SUBJECT GUIDE

American Studies 14, 15, 16, 17, 18
Classics 24
Comics and Graphic Novels 26
Creative Nonfiction 1, 2, 26
Cultural Studies 1, 25
Essay 1, 2, 26
Fiction 3, 11
Gender and Sexuality Studies 14, 15
History 9, 10
Latin American and Latinx Studies 14, 15, 16, 18, 26
Literary Studies 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
Medieval Studies 23, 25
Memoir 2, 26
Narrative Studies 24
Ohio 5, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11
Photography 7
Poetry 4
Political Science 9, 24
Race and Ethnic Studies 10
Regional Interest 5, 7, 8, 10, 11
Rhetoric and Communication 12, 13, 14
Victorian Studies 17, 20, 21, 22

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Cover image courtesy of The Ohio State University Archives.
The Trouble with Men
Reflections on Sex, Love, Marriage, Porn, and Power

David Shields

“A fearless consideration of sex and power that is also a moving meditation on the possibility of love.” —Amy Fusselman

“His honesty would be startling if we didn’t already expect just this from David Shields: a willingness to ask what no one wants to ask (but everyone longs to know) and say what no one will say (but everyone longs to hear).” —Sallie Tisdale

David Shields’s The Trouble with Men: Reflections on Sex, Love, Marriage, Porn, and Power is an immersion into the perils, limits, and possibilities of human intimacy. All at once a love letter to his wife, a nervy reckoning with his own fallibility, a meditation on the impact of porn on American culture, and an attempt to understand marriage (one marriage, the idea of marriage, all marriages), The Trouble with Men is exquisitely balanced between the personal and the anthropological, nakedness and restraint. While unashamedly intellectual, it’s also irresistibly readable and extremely moving. Over five increasingly intimate chapters, Shields probes the contours of his own psyche and marriage, marshalling a chorus of other voices that leaven, deepen, and universalize his experience; his goal is nothing less than a deconstruction of eros and conventional masculinity.

Masterfully woven throughout is an unmistakable and surprisingly tender cri de coeur to his wife. The risk and vulnerability on display are in the service of radical candor, acerbic wit, real emotion, and profound insight—exactly what we’ve come to expect from Shields, who, in an open invitation to the reader, leaves everything on the page.

David Shields is the internationally best-selling author of twenty books, including Reality Hunger (named one of the best books of 2010 by more than thirty publications), The Thing About Life Is That One Day You’ll Be Dead (New York Times bestseller), Black Planet (finalist for the National Book Critics Circle Award), and Other People: Takes & Mistakes (NYTBR Editors’ Choice selection).

February 2019 156 pp.
$18.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5519-3
Mad Creek Books
21st Century Essays
David Lazar and Patrick Madden, Series Editors

Also of Interest
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Phillip Lopate

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Mad Creek Books
21st Century Essays
This One Will Hurt You

PAUL CRENSHAW

“Paul Crenshaw writes some of the finest prose you’ll find anywhere and does so without a trace of literary gimmickry or personal showboating. If Chekhov wrote essays, this is what they would sound like.” —Robert Atwan

“You’ll find no romanticizing or myth-building here. This One Will Hurt You is a devastating and necessary book, frequently heartbreaking in its examination of the bad humans can do to one another—but full of redemptive acts of goodness, too.” —Holly Goddard Jones

Paul Crenshaw is the coauthor of Text, Mind, and World: An Introduction to Literary Criticism. He was a finalist for the Bakeless Prize and the recipient of a Pushcart Prize in 2017. His writing has appeared in Best American Essays, Brevity, North American Review, Ascent, Gulf Stream, The Rumpus, Hotel America, and River Teeth, among many other venues.

March 2019 184 pp.
$19.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5521-6
Mad Creek Books

Also of Interest

Love’s Long Line
Sophronia Scott

$19.95 T paperback
978-0-8142-5463-9
Mad Creek Books

The powerful essays in Paul Crenshaw’s This One Will Hurt You range in subject matter from the fierce tornadoes that crop up in Tornado Alley every spring and summer to a supposedly haunted one-hundred-year-old tuberculosis sanatorium that he lived on the grounds of as a child. They ruminate on the effects of crystal meth on small southern towns, Maurice Sendak’s Where the Wild Things Are, and the ongoing struggle of being a parent in an increasingly disturbing world. They surprise, whether discovering a loved one’s secret, an opossum’s motivation, or the unexpected decision four beer-guzzling, college-aged men must make. They tell stories of family and the past, the histories of small things such as walls and weather, and the faith it takes to hold together in the face of death.

With eloquence, subtle humor, and an urgent poignancy, Crenshaw delivers a powerful and moving collection of nonfiction essays, tied together by place and the violence of the world in which we live.
Great American Desert
Stories

THERESE SVOBODA

“Terese Svoboda has brought a poet’s lyrical intensity and factual density to prose fiction and writes like no one else.”
—Tom McGuane

“I read this as a new American Gothic where the endless flatness is not so much broken as broken open into utterly new dimensions. I’m blown away.”
—Michael Martone

Water, its use and abuse, trickles through Great American Desert, a story collection by Terese Svoboda that spans the misadventures of the prehistoric Clovis people to the wanderings of a forlorn couple around a pink pyramid in a sci-fi prairie. In “Dutch Joe,” the eponymous hero sees the future from the bottom of a well in the Sandhills, while a woman tries to drag her sister back from insanity in “Dirty Thirties.” In “Bomb Jockey,” a local Romeo disposes of leaky bombs at South Dakota’s army depot, while a family quarrels in “Ogallala Aquifer” as a thousand trucks dump chemical waste from a munitions depot next to their land. Bugs and drugs are devoured in “Alfalfa,” a disc jockey talks her way out of a knifing in “Sally Rides,” and an updated Pied Piper begs parents to reconsider in “The Mountain.” The consequences of the land’s mistreatment is epitomized in the final story by a discovery inside a pink pyramid.

In her arresting and inimitable style, Svoboda’s delicate handling of the complex dynamics of family and self seeps into every sentence of these first-rate short stories about what we do to the world around us—and what it can do to us.
“Susannah Nevison’s searing second collection, *Lethal Theater*, is not about how we die but how we kill, protected by procedure, faith in duty, cruel appetite, and the State. Nevison steadfastly rejects dulled indifference; instead, her poems—lyric, found, urgent—pulse with sound anger, grief, and complicity’s persistent ache.” —Douglas Kearney

“In her new poetry collection, *Lethal Theater*, Susannah Nevison reckons with the rituals of violence that underpin the American prison system, both domestically and abroad. Exploring the multiple roles of medicine in incarceration, Nevison’s poems expose the psychological and physical pain felt by the prison system’s inhabitants. Nevison asks readers to consider the act and complications of looking—at the spectacle of punishment, isolation, and interrogation, as mapped onto incarcerated bodies—by those who participate in and enforce dangerous prison practices, those who benefit from the exploitation of incarcerated bodies, and those who bear witness to suffering. Unfolding in three sections, Nevison’s poems fluidly move among themes of isolation and violence in prisons during periods of war, the history of medical experimentation on domestic prisoners, and the intersection between anesthesia used in hospital settings and anesthesia used in cases of lethal injection. *Lethal Theater* is an attempt to articulate and make visible a grotesque and overlooked part of American pain.”

Susannah Nevison is the author of the poetry collection *Teratology*. She teaches at Sweet Briar College, and her work has been published in the *New York Times*, *Crazyhorse*, and *Tin House*.

Also of Interest

*Radioapocrypha*  
BK Fischer

*Radioapocrypha*  
BK Fischer

2018 84 pp.  
$16.95 T paperback  
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Mad Creek Books

*The Journal* Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize
Does That Make Sense?
The Best of Joe Blundo

JOE BLUNDO, WITH A
FOREWORD BY TED DECKER

“Blundo illuminates life’s littlest absurdities but also its greatest joys and grieves, and he does it in half the words it would take other writers. If the writing game were Name That Tune, Joe would be a returning champion. A man of few words, Joe Blundo speaks volumes.” —Ted Decker

Joe Blundo has won legions of fans in the Columbus area with his long-running column for the Columbus Dispatch. He is the 2002 recipient of the humor writing award from the National Society of Newspaper Columnists.

$21.95 T paperback 978-0-8142-5531-5
Trillium Books

Also of Interest

Dance of the Trustees
On the Astonishing Concerns of a Small Ohio Township
Dylan Taylor-Lehman

2018 264 pp.
$21.95 T paperback
978-0-8142-5483-7
Trillium Books
Time and Change
150 Years of The Ohio State University

Tamar Chute with a Letter by President Michael V. Drake and an Afterword by Provost Bruce A. McPheron

This photographic retrospective of The Ohio State University showcases its rich history and decades of growth, from its earliest years as the Ohio Agricultural and Mechanical College to the prominent land-grant institution it is today. The book includes more than three hundred rarely seen photographs from the collections of the University Archives and contemporary university photographers.

Gain a visually stunning new perspective on iconic landmarks such as Mirror Lake, the Oval, Ohio Stadium, and the neighborhoods surrounding the Columbus and regional campuses. From beloved teams, symbols, and traditions to scenes from academic and campus life, reflect on time and change and rediscover the extraordinary connection that unites generations of Buckeyes.

Tamar Chute is Professor, University Archivist, and Head of Archives at The Ohio State University.

August 2019 200 pp. $29.95 T jacketed cloth 978-0-8142-1399-5 319 illustrations

Also of Interest
The Ohio State University
An Illustrated History
Raimund E. Goerler

2011 292 pp. $29.95 paperback 978-0-8142-1554-0
$44.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1554-0
Sparks Flew
WOSU’s Century on the Air
THOMAS M. RIELAND

“Sparks Flew is a first: a detailed account of the pioneering broadcasters and societal forces that have shaped the current success of WOSU Public Media at The Ohio State University. A highly informative and entertaining read.” —Fred Andrle

“Thorough, insightful, and meticulously researched, Sparks Flew: WOSU’s Century on the Air is a definitive account of an influential local broadcaster. By examining the evolution of this vibrant institution, Tom Rieland offers a unique perspective on the invaluable role that public media plays in building and connecting local communities.” —Paula Kerger, President of PBS

Wireless Morse code began a new age of communications, magically sending invisible waves through the ether received at some distant place. Among the first universities to experiment in this unknown world was The Ohio State University, which became one of the first educational broadcast stations and a think tank for the future of public service radio—pioneering radio audience research and serving as an innovative school of the air.

Sparks Flew is a rich story of creative, tenacious men and women working in a new medium that commercial enterprises soon dominated. At any moment in time, educational broadcasting could have failed if not for a few land-grant institutions like The Ohio State University and prominent stations like WOSU that supported the medium. Sparks Flew is the untold story, a century in the making, of one institution and one educational station that represent the roots of today’s public broadcasting system.
The United States of Ohio

One American State and Its Impact on the Other Forty-Nine

David E. Rohr

“The only topic missing from David Rohr’s fun read on Ohio is the one about the impressive young talents coming out of the state’s high schools. As I can personally attest, David was one of them. It’s no surprise to me that my classmate has written a delightful book that anyone who is from Ohio—or wishes they were—will love.” —Christine Brennan, USA Today columnist, CNN and ABC News commentator and bestselling author of Inside Edge and Best Seat in the House

“Reading The United States of Ohio is like hanging out with a gifted storyteller. Armed with hard facts and hilarious trivia, Rohr makes a witty and winning case for Ohio’s preeminent position. And this from a New Yorker!” —Charles Benoit, Edgar-nominated author of Relative Danger and Snow Job

Electoral significance has always distinguished the small northern state sandwiched between Lake Erie and the Ohio River. Only twice since the beginning of the twentieth century has Ohio failed to pick the candidate who ultimately won the presidential election. But presidential elections are only part of the Ohio story. That’s because the state has always been an innovator, an incubator, and a bellwether for the American experience. In a unique look at Ohio, David E. Rohr chronicles key stories that come from the Buckeye State and the remarkable effect Ohio’s development has had on the larger country.

The United States of Ohio covers little-known facts about Ohio, such as how the state was the birthplace of both the National Football League and Major League Baseball and how it was Ohioans who led efforts toward racial integration in both sports. Readers will learn what makes the state a manufacturing and agricultural powerhouse—with both the largest tire company, Akron’s Goodyear, and the largest consumer products company, Cincinnati’s Proctor & Gamble, based there. The state grows, processes, and builds on a level that far outpaces the size of its population or expanse of its borders. And it is the birthplace of many prominent US figures—from Thomas Edison to John Glenn to Neil Armstrong. From sports to a century’s worth of entertainment superstars to aviation and space exploration, Ohio’s best have made for America’s greatest stories—all captured here in a look at the Buckeye State and its impact on the other forty-nine.
On the Back of a Turtle
A Narrative of the Huron-Wyandot People

LLOYD E. DIVINE JR. (dáraho:k)

"On the Back of a Turtle is a well-written and informative book that makes it easier to understand the journey of the Wyandotte people. It is a book that will help educate and inform Wyandotte people of our history for generations to come."
—Chief Billy Friend, Wyandotte Nation

“A book written by a Wyandotte citizen about the history of the Wyandots is long overdue. This book is an excellent read and resource for anyone wanting to know the history of this well-documented tribe. This book is a valuable addition to any library.”
—Norman Hildebrand Jr., Second Chief, Wyandotte Nation

Lloyd E. Divine Jr. is a citizen of the Wyandotte Nation who has served on his tribe’s cultural committee for more than twenty-five years.

On the Back of a Turtle is an all-inclusive history of the Huron-Wyandot people—from before the creation of the Great Island, now called North America, to the present day. No other full-length history of the Huron-Wyandot people exists. Presented in a conversational, easy-to-read style, the book is a compelling and informative telling of the story of the Huron-Wyandot people as told by a tribal historian.

As characters and tribes emerge in the Huron-Wyandot’s oral tradition of creation, and take their respective places upon the Great Island, the author reveals the most difficult element of the Huron-Wyandot’s history: how the tribal name was obtained. With the knowledge of how both Huron and Wyandot are relevant names for one tribe of people, the author then shares his tribe’s amazing history. The reader will be fascinated to learn how one of the smallest tribes, birthed amid the Iroquois Wars, rose to become one of the most respected and influential tribes of North America.

Also of Interest

Ohio
The History of a People
Andrew R. L. Cayton

59.95 jacketed cloth
978-0-8142-0899-1
“...And Ladies of the Club”

Helen Hooven Santmyer

Finally available in ebook!

“A great novel that is American to its core...so gently memorable, so bursting with life, that those who abandon themselves to its pages will find it claiming a permanent place close to their hearts.”
—New York Daily News

“A warmly human story...never flags from first page to last.”
—Publishers Weekly

This New York Times best seller by Helen Hooven Santmyer recounts the lives of a group of women who start a study club in a small town in southwestern Ohio in 1868. Over the years, the club evolves into an influential community service organization in the town. Numerous characters are introduced in the course of the novel but primary are Anne Gordon and Sally Rausch who, as the book begins, are new graduates of the Waynesboro Female Seminary. The novel covers decades of their lives—chronicling the two women’s marriages and those of their children and grandchildren. Santmyer focuses not just on the lives of the women in the club, but also their families and friends and the politics and developments in their small town and the larger world.

In this longest and most ambitious of Santmyer’s books, there is—as with all of her previous work—a poignant sense of a past made present again through an acute sensibility, of human life and experience as somehow cumulative, and of lives and events, largely fugitive and forgotten, as captured and transformed as the stuff of her poetry.

In addition to her career as a writer, Helen Hooven Santmyer was a Professor of English and Dean of Women at Cedarville College. She graduated from Wellesley College and Oxford University.

$14.95 e book 978-0-8142-7679-2
Rhetoric and Communication

Post-Digital Rhetoric and the New Aesthetic

JUSTIN HODGSON

“This book develops important new ways of thinking about technology and rhetoric, particularly given its attention to media ecologies that blur the line between ‘online’ and ‘offline’ life. It joins a new and emerging trend, pushing beyond keyboards and desktop computing and theorizing digital rhetoric for a broader range of digital technologies.” —James J. Brown Jr.

“By exposing and engaging the New Aesthetic, Hodgson marshals its artifacts toward creating a new and exciting vocabulary for Digital Rhetoric. This work pushes the boundaries of current scholarship and will certainly have an important impact on the field.” —Sarah J. Arroyo

The proliferation of smart devices, digital media, and network technologies has led to everyday people experiencing everyday things increasingly on and through the screen. In fact, much of the world has become so saturated by digital mediations that many individuals have adopted digitally inflected sensibilities. This gestures not simply toward posthumanism, but more fundamentally toward an altogether post-digital condition—one in which the boundaries between the “real” and the “digital” have become blurred and technology has fundamentally reconfigured how we make sense of the world.

Post-Digital Rhetoric and the New Aesthetic takes stock of these reconfigurations and their implications for rhetorical studies by taking up the New Aesthetic—a movement introduced by artist/digital futurist James Bridle that was meant to capture something of a digital way of seeing by identifying aesthetic values that could not exist without computational and digital technologies. Bringing together work in rhetoric, art, and digital media studies, Hodgson treats the New Aesthetic as a rhetorical ecology rather than simply an aesthetic movement, allowing him to provide operative guides for the knowing, doing, and making of rhetoric in a post-digital culture.

Justin Hodgson is Assistant Professor at Indiana University, Bloomington.

$29.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5526-1
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9 color illustrations, 1 table

Also of Interest

Rhetoric as a Posthuman Practice
Casey Boyle

$29.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5487-9
$99.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1380-3
Science Communication Online
Engaging Experts and Publics on the Internet

ASHLEY ROSE MEHLENBACHER

“Science Communication Online is a novel and thoroughgoing exploration of trans-scientific genres. The analyses presented provide a critical snapshot of the emerging digital scientific communication landscape. I fully expect the book to serve as an important touchstone for future scholarship on trans-scientific genres.” —S. Scott Graham

“Mehlenbacher’s insights on trans-scientific genres—genres in between the professional and popularizing genres of scientific communication, such as crowdfunding sites, open databases, and blogs—expand our understanding of both genre-ing activity (how genres coalesce, evolve, and work) and the emerging ways scientists communicate in online spaces.” —Jonathan Buehl

Ashley Rose Mehlenbacher is Assistant Professor in the Department of English Language and Literature at the University of Waterloo and coeditor of Emerging Genres in New Media Environments.

April 2019 200 pp.
$29.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5530-8
$89.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1398-8
8 b&w illustrations, 4 tables

Also of Interest

Disabled Upon Arrival
Eugenics, Immigration, and the Construction of Race and Disability
Jay Timothy Dolmage

2018 192 pp.
$24.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5467-7
$79.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1362-9

Uncloistered by the web, science is finding its way into previously unimagined audiences. Whether collecting data in one’s backyard to help wildlife experts manage wolf populations or even funding research out of one’s own pocket, nonexperts can engage science at an unprecedented scale. As science communication has moved online, a range of important new genres have emerged that put professionals and the public into conversation with each other. In Science Communication Online: Engaging Experts and Publics on the Internet, Ashley Rose Mehlenbacher takes up these “trans-scientific” genres to explore how scientists are adapting their communications, how publics are increasingly involved in science, and how boundaries between experts and nonexperts continue to shift.

Bringing together genre studies and the rhetoric of science, Mehlenbacher examines a range of new forms of science communication that challenge traditional presumptions about experts and nonexperts—including Twitter and Reddit AMAs, crowdfunding proposals such as Kickstarter and Experiment.com, civic-minded databases such as Safecast, and the PLOS blogging network. Science Communication Online illustrates the unique features of these genres and connects them to their rhetorical functions and the larger context leading to their emergence and evolution—from the democratization of science, challenges to expertise and expert status, and new political economies. Science Communication Online captures the important moment we find ourselves in now—one not defined by science and society but science in society.
“The book offers a sophisticated analysis that moves across numerous scales of rigor and accessibility. The twenty-year overview of the feminicidios in Juárez that the author offers provides a little-known analysis of the most current wave of anti-feminicide activist work.”
—Cynthia Bejarano, coeditor of Terrorizing Women: A Cartography of Feminicide in the Americas

“This is a text packed with many voices, and Lozano brilliantly weaves them together to form a compelling and insightful narrative. Her ability to do so is a testament to the relationships the author has clearly developed with the participants, and also her long-term and continuous presence in the field.”
—Sara McKinnon, author of Gendered Asylum: Race and Violence in U.S. Law and Politics

Since 1993, more than 2,000 feminicidios have occurred in Ciudad Juárez, Mexico—once called “the feminicidio capital of the world.” Who is killing the women of Juárez? Why is this happening? In Not One More! Feminicidio on the Border, Nina Maria Lozano seeks to answer these questions, turning a critical eye to the state structures and legal systems that allow and participate in the violence, rape, and murder propagated against thousands of women in the border town of Juárez.

Finding theories of new materialism inadequate to explain the feminicidios, Lozano critiques and extends this approach—advancing instead a new theoretical framework, border materialism, to argue that capitalist systems of neoliberalism and free trade are directly correlated to the killing of women on the US–Mexico border. Through the author’s fifteen-plus years of on-the-ground fieldwork, readers are presented with firsthand accounts, testimonies, and new social movement strategies from family members and activists attempting to stop these gendered crimes.

By offering concrete case studies—including analysis of maquiladoras/factories and free trade zones, public monuments and murals memorializing the victims, rastreos/searches by family members for victims’ DNA remains, and testimony from Mothers, family members, and activists—Not One More! lays bare the socioeconomic and geopolitical forces at work in the killing of women in Juárez.
Capturing Mariposas

Reading Cultural Schema in Gay Chicano Literature

Doug P. Bush

“This book stands to be a significant contribution to the growing field of Jotería studies and other area studies: literary studies, gender studies, Chicana and Latina/o studies, and queer theory.” —Daniel Enrique Pérez, author of Rethinking Chicana/o and Latina/o Popular Culture

“With great clarity of thought and an engaging prose style, Bush demonstrates just how illuminating a cognitive studies approach to minority literature can be. Combining author interviews with impressive scholarship, he makes a compelling case for presenting and reading gay Chicano literature as a distinct genre.” —Michael Nieto García, author of Autobiography in Black and Brown

Doug P. Bush is Assistant Professor of Spanish at Converse College.

January 2019 192 pp. $59.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1388-9

Cognitive Approaches to Culture

Frederick Luis Aldama, Patrick Colm Hogan, Lalita Pandit Hogan, and Sue J. Kim

Series Editors

Literary Studies / Latinx and Latin American Studies / Gender and Sexuality Studies

Shaming into Brown

Somatic Transactions of Race in Latina/o Literature

Stephanie Fetta

Gay Chicano/Latina/o literature often holds an intensely personal meaning for its readers, sometimes being the first artistic expression encountered that affirms their own identity as a double minority in a world that is frequently hostile to both. Nevertheless, much of the academic discourse surrounding this body of literature has overlooked how critical audience reaction can be in this inherently political genre, instead seeing the power of a work as resting within the piece itself.

In Capturing Mariposas: Reading Cultural Schema in Gay Chicano Literature, Doug P. Bush looks at the book as only the beginning, considering how this literature has the power to bring understanding to disparate groups, speak truth about repressed sexuality and repressive communities, and recast traditional spaces as ones of inclusion, all through the idea of the cultural schema. Integrating elements of narratology and cognitive studies of literature, the cultural schema speaks to how these authors challenge, reaffirm, and transform commonly held experiences of gay Chicanos—or potentially any audience who reads their works. Focusing on twenty-first-century writers such as Manuel Muñoz, Rigoberto González, and Alex Espinoza, Bush examines the cultural schema of their works and then moves toward a more holistic discussion of the publishing and political implications of this genre. In addition to Bush’s important scholarship, the book includes extensive interviews with the authors themselves.
“Gothic Geoculture shows how literary tropes informed visions of Cuba during a time when US imperial desires were focused on the island, its resources, and its people. This book, which considers writers from both Cuba and the United States, is an important contribution to scholarship on literature and imperialism in the nineteenth-century Americas.”
—Rodrigo Lazo

“The relationship of Cuba and the United States, linked by slavery and attraction and fear, is essentially gothic. Professor García’s important and nuanced study of nineteenth century American and Cuban texts helps us to understand where we have been and who we are.”
—Charles L. Crow

In the nineteenth century, the island of Cuba was a popular site for US travelers, who wrote dozens of travelogues about their experiences. At the same time, Cuban exiles living in the United States, escaping from Spanish colonial repression, wrote about their island and about their US experiences. Within the trove of writings about Cuba in relation to slavery and a rising US empire in the region, Ivonne M. García’s Gothic Geoculture: Nineteenth-Century Representations of Cuba in the Transamerican Imaginary shows how a group of writers, on both sides, used the language of fear to construct gothicizations of the island (and of the United States) through tropes of corruption, doubleness, and monstrosity. García coins the term “gothic geoculture” to show Cuba’s identity in the nineteenth century as existing at the crossroads between colonialism, slavery, and transamericanity. Specifically looking at a period of colonial anxiety between 1830 and 1890, García exposes the ways some writers code Cuba as dangerous and destructive, demonstrating how these transamerican figurations created a series of uncanny simultaneities that expand on and complicate the ways we understand how Cuba and the hemisphere were imagined at that time.
Mobility and Modernity
Panama in the Nineteenth-Century Anglo-American Imagination

ROBERT D. AGUIRRE

"Aguirre’s analysis sheds light on an archive that has been largely neglected by literary historians but speaks meaningfully to the work of scholars in the fields of nineteenth-century trans-Atlanticism, empire, and globalization." —REBECCA COLE HEINOWITZ, AUTHOR OF SPANISH AMERICA AND BRITISH ROMANTICISM, 1777–1826

Robert D. Aguirre is Professor of English at Wayne State University and author of Informal Empire: Mexico and Central America in Victorian Culture.

$24.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5430-1
$69.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1344-5
44 b&w illustrations

Mobility and Modernity: Panama in the Nineteenth-Century Anglo-American Imagination rewrites the history of the Panama Canal, assessing for the first time the literary culture of the preceding decades. In this period, US and British writers and visual artists developed sophisticated languages of mobility, time, and speed to cast the isthmus as an in-between place, a point of connection to more important destinations. These discourses served an important role in their own day and laid the imaginative ground for the canal to come.

In this study, Robert D. Aguirre provides bold new interpretations of Anthony Trollope, John Lloyd Stephens, and Eadweard Muybridge and also recovers information about literary communities previously lost to history. Mobility and Modernity shows how Panama became defined as a site of incipient globalization and a crucial link to empire. Across this narrow strip of land, people and things traveled, technology developed, and political forces erupted. The isthmus became a site of mobility that paradoxically produced varieties of immobility. Parting ways with histories that celebrate the canal as a mighty engineering feat, Mobility and Modernity reveals a more complex story of cultural conflict that began with the first gold rush news in the late 1840s and continued throughout the century.

Also of Interest

Imperial Media
Colonial Networks and Information Technologies in the British Literary Imagination, 1857–1918
Aaron Worth

$19.95 paperback 978-0-8142-5281-9
$49.95 printed case 978-0-8142-1251-6
Spanish Perspectives on Chicano Literature
Literary and Cultural Essays
Edited by Jesús Rosales and Vanessa Fonseca

“This is an important and unique contribution to the fields of Chicano and Latino literature. It allows for both Spanish and American criticism to exist in the same book, and it includes the voices of people that have been left out of the narrative of influence of theorists like Anzaldúa. This transnational book enriches the field of Chicano literature and criticism tremendously.” —Gabriella Gutiérrez y Muhs, author of Communal Feminisms: Chicanas, Chilenas, and Cultural Exile

Jesús Rosales is Associate Professor of Chicano literature at Arizona State University. He is the author of Thinking en español: Interviews with Critics of Chicana/o Literature. Vanessa Fonseca is Assistant Professor of English at Arizona State University.

In their comprehensive study Spanish Perspectives on Chicano Literature: Literary and Cultural Essays, editors Jesús Rosales and Vanessa Fonseca provide a fresh set of perspectives on the field of Chicano literary and cultural studies. Composed of essays by scholars who live and work in the United States in addition to those who work primarily in Spain, the book examines how Spanish literary critics view and study Chicano literature. In general, these critics demonstrate a deep interest in Chicano culture in relation to its American, Mexican, and Spanish identities, or multiple cultural mestizajes.

For Chicanos this interest is intriguing, for they see Spain’s vision of the Chicano both with inviting enthusiasm and justifiable reservation—enthusiasm because this interest shows a humanistic concern in understanding their social issues (national identity, bilingualism, immigration, feminism, and so on) in relation to Spain’s own, and reservation because there still prevails an “open wound” from their historical connection with that country. In other words, a lingering Spanish colonial presence still exists in the Chicano psyche. These Spanish perspectives are important to consider as Chicano literature reflects on its place in twenty-first-century America and its transnational and global aspirations.
Enlightened Individualism

Buddhism and Hinduism in American Literature from the Beats to the Present

KYLE GARTON-GUNDLING

“Garton-Gundling’s Enlightened Individualism is a study of US literary adaptations of Buddhism and Hinduism that marks a significant departure from previous postsecular accounts. Rather than affirming the incompatibility of Euro-American ideals and the Hindu-Buddhist virtue of nonattachment, Garton-Gundling focuses on the cross-cultural synthesis of the two traditions.” —Donald E. Pease, author of The New American Exceptionalism

Kyle Garton-Gundling is a Lecturer in the Department of English at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.


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Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies

Lori Branch, Series Editor

Buddhism and Hinduism have spread in the US largely through texts and are now recognizable facets of American literature and culture. But the US has defined itself through goal-oriented individualism, whereas Buddhism and Hinduism teach that individuality is a delusion and thus worldly desires are misguided. Given this apparent contradiction, what can Buddhist and Hindu influences offer American identities? Enlightened Individualism explores how post-1945 American writers, including Jack Kerouac, Alice Walker, and Maxine Hong Kingston, have tried to answer this question. Playing on enlightenment as both Anglo-American liberalism and Asian mysticism, this book argues that recent American literature seeks to reconcile seemingly incompatible liberal models of individual autonomy with Buddhist and Hindu ideals of transcending selfhood.

This “enlightened individualism” uses Buddhist and Hindu philosophy to reframe American freedom in terms of spiritual liberation, and it also reinterprets Asian teachings through Western traditions of political activism and countercultural provocation. Garton-Gundling argues that even though works by Kerouac, Walker, Kingston, and others wrestle with issues of exoticism and appropriation, their characters are also meaningfully challenged and changed by Asian faiths. These literary adaptations, then, can help Americans reenvision individualism in a more transcendent and cosmopolitan context.
“Mark Knight’s *Good Words* promises to be an essential work on the nineteenth-century British novel and the evangelical movement. While making a compelling case for the powers of proximity and attachment in our contemporary critical discourse, Knight shows that our understanding of canonical Victorian fiction will be enriched when we take note of overlooked confessional and theological vocabularies.”

—William R. McKelvy

This new study explores how evangelicalism played a vital role in the development of the Victorian novel. In contrast to those who see the evangelical movement as trivial to our histories of the novel and part of the losing side in religion’s battle with secularity, *Good Words: Evangelicalism and the Victorian Novel* examines fiction by major writers of the nineteenth century—Thackeray, Dickens, Wood, MacDonald, Collins, and Butler—and reveals the extent to which the novel was shaped by evangelical thought and practice.

Rather than getting lost in historical and theological rabbit holes, *Good Words* invites readers to think about why evangelicalism still matters for the stories we tell about fiction in the Victorian period. The result has major implications for our understanding of the Victorian novel, our conception of the relationship between nineteenth-century literature and religion, the way in which we think about evangelical culture in the modern world, and our ideas about the practices and protocols of scholarly reading.
Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion

Literary, Historical, and Religious Studies in Dialogue

Edited by Joshua King and Winter Jade Werner

“This volume not only brings together an impressive collection of internationally renowned scholars but also offers ambitious and far-reaching conclusions that reassess what ‘religion’ meant in the nineteenth century.”
—Jo Carruthers

Joshua King is Associate Professor at Baylor University and author of Imagined Spiritual Communities in Britain’s Age of Print (OSU Press, 2015). Winter Jade Werner is Assistant Professor at Wheaton College.

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Literature, Religion, and Postsecular Studies

Bringing together scholars from literary, historical, and religious studies, Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion interrogates the seemingly obvious category of “religion.” This collection argues that any application of religion engages in complex and relatively modern historical processes. In considering the various ways that nineteenth-century religion was constructed, commodified, and practiced, contributors to this volume “speak” to each other, finding interdisciplinary links and resonances across a range of texts and contexts.

The participle in its title—Constructing—acknowledges that any articulation of nineteenth-century religion is never just a work of the past: scholars also actively construct religion as their disciplinary assumptions (and indeed personal and lived investments) shape their research and findings. Constructing Nineteenth-Century Religion newly analyzes the diverse ways in which religion was debated and deployed in a wide range of nineteenth-century texts and contexts. While focusing primarily on nineteenth-century Britain, the collection also contributes to the increasingly transnational and transcultural outlook of postsecular studies, drawing connections between Britain and the United States, continental Europe, and colonial India.
Chemical Crimes
Science and Poison in Victorian Crime Fiction

Cheryl Blake Price

“Provides a genuinely fresh appraisal of literature and science and a fresh look at the evolution of fiction across the period.”
—Marlene Tromp, coeditor of Fear, Loathing, and Victorian Xenophobia (OSU Press, 2013)

In Chemical Crimes: Science and Poison in Victorian Crime Fiction, Cheryl Blake Price delves into the dark world of Victorian criminality to examine how poison allowed authors to disrupt gender boundaries, genre, and the professionalization of science. Tracing the role of chemical crime through the works of Letitia Elizabeth Landon, Ellen Wood, Edward Bulwer Lytton, L. T. Meade, Charles Warren Adams, and Wilkie Collins, Price argues that poison not only provided a useful tool for authors to challenge the growing power of science but also that its fluid nature and ability to mix, mingle, and transcend boundaries made it ideal for generic experimentation.

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