive look into the worlds of Filipino lives, families, and religious practices. Using multiple sources of data, Cherry puts Filipino religious lives in context, helping us get up-close views that bring social patterns to life.”
—Michael O. Emerson, Rice University

Stephen M. Cherry draws upon a rich set of ethnographic and survey data, collected over a six-year period, to explore the roles that Catholicism and family play in shaping Filipino American community life. From the planning and construction of community centers, to volunteering at health fairs or protesting against abortion, this book illustrates the powerful ways these forces structure and animate not only how first-generation Filipino Americans think and feel about their community, but how they are compelled to engage it over issues deemed important to the sanctity of the family.

Revealing more than intimate accounts of Filipino American lives, Cherry offers a glimpse of the often hidden but vital relationship between religion and community in the lives of new immigrants, and allows speculation on the broader impact of Filipino immigration on the nation. The Filipino American community is the second-largest immigrant community in the United States, and the Philippines is the second-largest source of Catholic immigration to this country. This ground-breaking study outlines how first-generation Filipino Americans have the potential to reshape American Catholicism and are already having an impact on American civic life through the engagement of their faith.

STEPHEN M. CHERRY is an assistant professor of sociology at the University of Houston-Clear Lake. He is coeditor of *Global Religious Movements across Borders: Sacred Service*.
“Addressing religion, spirituality and sanctity in Chicana/o culture, Borderlands Saints makes a significant contribution to a burgeoning area that demands critical attention.”
—Carl Gutiérrez-Jones, University of California, Santa Barbara

In Borderlands Saints, Desirée A. Martín examines the rise and fall of popular saints and saint-like figures in the borderlands of the United States and Mexico. Focusing specifically on Teresa Urrea (La Santa de Cabora), Pancho Villa, César Chávez, Subcomandante Marcos, and Santa Muerte, she traces the intersections of these figures, their devotees, artistic representations, and dominant institutions with an eye for the ways in which such unofficial saints mirror traditional spiritual practices and serve specific cultural needs.

Popular spirituality of this kind engages the use and exchange of relics, faith healing, pilgrimages, and spirit possession, exemplifying the contradictions between high and popular culture, human and divine, and secular and sacred. Martín focuses upon a wide range of Mexican and Chicano/a cultural works drawn from the nineteenth century to the present, covering such diverse genres as the novel, the communiqué, drama, the essay or crónica, film, and contemporary digital media. She argues that spiritual practice is often represented as narrative, while narrative—whether literary, historical, visual, or oral—may modify or even function as devotional practice.

DESIRÉE A. MARTÍN is an assistant professor of English at the University of California, Davis.

A volume in the Latinidad: Transnational Cultures in the United States series, edited by Lisa Magaña, Douglas Massey, Catherine Ramírez, Néstor Rodríguez, and Claudia Sadowski-Smith
Anthropologist Diane E. King has written about everyday life in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq, which covers much of the area long known as Iraqi Kurdistan. Following the overthrow of Saddam Hussein’s Ba’thist Iraqi government by the United States and its allies in 2003, Kurdistan became a recognized part of the federal Iraqi system. The Region is now integrated through technology, media, and migration to the rest of the world.

Focusing on household life in Kurdistan’s towns and villages, King explores the ways that residents connect socially, particularly through patron-client relationships and as people belonging to gendered categories. She emphasizes that patrilineages (male ancestral lines) seem well adapted to the Middle Eastern modern stage and vice versa. The idea of patrilineal descent influences the meaning of refuge-seeking and migration as well as how identity and place are understood, how women and men interact, and how “politicking” is conducted.

In the new Kurdistan, old values may be maintained, reformulated, or questioned. King offers a sensitive interpretation of the challenges resulting from the intersection of tradition with modernity. Honor killings still occur when males believe their female relatives have dishonored their families, and female genital cutting endures. Yet, this is a region where modern technology has spread and seemingly everyone has a mobile phone. Households may have a startling combination of illiterate older women and educated young women. New ideas about citizenship coexist with older forms of patronage.

King is one of the very few scholars who conducted research in Iraq under extremely difficult conditions during the Saddam Hussein regime. How she was able to work in the midst of danger and in the wake of genocide is woven throughout the stories she tells. Kurdistan on the Global Stage serves as a lesson in field research as well as a valuable ethnography.

DIANE E. KING is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Kentucky. She edited Middle Eastern Belongings and has conducted ethnographic fieldwork in the Kurdistan region since 1995.
Hidden Genocides
Power, Knowledge, Memory

Edited By ALEXANDER LABAN HINTON, THOMAS LA POINTE, AND DOUGLAS IRVIN-ERICKSON

Why are some genocides prominently remembered while others are ignored, hidden, or denied? Consider the Turkish campaign denying the Armenian genocide, followed by the Armenian movement to recognize the violence. Similar movements are building to acknowledge other genocides that have long remained out of sight in the media, such as those against the Circassians, Greeks, Assyrians, the indigenous peoples in the Americas and Australia, and the violence that was the precursor to and the aftermath of the Holocaust.

The contributors to this collection look at these cases and others from a variety of perspectives. These essays cover the extent to which our biases, our ways of knowing, our patterns of definition, our assumptions about truth, and our processes of remembering and forgetting as well as the characteristics of generational transmission, the structures of power and state ideology, and diaspora have played a role in hiding some events and not others. Noteworthy among the collection’s coverage is whether the trade in African slaves was a form of genocide and a discussion not only of Hutus brutalizing Tutsi victims in Rwanda, but of the execution of moderate Hutus as well.

Hidden Genocides is a significant contribution in terms of both descriptive narratives and interpretations to the emerging subfield of critical genocide studies.


ALEXANDER LABAN HINTON is the director of the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights and an associate professor of anthropology and global affairs at Rutgers University, Newark. He is the author of the award-winning Why Did They Kill?: Cambodia in the Shadow of Genocide and six edited collections.

THOMAS LA POINTE is a member of the Center for Peace, Justice, and Reconciliation and an assistant professor of literature and composition at Bergen Community College. He has taught at the Shanghai International Studies University, China, and served as a journalist at the Institute for Central American Studies, Costa Rica.

DOUGLAS IRVIN-ERICKSON is an affiliate of the Center for the Study of Genocide, Conflict Resolution, and Human Rights at Rutgers University, Newark.

Ethnic Historians and the Mainstream

Shaping America’s Immigration Story

Edited By ALAN M. KRAUT and DAVID A. GERBER

Reflections on the most American of experiences—newcomers making a home in a strange place full of opportunity and hope, desperation and frustration

Do historians “write their biographies” with the subjects they choose to address in their research? In this collection, editors Alan M. Kraut and David A. Gerber compiled eleven original essays by historians whose own ethnic backgrounds shaped the choices they have made about their own research and writing as scholars. These authors, historians of American immigration and ethnicity, revisited family and personal experiences and reflect on how their lives helped shape their later scholarly pursuits, at times inspiring specific questions they asked of the nation’s immigrant past. They address issues of diversity, multiculturalism, and assimilation in academia, in the discipline of history, and in society at large. Most have been pioneers not only in their respective fields, but also in representing their ethnic group within American academia. Some of the women in the group were in the vanguard of gender diversity in the discipline of history as well as on the faculties of the institutions where they have taught.

The authors in this collection represent a wide array of backgrounds, spanning Europe, Africa, Asia, the Middle East, and Latin America. What they have in common is their passionate engagement with the making of social and personal identities and with finding a voice to explain their personal stories in public terms.


ALAN M. KRAUT is University Professor of History at American University, a nonresident Fellow of the Migration Policy Institute, and president of the Organization of American Historians. He is the author of The Huddled Masses: The Immigrant in American Society, 1880-1921; Silent Travelers: Germs, Genes, and the “Immigrant Menace”; Goldberger’s War: The Life and Work of a Public Health Crusader; and coauthor of Covenant of Care: Newark Beth Israel and the Jewish Hospital in America (Rutgers University Press).

DAVID A. GERBER is Distinguished Professor of History Emeritus at the University of Buffalo where he continues to teach and assist in directing the Center for Disability Studies. He is the author of American Immigration: A Very Short Introduction and Authors of Their Lives: The Personal Correspondence of British Immigrants to North America in the Nineteenth Century.
Life on the Malecón
Children and Youth on the Streets of Santo Domingo

JON M. WOLSETH

“The stories Wolseth tells are compelling. The children’s voices challenge readers to rethink one-sided views about poor street youth and encourage them to adopt more nuanced approaches to poor kids’ choices. Brilliant work!”
—Martha K. Huggins, Tulane University

Life on the Malecón is a narrative ethnography of the lives of street children and youth living in Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic, and the non-governmental organizations that provide social services for them. Writing from the perspective of an anthropologist working as a street educator with a child welfare organization, Jon M. Wolseth follows the intersecting lives of children, the institutions they come into contact with, and the relationships they have with each other, their families, and organization workers.

Often socioeconomic conditions push these children to move from their homes to the streets, but sometimes they themselves may choose the allure of the perceived freedoms and opportunities that street life has to offer. What they find, instead, is violence, disease, and exploitation—the daily reality through which they learn to maneuver and survive. Wolseth describes the stresses, rewards, and failures of the organizations and educators who devote their resources to working with this population.

The portrait of Santo Domingo’s street children and youth population that emerges is of a diverse community with variations that may be partly related to skin color, gender, and class. The conditions for these youth are changing as the economy of the Dominican Republic changes. Although the children at the core of this book live and sleep on avenues and plazas and in abandoned city buildings, they are not necessarily glue- and solvent-sniffing beggars or petty thieves on the margins of society. Instead, they hold a key position in the service sector of an economy centered on tourism.

Life on the Malecón offers a window into the complex relationships children and youth construct in the course of mapping out their social environment. Using a child-centered approach, Wolseth focuses on the social lives of the children by relating the stories that they themselves tell as well as the activities he observes.

JON M. WOLSETH, PhD, has published widely on the intersection of violence, marginality, and adolescence in Latin America, including Jesus and the Gang: Youth Violence and Christianity in Urban Honduras.

A volume in the Rutgers Series in Childhood Studies, edited by Myra Bluebond-Langner
“With a transatlantic approach that yields fascinating results, Layne Craig’s When Sex Changed adds nuance, new insight, and fresh ideas to previous historical and literary studies of the birth control movement.”
—Beth Widmaier Capo, author of Textual Contraception: Birth Control and Modern American Fiction

In When Sex Changed, Layne Parish Craig analyzes the ways literary texts responded to the political, economic, sexual, and social values put forward by the birth control movements of the 1910s to the 1930s in the United States and Great Britain.

Discussion of contraception and related topics (including feminism, religion, and eugenics) changed the way that writers depicted women, marriage, and family life. Tracing this shift, Craig compares disparate responses to the birth control controversy, from early skepticism by mainstream feminists, reflected in Charlotte Perkins Gilman’s Herland, to concern about the movement’s race and class implications suggested in Nella Larsen’s Quicksand, to enthusiastic speculation about contraception’s political implications, as in Virginia Woolf’s Three Guineas.

While these texts emphasized birth control’s potential to transform marriage and family life and emancipate women from the “slavery” of constant childbearing, birth control advocates also used less-than-liberatory language that excluded the poor, the mentally ill, non-whites, and others. Ultimately, Craig argues, the debates that began in these early political and literary texts—texts that document both the birth control movement’s idealism and its exclusionary rhetoric—helped shape the complex legacy of family planning and women’s rights with which the United States and the United Kingdom still struggle.

LAYNE PARISH CRAIG is an instructor in the English department at Texas Christian University.

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Birth Control Politics and Literature between the World Wars
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Black Resonance

Iconic Women Singers and African American Literature

EMILY J. LORDI

“Black Resonance is a tremendously innovative, illuminating, and eloquent study that promises to break important new ground in twentieth-century African American literature and literary criticism; black feminist cultural criticism; and popular music and performance studies. Lordi couples her analytical rigor with elegant and imaginative prose that helps us to hear more clearly the resounding voices of women singers in black letters.” —Daphne A. Brooks, Princeton University

Ever since Bessie Smith’s powerful voice conspired with the “race records” industry to make her a star in the 1920s, African American writers have memorialized the sounds and theorized the politics of black women’s singing. In Black Resonance, Emily J. Lordi analyzes writings by Richard Wright, Ralph Ellison, James Baldwin, Gayl Jones, and Nikki Giovanni that engage such iconic singers as Bessie Smith, Billie Holiday, Mahalia Jackson, and Aretha Franklin.

Focusing on two generations of artists from the 1920s to the 1970s, Black Resonance reveals a musical-literary tradition in which singers and writers, faced with similar challenges and harboring similar aims, developed comparable expressive techniques. Drawing together such seemingly disparate works as Bessie Smith’s blues and Richard Wright’s neglected film of Native Son, Mahalia Jackson’s gospel music and Ralph Ellison’s Invisible Man, each chapter pairs one writer with one singer to crystallize the artistic practice they share: lyricism, sincerity, understatement, haunting, and the creation of a signature voice. In the process, Lordi demonstrates that popular female singers are not passive muses with raw, natural, or ineffable talent. Rather, they are experimental artists who innovate black expressive possibilities right alongside their literary peers.

The first study of black music and literature to centralize the music of black women, Black Resonance offers new ways of reading and hearing some of the twentieth century’s most beloved and challenging voices.

EMILY J. LORDI is an assistant professor of English at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst.

A volume in the American Literatures Initiative series
“Compellingly juxtaposing proletarian and neo-slave novels, Jennifer Williamson’s book breaks important new ground in redefining and reevaluating the sentimental tradition within literary and American studies of the twentieth century.” —Kristin J. Jacobson, author of Neodomestic American Fiction

Today’s critical establishment assumes that sentimentalism is an eighteenth- and nineteenth-century literary mode that all but disappeared by the twentieth century. In this book, Jennifer Williamson argues that sentimentalism is alive and well in the modern era. By examining working-class literature that adopts the rhetoric of “feeling right” in order to promote a proletarian or humanist ideology as well as neo-slave narratives that wrestle with the legacy of slavery and cultural definitions of African American families, she explores the ways contemporary authors engage with familiar sentimental clichés and ideals.

Williamson covers new ground by examining authors who are not generally read for their sentimental narrative practices, considering the proletarian novels of Grace Lumpkin, Josephine Johnson, and John Steinbeck alongside neo-slave narratives written by Margaret Walker, Octavia Butler, and Toni Morrison. Through careful close readings, Williamson argues that the appropriation of sentimental modes enables both sympathetic thought and systemic action in the proletarian and neo-slave novels under discussion. She contrasts appropriations that facilitate such cultural work with those that do not, including Kathryn Stockett’s novel and film The Help. The book outlines how sentimentalism remains a viable and important means of promoting social justice while simultaneously recognizing and exploring how sentimentality can further white privilege.

Sentimentalism is not only alive in the twentieth century. It is a flourishing rhetorical practice among a range of twentieth-century authors who use sentimental tactics in order to appeal to their readers about a range of social justice issues. This book demonstrates that at stake in their appeals is who is inside and outside of the American family and nation.

JENNIFER A. WILLIAMSON, PhD, is the author of numerous articles, including “‘His home is not the land’: Caretaking, Domesticity, and Gender in The Grapes of Wrath,” and editor of Sentimentalism and the Anti-Sentimental in 20th and 21st Century America.

A volume in the American Literatures Initiative series
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