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Cover image
No dreamer does it alone. By Alberto Ledesma.
Adapted from Diego Rivera’s 1926 mural Education.
You, Me, and the Violence

Catherine Taylor

“Catherine Taylor’s wondrous book—its lucidities and extravagances telescoped into sharp sentences—imagines a peaceful future by digging into the perils of right now. To probe violence’s roots, she questions our infatuated relation to automatons; with poetic feeling, and precise speech, she contrapuntally dissects political passivity and thereby inspires her reader to dream of soulful action. I am moved by Taylor’s distilled language, her faith in eccentric investigation, and her beautifully articulated affinity with puppetry.” —Wayne Koestenbaum

“This is a poetics of daring redeemed from the experimental, a philosophy of caring reclaimed from equivocation. You, Me, and the Violence is the imagination fleshed out, reengaged with the most serious urgencies of contemporary living.” —Ed Pavlic

Puppets can charm, deceive, captivate, fool, trick, remind, amuse, distract, bore, repulse, annoy, puzzle, transport, provoke, fascinate, stand in for, kill. In You, Me, and the Violence, Catherine Taylor ponders the nature of personal and political autonomy, focusing on the surprising juxtaposition of puppetry and military drones. In a book at once politically significant and narratively engaging, Taylor blends genres to question the roles of individuals within society and expose the gritty and emotional underpinnings of the seemingly mechanical process of a remote soldier.

From conversations with her own brother about his military experiences to Punch and Judy, from the original tale of Pinocchio to the radio chatter of soldiers in active drone operation, Taylor writes about family, power, and the “theater” of war in a voice both sly and sobering, heartbreaking and hopeful.

Catherine Taylor is Associate Professor in the Department of Writing at Ithaca College. She is the award-winning author of Apart and Giving Birth: A Journey Into the World of Mothers and Midwives.

Also of Interest

Don’t Come Back
Lina María Ferreira Cabeza-Vanegas

Also of Interest
For those of us who don’t come from privilege, no dream, no matter how righteous, is made real without some struggle.
Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer
Undocumented Vignettes from a Pre-American Life

ALBERTO LEDESMA

“Ledesma writes with piercing insight about the intersection of citizenship, identity, gender, and familia, and he makes a compelling argument for an American identity that is more expansive than most of us have dared to imagine.” —Daisy Hernández, coeditor of Colonize This! Young Women of Color on Today’s Feminism

“Alberto Ledesma’s gorgeous drawings have fascinated me for a long time. Now his stunning work has become a book for the ages.” —Luis Alberto Urrea

In this hybrid memoir, Alberto Ledesma wonders, at what point does a long-time undocumented immigrant become an American in the making? From undocumented little boy to “hyper documented” university professor, Ledesma recounts how even now, he sometimes finds himself reverting to the child he was, recalling his father’s words: “Mijo, it doesn’t matter how good you think your English is, la migra will still get you.”

Exploring Ledesma’s experiences from immigrant to student to academic, Diary of a Reluctant Dreamer presents a humorous, gritty, and multilayered portrait of undocumented immigrant life in urban America. Ledesma’s vignettes about life in the midst of ongoing social trauma give voice to a generation that has long been silent about its struggles. Delving into the key moments of cultural transition throughout his childhood and adulthood—police at the back door waiting to deport his family, the ex-girlfriend who threatens to call INS and report him, and the interactions with law enforcement even after he is no longer undocumented—Ledesma, through his art and his words, provides a glimpse into the psychological and philosophical concerns of undocumented immigrant youth who struggle to pinpoint their identity and community.

Alberto Ledesma holds a doctorate degree from the University of California, Berkeley, and is Graduate Diversity Director in Arts & Humanities at Berkeley.

September 2017 127 pp. 517.957 paperback 978-0-8142-5440-0 103 color illustrations Latinographix: The Ohio State Latinx Comics Series, Frederick Luis Aldama, Series Editor Mad Creek Books

21st Century Essays
David Lazar and Patrick Madden, Series Editors
Mad Creek Books

Also of Interest
A Mother’s Tale
Phillip Lopate

2017 200 pp. $24.95T jacketed hardcover 978-0-8142-7331-5
21st Century Essays
Mad Creek Books

A miscellany of sorts, preeminent author and critic Nicholas Delbanco’s Curiouser and Curiouser attests to a lifelong interest in music and the visual arts as well as both “mere” and “sheer” literature. With essays ranging from the restoration of his father-in-law’s famed Stradivarius cello—known throughout the world as “The Countess of Stanlein”—to a reimagining of H. A. and Margaret Rey’s lives and the creation of their most beloved character, Curious George, Delbanco examines what it means to live with and love the arts.

Whether exploring the history of personal viewing in the business of museum-going, musing on the process of rewriting one’s earliest published work, or looking back on the twists and turns of a life that spans the greater part of the twentieth century and into the twenty-first, Delbanco’s Curiouser and Curiouser invites adventurous readers to follow him down the rabbit hole as he reflects on life as a student, an observer, a writer, a lover, a father, a teacher, and most importantly, a participant in the everyday experiences of human life.
Through a Long Absence
Words from My Father’s Wars

JOY PASSANANTE

“In this meticulously researched and intricately imagined story, Joy Passanante honors—in the best possible way—the love her parents discovered in their youth, maintained through the long absence of war, and carried to the grave (and one imagines, beyond it). Elegiac and deeply loving in tone, this daughter’s re-creation of her parents’ lives also serves as a reminder of the toll war takes on the human souls of the survivors.” —Pam Houston, author of Contents May Have Shifted

“This intimate and epic portrait of a father from a daughter is both an act of love and of memory, lost and miraculously found. It’s absorbing and affecting in every detail. Through a Long Absence is one from the heart. It’ll take a piece out of you.” —Peter Travers, Rolling Stone

Joy Passanante has been publishing in three genres for five decades. She is the author of The Art of Absence, My Mother’s Lovers, and Sinning in Italy.

August 2017 280 pp. $23.95T paperback 978-0-8142-5424-0
13 b&w illustrations
Mad Creek Books

Against the backdrop of World War II, Joy Passanante’s touching new book, Through a Long Absence: Words from My Father’s Wars, is the saga of a wartime medical unit, a passionate long-distance love, the making of a surgeon, and two first-generation American families. Told through her father’s eyes—drawing on hundreds of his letters to his beloved wife, his four-volume wartime diary, and his paintings—Passanante masterfully recreates his wartime journey and physically retraces his steps more than sixty years later in an attempt to understand a time in her parents’ lives that they’d spoken about very little.

More than just a World War II story, Through a Long Absence delves into one man’s past to explore his personal wars: a stint as a child bootlegger, a marriage between newlyweds separated by continents and strained by years apart, and his struggle late in life with his own mind. The narrative propels readers to surprising places—from a freight train through North Africa to an underground St. Louis distillery during Prohibition, from a young couple’s forbidden courtship to the chaos of surgical tents under fire in Normandy, from an underground trove of priceless artwork hidden by the Nazis to Jewish New Year services in Paris a week after its liberation. Through a Long Absence is a love story, an honest look into one man’s life, and a daughter’s moving quest to rediscover her father years later through his own words.
Community In-Between / Urur Dhex-Dhexaad Ah

Portraits of Somali-Americans in Columbus

Qorsho Hassan and Ruth M. Smith

“This project—a collaboration of the Somali community, Somali artists and local arts organizations, and the authors and young Somali photographers—has produced a fascinating portrait of Columbus’s Somali community as seen through the eyes of its young people.”

—Michael Coleman, former mayor of Columbus

Qorsho Hassan is a bilingual educator and researcher in the Somali community and is working toward a master of arts in education policy and literacy at Ashland University. Ruth M. Smith has earned a PhD in Arts Administration, Education, and Policy and is Program Coordinator of the Online Master’s in Art Education at The Ohio State University. She is an independent community artist and researcher.

August 2017 208 pp.
529 95T paperback 978-0-8142-5437-0
40 b&w illustrations
Trillium Books

Community In-Between / Urur Dhex-Dhexaad Ah: Portraits of Somali-Americans in Columbus by Qorsho Hassan and Ruth M. Smith is a collection of stories and portraits of fifteen young Somali-Americans involved in community building in Columbus, Ohio. By using their unique skills, these individuals balance their identities, build bridges, and create spaces for success. The rich, multifaceted stories in this book represent the heterogeneous experiences of the participants and show the deep connection to the diaspora and the interconnectedness of individual experiences.

A combination of storytelling and research connect each narrative to another, creating a strong framework for capturing the roles of young Somali-Americans in community building through innovative initiatives such as designing a mixer bottle, beginning charitable programs, and educating the Somali community on voter rights. Two community artists help to capture the participants in their natural spaces, and their journey, aided by their empowering mentor, Riya Jama, bridges the gap of Somali females and their access to photography.

The portraits, stories, and artifacts throughout the book create a modicum of belonging. This new generation resiliently overcomes challenges such as racism, xenophobia, and Islamophobia while still maintaining their hope in the future. Community In-Between captures their spirit and unwavering faith.
Every Species of Hope
Georgics, Haiku, and Other Poems

MICHAEL J. ROSEN

“These tender, strange, and beautiful glimpses of nature contain a delightful blend of artistry and dappled light.”
—Diane Ackerman, author of A Natural History of the Senses

“The poems of a man who has assembled his own house from the matter that lies beyond enclosure. And then, through language and observation, learned to live and thrive in it.”
—Daniel Halpern, founder of Ecco and Antaeus and author of Something Shiny

In his first book of poetry in twenty years, Michael J. Rosen captures life in the foothills of the Appalachians. Every Species of Hope uses a variety of poetic forms, as well as Rosen’s own pen-and-ink drawings, to give voice to the predicaments of living among other creatures who share a plot of land we think we claim as home. The poems are an attempt at homeostasis: that balancing act every creature works at every hour of every day—a way of living peacefully, expending the right energy in the most productive ways, avoiding or deflecting trouble, gravitating toward sources of fulfillment and contentment.

At the center of this book is a suite of poems inspired by Virgil’s Georgics, or “poems of pastoral instruction.” In Rosen’s case, he is more the student than the teacher. Likewise, five short sections of haiku continue his meditation on—or mediation of—art and nature. As he has written, “Haiku provides a brief and mirror-like calm in the choppy waters—in the undertow—of current events: a stillness in time where more than our singular lives can be reflected.”

Illustrated with two dozen pages from the author’s own journal, Every Species of Hope is the consummation of decades of observation, humility, and awe.
Fiction

**Quakertown**

LEE MARTIN

“A consistently impressive and often dazzling new novel. Lee Martin has written one of the best books of the year.”

—The Washington Post

“His gently melancholy style strikes a fine balance between literary fiction and accessible, emotion-driven storytelling.”

—Publishers Weekly

“Quakertown is a page turner . . . a richly detailed portrait. Martin treats his characters with compassion.”

—The Columbus Dispatch

In *Quakertown*, Lee Martin travels back in time to 1920s Texas to tell the story of a flourishing black community that was segregated from its white brethren—and of the remarkable gardener who was asked to do the unimaginable.

Based on the true story of a shameful episode in north Texas history, *Quakertown* draws on the rich texture of the South—the Pecan Creek running along the edges of Quakertown, the remarkable and rare white lilac, and the rising tensions marking each nod and greeting. With strength and a deep wisdom of heart, Martin carves out the delicate story of two families—one white and one black—and the child whose birth brought a gift of forgiveness.

Suffused with Martin’s deep compassion and profound humanity, *Quakertown* is an unforgettable novel from a master of American prose.

Lee Martin was a Pulitzer Prize Finalist for *The Bright Forever* and is author of the novels *River of Heaven, Break the Skin, and Late One Night.*

September 2017 300 pp.
$23.95T paperback 978-0-8142-5439-4
Mad Creek Books

Also of Interest

**Landfall**
A Ring of Stories

Julie Hensley

$19.95T paperback 978-0-8142-5269-7
The Journal Non/Fiction Prize
Brief Interviews with the Romantic Past

Kathryn Nuernberger

“In Brief Interviews with the Romantic Past, Kathryn Nuernberger pokes her intriguing intellect into the countless mysteries of the human miracle. Nuernberger has an insatiable curiosity for curiosities, coupled with sublime honesty and a prose style laced with wit, wonder, and grace. The brief essay at its best.” —Dinty W. Moore, author of Between Panic and Desire

“I am amazed at Kathryn Nuernberger’s ability to conjoin the two unlikely but electric bedfellows—deep research and imaginative lyricism—in so many nimble ways. Surprising in both its facts and its personal candor, active in its rigor and heart, Brief Interviews with the Romantic Past announces a satisfying new voice to the tradition of the essay.” —Elena Passarello, author of Let Me Clear My Throat and Animals Strike Curious Poses

Kathryn Nuernberger is Associate Professor of Creative Writing and Director of Pleiades Press at the University of Central Missouri.

$19.95T paperback 978-0-8142-5409-7

The Journal Non/Fiction Prize
Mad Creek Books

Also of Interest

June in Eden
Rosalie Moffett

2017 68 pp.
$14.95T paperback
978-0-8142-5384-7
The Journal Charles B. Wheeler Poetry Prize

Could Marie Antoinette’s wigs get any higher? Could the anonymous women riding in hot air balloons alone with gentlemen be any more scandalous? Does an Ozark holler hold the mouth to a lost cave with the longest, thickest vein of gold in North America? Brief Interviews with the Romantic Past is a collection of rumors, secrets, tall tales, and lies that begins at the court of Louis XV and ends in the foothills of the Ozark Mountains.

With all the astonishments of history and the intimacy of memoir, Kathryn Nuernberger’s collection juxtaposes peripheral figures from the French Revolution—the assassin, the executioner, the mistress, the spy, the son of a slave, the transgender swordfighter—with the oral histories of poachers, prophets, well witches, and ghosts of the Ozarks a century later. In essays that are equal parts historical and personal, Nuernberger brings the marvelous strangeness of the past into our present moment with wry wit and insight. Nuernberger has an eye for salvaging overlooked snapshots of human decency and moments of moral courage—the memories of which we might just want to save for later.
Louis Stokes was raised in Cleveland’s projects and was the first African American congressman in Ohio’s history. Stokes died at the age of ninety very shortly after finishing this autobiography. David Chanoff has written for such publications as The New York Times Magazine and The Wall Street Journal and is the author or coauthor of fifteen books.

2016 280 pp. $24.95T paperback 978-0-8142-5367-0 $32.95T jacketed cloth 978-0-8142-1312-4 40 b&w Illustrations Trillium Books

Louis Stokes was a giant in Ohio politics and one of the most significant figures in the U.S. Congress in recent times. When he arrived in the House of Representatives as a freshman in 1969, there were only six African Americans serving. By the time he retired thirty years later, he had chaired the House Special Committee on the Kennedy and King assassinations, the House Ethics Committee during Abscam, and the House Intelligence Committee during Iran-Contra; he was also a senior member of the powerful House Appropriations Committee. The health care legislation he sponsored changed the way the health establishment treated women, minorities, and those who most needed help.

Prior to Louis Stokes’s tenure in Congress he served for many years as a criminal defense lawyer and chairman of the Cleveland NAACP Legal Redress Committee. Among the Supreme Court Cases he argued, the Terry “Stop and Frisk” case is regarded as one of the twenty-five most significant cases in the court’s history. The Gentleman from Ohio chronicles this and other momentous events in the life and legacy of Ohio’s first black representative—a man who, whether in law or politics, continually fought for the principles he believed in and helped lead the way for African Americans in the world of mainstream American politics.

William J. Shkurti is retired from The Ohio State University. His most recent positions have been Senior Vice President for Business and Finance and Vice President for Finance. He was also an undergraduate at OSU from 1964 to 1968. Currently, Bill is an adjunct professor at the John Glenn College of Public Affairs.

2016 456 pp. $29.95T paperback 978-0-8142-5362-5 $39.95T jacketed cloth 978-0-8142-1307-0 51 b&w illustrations 1 map Trillium Books

At 5:30 p.m. on May 6, 1970, an embattled Ohio State University President Novice G. Fawcett took the unprecedented step of closing down the university. Despite the presence of more than 1,500 armed highway patrol officers, Ohio National Guardsmen, deputy sheriffs, and Columbus city police, university and state officials feared they could not maintain order in the face of growing student protests. Students, faculty, and staff were ordered to leave; administrative offices, classrooms, and laboratories were closed. The campus was sealed off. Never in the first one hundred years of the university’s existence had such a drastic step been necessary.

Just a year earlier the campus seemed immune to such disruptions. President Nixon considered it safe enough to plan an address at commencement. Yet a year later the campus erupted into a spasm of violent protest exceeding even that of traditional hot spots like Berkeley and Wisconsin. How could conditions have changed so dramatically in just a few short months?

Using contemporary news stories, long-overlooked archival materials, and first-person interviews, The Ohio State University in the Sixties explores how these tensions built up over years, why they converged when they did, and how they forever changed the university.
Lustron Stories

Charles Mintz

The Lustron Corporation manufactured porcelain-baked, enamel-coated all-steel houses between 1948 and 1950 in Columbus, OH. Virtually everything—exterior siding, roof, interior walls, cabinets, and ceilings—was made out of this material. The components were shipped to site on specially designed trailers and assembled by local contractors using only wrenches. About 2,500 Lustrons were sold, mostly in the eastern United States. Roughly two-thirds are still being used today.

A remarkable cross section of individuals and families live in these modest (~1100 sq. ft.) homes. While certainly diverse in age and place in life, the homeowners are still firmly working class. Everyone who lives in a Lustron home has an opinion about it. The material is miserable to cut or drill into. Repairs are more about metalworking and enamel finishing than carpentry or house painting. And magnets tend to be a popular solution for hanging objects inside and outside the steel walls.

Four years ago, Charles Mintz set out to photograph the people living in these homes. The residents, owners, or both were photographed outside and occasionally inside. Mintz used a large-format wooden camera and available light. This book features 68 of the resulting photographs and essays from Shannon Thomas Perich, Curator of the Photographic History Collection at Smithsonian's National Museum of American History, and Jeffrey Head, author and architecture critic.

Columbus, Ohio

Two Centuries of Business and Environmental Change

Mansel G. Blackford

Columbus, Ohio: Two Centuries of Business and Environmental Change examines how a major midwestern city developed economically, spatially, and socially, and what the environmental consequences have been, from its founding in 1812 to near the present day. The book analyzes Columbus’s evolution from an isolated frontier village to a modern metropolis, one of the few thriving cities in the Midwest. No single factor explains the history of Columbus, but the implementation of certain water-use and land-use policies, and interactions among those policies, reveal much about the success of the city.

Precisely because they lived in a midsize, midwestern city, Columbus residents could learn from the earlier experiences of their counterparts in older, larger coastal metropolises, and then go beyond them. Not having large sunk costs in pre-existing water systems, Columbus residents could, for instance, develop new, world-class, state-of-the-art methods for treating water and sewage, steps essential for urban expansion. Columbus, Ohio explores how city residents approached urban challenges—especially economic and environmental ones—and how they solved them. It concludes that scholars and policy makers need to pay much more attention to environmental issues in the shaping of cities.
“Ethics in the Gutter is, above all, clear and beautifully written. It should appeal to scholars in comics studies, narrative theory, trauma studies, ethics, and a certain branch of postmodern literature (historiographic metafiction).” — Eric Berlatsky, author of *The Real, the True, and the Told: Postmodern Historical Narrative and the Ethics of Representation* (OSU Press, 2011) and editor of *Alan Moore: Conversations*

“Ethics in the Gutter is an important and interesting contribution to the study of comics as a literary medium. Polak’s concern with the dark side of empathy is novel, and yet it touches upon central issues in comics studies and (literary) cultural studies.” — Karin Kukkonen, author of *Contemporary Comics Storytelling*

Kate Polak is Assistant Professor of English at Wittenberg University.

*Ethics in the Gutter:* Empathy and Historical Fiction in Comics explores an often-overlooked genre of graphic narratives: those that fictionalize historical realities. While autographics, particularly those that place the memoirist in the context of larger cultural conversations, have been the objects of sustained study, fictional graphic narratives that— as Linda Hutcheon has put it— both “enshrine and question” history are also an important area of study. By bringing narratology and psychological theory to bear on a range of graphic narratives, Kate Polak seeks to question how the form utilizes point of view and the gutter as ethical tools that shape the reader’s empathetic reactions to the content.

This book’s most important questions surround how we receive and interpret representations of history, considering the ways in which what we think we know about historical atrocities can be at odds with the convoluted circumstances surrounding violence. Beginning with a new look at Watchmen, and including examinations of such popular series as Scalped and Hellblazer as well as Bayou and Deogratias, the book questions how graphic narratives create an alternative route by which to understand large-scale violence. *Ethics in the Gutter* explores how graphic narrative representations of violence can teach readers about the possibilities and limitations of empathy and ethics.
Sponsored Migration

The State and Puerto Rican Postwar Migration to the United States

EDGARDO MELÉNDEZ

“Sponsored Migration: The State and Puerto Rican Postwar Migration to the United States is an impressively well-researched book that argues that the government of Puerto Rico organized the great migration of the 1950s via multiple interventions into education, travel regulation, and migrant assistance in the United States. Was Puerto Rican migration a domestic phenomenon, or an international one? The thorough analysis of this hybrid case offers an excellent anchor for comparative studies of migration.”
—César Ayala, author of Puerto Rico in the American Century: A History since 1898

“Meléndez puts the Puerto Rican experience in conversation with pressing debates on citizenship, globalization, and the social and political consequences of economic crises. Sponsored Migration is a timely, deeply researched, and incisively argued book.”
—Arcadio Díaz-Quíñones, Princeton University

Edgardo Meléndez is Professor of Africana and Puerto Rican/Latino studies at Hunter College–CUNY. His previous books include Puerto Rican Government and Politics: A Comprehensive Bibliography, Partidos, política pública y status en Puerto Rico, Puerto Rico en "Patria," and Movimiento anexionista en Puerto Rico.

Puerto Rico is often left out of conversations on migration and transnationalism within the Latino context. Sponsored Migration: The State and Puerto Rican Postwar Migration to the United States by Edgardo Meléndez seeks to rectify this oversight, serving as a comprehensive study of the factors affecting Puerto Rican migration to the United States from the late 1940s to the 1960s. Examining the consequences of the perceived problem of Puerto Rican overpopulation as well as the cost of U.S. imperialism on the lives of Puerto Rican workers, Meléndez scrutinizes Puerto Rican migration in the postwar period as a microcosm of the political history of migration throughout Latin America.

Sponsored Migration places Puerto Rico’s migration policy in its historical context, examining the central role the Puerto Rican government played in encouraging and organizing migration during the postwar period. Meléndez sheds an important new light on the many ways in which the government intervened in the movement of its people: attempting to provide labor to U.S. agriculture, incorporating migrants into places like New York City, seeking to expand the island’s air transportation infrastructure, and even promoting migration in the public school system. One of the first scholars to explore this topic in depth, Meléndez illuminates how migration influenced U.S. and Puerto Rican relations from 1898 onward.
La Verdad
An International Dialogue on Hip Hop Latinidades

Edited by Melissa Castillo-Garsow and Jason Nichols

From its earliest days, hip hop was more than just music, encapsulating the ideas of community and exchange. Artists opened doors by infusing Spanish into their lyrics, calling for racial and social equality; others employed hip hop to comment on the effects of neo-liberalization and global capital. In recent decades, the cultural exchange has expanded—the music traveling from the United States to Latin America and back as visual artists, music producers, MCs, vocalists, and dancers combine their Latin cultures with influences from north of the U.S. border to create new artistic experiences.

A truly international effort, La Verdad: An International Dialogue on Hip Hop Latinidades brings together exciting new work about Latino/a hip hop across more than a dozen countries, from scholars and practitioners in the United States and in Latin America, highlighting in new ways the participation of women, indigenous peoples, and Afro-descendants in a reimagined global, hip hop nation. From graffitera crews in Costa Rica and Nicaragua to Mexican hip hop in New York, from Aymara rap in Bolivia to Chicano rap in Taiwan, this volume explodes stereotypes of who consumes hip hop and how hip hop is consumed, lived, and performed. La Verdad demonstrates that Latino hip hop is a multilingual expression of gender, indigeneity, activism, and social justice.

Spanish Perspectives on Chicano Literature
Literary and Cultural Essays

Edited by Jesús Rosales and Vanessa Fonseca

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.
Permissible Narratives
The Promise of Latino/a Literature

Christopher González

"Permissible Narratives does important work in revising expectations and explicating the possibilities for Latino/a narrative."
—Patrick Hamilton, author of Of Space and Mind: Cognitive Mappings of Contemporary Chicano/a Fiction

"Permissible Narratives leads to new understandings of canonical works. Perhaps more importantly, however, it leads to a broader, and liberating, reconceptualization of Latino/a literature in general."
—Richard Gordon, author of Cannibalizing the Colony: Cinematic Adaptations of Colonial Literature in Mexico and Brazil

In his groundbreaking new study, Permissible Narratives: The Promise of Latino/a Literature, Christopher González examines the difficulties Latina/o writers face in writing beyond the narrow expectations of U.S. readership in the stories they tell. González argues that a constrained conception of the possibilities of storytelling by and about Latinos diminishes the development and progression of narrative form. Through an examination of Latina/o writers against the a priori mode of engaging with nonethnic literature in the United States, González explores the limitations and challenges Latina/o authors have confronted via the shaping power of their narratives to reach a sustainable audience.

Bringing together cultural critique, memory, narratology, cognition, and comprehension, González examines Latina/o authors—such as Oscar “Zeta” Acosta, Gloria Anzaldúa, Piri Thomas, Giannina Braschi, Gilbert Hernandez, Sandra Cisneros, and Junot Díaz—investigating how they successfully, and sometimes unsuccessfully, use the expansive canvas of narrative form to capture the imaginations of an open-minded readership. Permissible Narratives highlights both the inequitable accessibility of narrative devices and, crucially, the daring of Latina/o authors to nurture a readership to afford the same literary deference to them that is so often afforded to white, male, straight authors.

Christopher González is Assistant Professor of English and Associate Dean of the College of Humanities, Social Sciences, and Arts at Texas A&M University–Commerce. He is the author of Reading Junot Díaz.

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13 b&w illustrations
Cognitive Approaches to Culture
Frederick Luis Aldama, Patrick Colm Hogan, Lalita Pandit Hogan, and Sue Kim, Series Editors

Also of Interest

Affective Ecologies
Empathy, Emotion, and Environmental Narrative
Alexa Weik von Mossner

$34.95S paperback 978-0-8142-5401-1
$149.95S printed case 978-0-8142-1336-0
Cognitive Approaches to Culture
Narrative, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States

Edited by James J. Donahue, Jennifer Ann Ho, and Shaun Morgan

Narrative, Race, and Ethnicity in the United States, edited by James J. Donahue, Jennifer Ann Ho, and Shaun Morgan, is the first book-length volume of essays devoted to studying the intersection of race/ethnicity and narrative theories. Each chapter offers a sustained engagement with narrative theory and critical race theory as applied to ethnic American literature, exploring the interpretive possibilities of this critical intersection. Taken as a whole, these chapters demonstrate some of the many ways that the formal study of narrative can help us better understand the racial/ethnic tensions of narrative fictions. Similarly, the essays advance the tools of narrative theory by redeploying or redesigning those tools to better account for and articulate the ways that race and ethnicity are formal components of narrative as well as thematic issues.

Recognizing that racial/ethnic issues and tensions are often contextualized geographically, this volume focuses on narratives associated with various racial and ethnic communities in the United States. By engaging with new developments in narrative theory and critical race studies, this volume demonstrates the vitality of using the tools of narratology and critical race theory together to understand how race influences narrative and how narratology illuminates a reading of race in ethnic American literature.
The Immigrant Kitchen
Food, Ethnicity, and Diaspora
VIVIAN NUN HALORAN

In *The Immigrant Kitchen: Food, Ethnicity, and Diaspora*, Vivian Nun Halloran examines food memoirs by immigrants and their descendants and reveals how their treatment of food deeply embeds concerns about immigrant identity in the United States. Halloran argues that by offering a glimpse into the authors’ domestic lives through discussions of homemade food, these memoirs demystify the processes of immigration, assimilation, acculturation, and expatriation—ultimately examining what it means to live as naturalized citizens of the United States.

Moving seamlessly between works by authors such as Austin Clarke, Madhur Jaffrey, Kim Sunée, Diana Abu-Jaber, Eduardo Machado, Colette Rossant, Maya Angelou, and Jonathan Safran Foer, Halloran describes how they function as a complex and engaging mass media genre that caters to multiple reading constituencies. These memoirs entertain readers with personal anecdotes and recollections, teach new culinary skills through recipes, share insight into different cultural mores through ethnographic and reportorial discussions of life in other countries, and attest to the impact that an individual’s legal immigration into the United States continues to have down through generations of his or her American-born families.

Black Studies / American Studies

Mama’s Gun
Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression
MARLO D. DAVID

In *Mama’s Gun: Black Maternal Figures and the Politics of Transgression*, Marlo D. David identifies five bold, new archetypes of black motherhood for the post-civil rights generation in order to imagine new ways of thinking about pervasive maternal stereotypes of black women. Rather than avoiding “negative” images of black motherhood, such as welfare queens, teen mothers, and “baby mamas,” *Mama’s Gun* centralizes these dispossessed figures and renames them as the Young Mother, the Blues Mama, the Surrogate, Big Mama, and the Mothership.

Taking inspiration from African American fiction, historical accounts of black life, Afrofuturism, and black popular culture in music and on screen, David turns her attention to Sapphire’s *Push*, Octavia Butler’s *Dawn*, and Suzan-Lori Parks’s *Getting Mother’s Body* as well as the performance art of Erykah Badu and the films of Tyler Perry. She draws out the implications of black maternal figures in these texts who balk at tradition and are far from “ideal.” David’s study shows how representations of blackness are deeply embedded in the neoliberal language of contemporary American politics and how black writers and performers resist such mainstream ideologies with their own transgressive black maternal figures.
“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, U.S. 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 of 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.
Literatures of Liberation
Non-European Universalisms and Democratic Progress
MUKTI LAKHI MANGHARAM

The postcolonial spread of democratic ideals such as freedom and equality has taken place all over the world despite the widespread cultural differences that would seem to inhibit such change. In her new book, *Literatures of Liberation: Non-European Universalisms and Democratic Progress*, Mukti Lakhi Mangharam questions how these “universalisms” came to be and suggests that these elements were not solely the result of Europe-based Enlightenment ideals. Instead, they also arose in context-specific forms throughout the world (particularly in the Global South), relatively independently from Enlightenment concepts. These translatable yet distinct cognitive frameworks, or “contextual universalisms,” as she argues, were central to the spread of modern democratic principles in response to the relentless expansion of capital.

In this way, she posits that these universalisms reconceptualize democratic ideals not as Western imports into precolonial societies but as regional phenomena tied to local relations of power and resistance. In charting these alternative democratic trajectories, Mangharam examines oft-overlooked regional and vernacular literary forms and provides a fresh approach to current theorizations of postcolonial and world literatures.

Beyond Tordesillas
New Approaches to Comparative Luso-Hispanic Studies
EDITED BY ROBERT PATRICK NEWCOMB AND RICHARD A. GORDON

*Beyond Tordesillas* is the first volume of its kind to be published in English. Bringing together young and established scholars, it seeks to consolidate the vital work being done on the connections between the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking worlds on both sides of the Atlantic. The volume builds from an understanding that Iberian and Latin American cultures are inherently transoceanic—having engaged in earlier eras in parallel, and sometimes interconnected, colonization projects around the world and more recently in postcolonial evaluations of these practices and their legacies.

The jumping-off point for *Beyond Tordesillas* is the critic Jorge Schwartz’s evocative call to arms, “Down with Tordesillas!” In this groundbreaking essay, Schwartz looks to the imaginary line created by the Treaty of Tordesillas (1494), which divided the known world into Spanish and Portuguese spheres of influence, to stand in for generations of literary and cultural noncommunication between the Spanish- and Portuguese-speaking spheres, and their attendant academic disciplines. This volume’s contributions range topically across continents and also range across genres, with studies that analyze fictional narrative, music, performance, and visual culture. *Beyond Tordesillas* forcefully challenges the disciplinary—and indeed, arbitrary—boundaries that for too long have separated Hispanic and Luso-Brazilian studies.
Divergent Trajectories: Interviews with Innovative Fiction Writers

Flore Chevaillier

Divergent Trajectories: Interviews with Innovative Fiction Writers by Flore Chevaillier examines the aesthetic, political, philosophical, and cultural dimensions of contemporary fiction through a series of interviews with some of today’s most cutting-edge fiction writers. New relationships between literature, media culture, and hypertexts have added to modes of experimentation and reshaped the boundaries between literary and pop culture media, visual arts and literature, critical theory and fiction writing, and print and digital texts. This collection of interviews undertakes such experimentations through an intimate glance, allowing readers to learn about each writer’s journey as well as the aesthetic, political, and personal choices shaping their writing.

Including interviews with R. M. Berry, Debra Di Blasi, Percival Everett, Thalia Field, Renee Gladman, Bhanu Kapil, Lance Olsen, Michael Martone, Carole Maso, Joseph McElroy, Christina Milletti, Alan Singer, and Steve Tomasula, Divergent Trajectories provides a framework that allows innovative authors to discuss in some depth their works, backgrounds, formal research, thematic preferences, genre treatment, aesthetic philosophies, dominant linguistic expressions, cultural trends, and the literary canon. Through an examination of these concepts, writers ask what “traditional” and “innovative” writing is and, most of all, what fiction is today.

Reading Conrad

J. Hillis Miller
Edited by John G. Peters and Jakob Lothe

For half a century, J. Hillis Miller has been a premier figure in English and comparative literature, influencing and leading the direction of literary studies. What is less well-known is that he has been equally influential in Conrad studies with his work on nihilism, language, and narrative in Joseph Conrad’s fiction. Returning to Conrad at different stages of his long career—reading and rereading him in light of new critical trends—Miller continually discovered new aspects of the influential author’s fiction. This volume, edited by John G. Peters and Jakob Lothe, charts Miller’s shifting insights into Joseph Conrad’s fiction and also highlights the potential of Conrad studies to illuminate core questions in studies of narrative theory, aesthetics, and history.

Reading Conrad by J. Hillis Miller demonstrates a surprising cohesiveness across Miller’s career as well as the richness of Conrad’s fiction, which affords varied opportunities for critical approaches as different as phenomenology, new criticism, deconstruction, narrative theory, and narrative ethics. Miller’s analyses emphasize literature’s rhetorical and performative power, ultimately suggesting that while narrative fiction is an effect of a series of complex phenomena in society and in the human psyche, as literary language it can also refer to the external world indirectly and contribute to the formation of history from within.
**Somebody Telling Somebody Else**

**A Rhetorical Poetics of Narrative**

**JAMES PHELAN**

“In Somebody Telling Somebody Else, James Phelan reveals how major parts of his theoretical arsenal relate to one another. As he does this, he gives his readers a view of what it’s like to do rhetorical narrative poetics, and an idea of the places it will take them that other approaches will not. This is a superb, stimulating book that demonstrates how powerful a tool the rhetorical approach to the poetics of narrative is. It will be widely read and influential.”

—Harry E. Shaw, author of *Narrating Reality: Austen, Scott, Eliot*

James Phelan is Distinguished University Professor of English at The Ohio State University and author of *Experiencing Fiction: Judgments, Progressions, and the Rhetorical Theory of Narrative* (OSU Press, 2007).

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Theory and Interpretation of Narrative

In *Somebody Telling Somebody Else: A Rhetorical Poetics of Narrative*, James Phelan proposes a paradigm shift for narrative theory, a turn from viewing narrative as a structure to viewing it as a rhetorical action in which a teller selectively deploys the resources of storytelling in order to accomplish particular purposes in relation to particular audiences. Phelan explores the consequences of this shift for an understanding of various elements of narrative, including reliable and unreliable narration, character-character dialogue, and occasions of narration.

In doing so, he offers new readings of a wide range of narratives from Jane Austen’s *Pride and Prejudice* to Joan Didion’s *The Year of Magical Thinking*, from Joseph Conrad’s *Lord Jim* to George V. Higgins’s *The Friends of Eddie Coyle*, from Franz Kafka’s “Das Urteil” to Toni Morrison’s “Recitatif,” from David Small’s *Stitches* to Jhumpa Lahiri’s “The Third and Final Continent,” from John O’Hara’s “Appearances” to Ian McEwan’s *Enduring Love*. Phelan contends that the standard view of narrative as a synthesis of story and discourse is inadequate to handle the complexities of narrative communication, and he demonstrates the greater explanatory power of his rhetorical view. Furthermore, Phelan gives new prominence to the presence and activity of the “somebody else,” as he shows that an audience’s unfolding responses to a narrative often influence its very construction.
Political Appetites
Food in Medieval English Romance
Aaron Hostetter

Political Appetites: Food in Medieval English Romance is the first book-length examination of the cultural and theoretical resonances of food and cooking in medieval English literature, offering a new assessment of the vexed and critically underappreciated genre of romance. Aaron Hostetter moves beyond the critical assumptions of the food practices of medieval English culture as only reflecting Eucharistic preoccupations. Focusing on the romance literature of England, from tenth-century hagiographic verse to fifteenth-century courtly adventures, he also engages the politics of secular eating. Focus on the edible allows Political Appetites to apply fresh insights from cultural studies and critical theory to these narratives—to adumbrate their unique political perspectives.

The analysis of food reveals these stories to be sophisticated responses to the material and political conditions of their day. If humanity has attempted through its brief history to render the material world edible, then food and food practice not only influence our aspirations but also shift focus to the limits of human existence on this planet. In studying the foodways of the past as a fundamental economic activity, Political Appetites questions contemporary attitudes towards consumption as their proliferation and abuses create social inequities, menace ecosystems, and threaten to bring about the end of the Anthropocene Era.

Invention and Authorship in Medieval England
Robert R. Edwards

From the twelfth century onwards, medieval English writers adapted the conventions of high literary culture to establish themselves as recognized authors and claim a significant place for works of imagination beside those of doctrine and instruction. Their efforts extended over three languages—Latin, French, and English—and across a discontinuous literary history. Their strategy was to approach authorship as a field of rhetorical invention rather than a fixed institution. Consequently, their work was at once revisionary and ambivalent. Writers conspicuously positioned themselves within tradition, exploited the resources of poetic belatedness, and negotiated complex relations to their audiences and social authority.

Authorial invention in the Middle Ages was the base of a national tradition that English writers in the Renaissance saw as stable and capable of emulating the canons of classical languages and the Italian and French vernaculars. In Invention and Authorship in Medieval England, Robert R. Edwards brings new interpretive perspectives to Walter Map, Marie de France, John Gower, Geoffrey Chaucer, Thomas Hoccleve, and John Lydgate. He offers a critical reading of key moments that define the emergence of medieval English authorship by showing how writers adapt the commonplaces of authorship to define themselves and their works externally and to construct literary meaning internally.
Post-Personal Romanticism
Democratic Terror, Prosthetic Poetics, and the Comedy of Modern Ethical Life

Bo Earle

Post-Personal Romanticism: Democratic Terror, Prosthetic Poetics, and the Comedy of Modern Ethical Life by Bo Earle offers a broad recasting of Romantic lyric’s formal innovations in terms of Hegel’s historical ethics. These innovations attempt to come to terms with the Enlightenment’s paradoxical legacy: industrial and consumerist modernity depends on the Enlightenment norm of rationally autonomous individuality even as it makes this norm ever more implausible. In turn, a key insight of theRomantics is that modernity depends most crucially upon the very elusiveness of this norm of autonomous individuality. TheRomantics emphasize that modernity is constitutively a culture of fantasy, a culture self-conscious about the impossibility of its own organizing values and goals.

Tracing this insight to Hegel’s suggestion that modern subjectivity is in some sense post-individual or even posthumous, Earle argues that signature Romantic lyrics offer a way forward that avoids postmodernism’s wholesale rejection of autonomous selfhood. With chapters on Wordsworth, Blake, Byron, Shelley, and Keats, Earle traces how Romantic lyrics mine this interminability to recover figurative emblems or masks of selfhood from experiences of its inevitable normative failure. This model is of particularly urgent value today when the costs of modern narcissism, economic exploitation, and political imperialism have come to include the normalization of torture, signature drone strikes, and climate change.

Walker Percy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and the Search for Influence

Jessica Hooten Wilson

Although Walker Percy named many influences on his work and critics have zeroed in on Kierkegaard in particular, no one has considered his intentional influence: the nineteenth-century Russian novelist Fyodor Dostoevsky. In a study that revives and complicates notions of adaptation and influence, Jessica Hooten Wilson details the long career of Walker Percy. Walker Percy, Fyodor Dostoevsky, and the Search for Influence demonstrates—through close reading of both writers’ works, examination of archival materials, and biographical criticism—not only how pervasive and inescapable Dostoevsky’s influence was but also how necessary it was to the distinctive strengths of Percy’s fiction.

From Dostoevsky, Percy learned how to captivate his non-Christian readership with fiction saturated by a Christian vision of reality. Not only was his method of imitation in line with this Christian faith but also the aesthetic mode and very content of his narratives centered on his knowledge of Christ. The influence of Dostoevsky on Percy, then, becomes significant as a modern case study for showing the illusion of artistic autonomy and long-held, Romantic assumptions about artistic originality. Ultimately, Wilson suggests, only by studying the good that came before can one translate it in a new voice for the here and now.
Contemporary Advances in Theoretical and Applied Spanish Linguistic Variation

Edited by Juan J. Colomina-Almiñana

Contemporary Advances in Theoretical and Applied Spanish Linguistic Variation, edited by Juan J. Colomina-Almiñana, reframes our understanding of language variation and change as an intimate interplay between both linguistic features and social factors always occurring in unison in the same historical process. The volume’s ten chapters, divided into four parts, provide both a synchronic and a diachronic view of Hispanic sociolinguistics, not only focusing on the historical development of Spanish as a Romance language but also analyzing certain idiosyncratic elements of nonstandard Spanish varieties across multiple regions, nations, and diasporas. In addition, the volume offers an enchoronic perspective of this phenomenon by analyzing how certain sustained cultural practices may drive concrete linguistic developments.

This volume makes three major contributions to Hispanic sociolinguistics. First, it covers variation in less commonly studied varieties, which are new areas of interest in a broader world where certain minorities and their languages are crucial. Second, it offers recent and innovative approaches to variation coming from formal theories in order to spark a debate about methodology that is more comprehensive of the diverse approaches to variation currently practiced in the field. Finally, it includes chapters that combine quantitative and qualitative analysis of different linguistic variables.

Basics of Language for Language Learners, 2nd Edition

Peter W. Culicover and Elizabeth V. Hume

Learning a language involves so much more than just rote memorization of rules. Basics of Language for Language Learners, 2nd Edition, by Peter W. Culicover and Elizabeth V. Hume, systematically explores all the aspects of language central to second language learning: the sounds of language, the different grammatical structures, the social functions of communication, and the psychology of language learning and use.

Unlike books specific to one single language, Basics of Language will help students of all languages. Readers will gain insight into the structure and use of their own language and will therefore see more clearly how the language they are learning differs from their first language. Language instructors will find the approach provocative, and the book will stimulate many new and effective ideas for teaching. Both a textbook and a reference work, Basics of Language will enhance the learning experience for anyone taking a foreign language course as well as the do-it-yourself learner.

A new section, “Tools and Strategies,” has been added to this second edition. It comprises three chapters that focus on brain training, memory, and using a dictionary. In addition, the section, “Thinking like a Native Speaker,” has been substantially updated to include more discussion of errors made by language learners.
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Narrative
Edited by James Phelan

Narrative is the official journal of the International Society for the Study of Narrative, the most important professional association for scholars interested in narrative. Narrative’s range of scholarship includes the novel, narrative poetry, nonfiction narrative, film, and narrative as used in the visual and performing arts. The journal publishes essays on narrative theory, narrative and its relation to other modes of discourse, and practical criticism in diverse theoretical modes.

The year 2017 marks twenty-five years of publication for Narrative, and the journal will be noting the occasion both in journal content and visually, through a silver cover. Current issues of Narrative are available as part of Project MUSE’s standard and premium collections. Institutional and individual subscriptions are available. All individual subscriptions include membership in ISSN.

INKS
Edited by Jared Gardner

INKS, the new journal of the Comics Studies Society, features scholarly research on sequential art, graphic narrative, and cartooning. The journal seeks to bring together scholarly essays, archival materials, and insights and discoveries from leading comics professionals. Inks highlights scholarship from a variety of disciplines and invites essays on all periods of comic history, as well as considering both a U.S. or an international comics focus.

INKS is a new journal in Project MUSE’s premium collection in 2017, and for international institutions, is a part of the arts collection. Print issues will have full-color covers as well as a gallery of full-color images in the interior.

Drawing the Line, a 2017 OSU Press book, is a collection of some of the finest writing from the original INKS, a journal published by the press in the 1990s. It invites readers to enjoy seminal articles in the field of comics studies, while the current journal builds on the legacy of the original INKS and points to future directions in comics studies.

Drawing the Line
Comics Studies and INKS, 1994–1997
Edited by Lucy Shelton Caswell and Jared Gardner

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The North American Journal of Celtic Studies
Edited by Joseph F. Eska

The North American Journal of Celtic Studies (NAJCS) is the official journal of the Celtic Studies Association of North America (CSANA). Founded in 1976, CSANA fosters research in all aspects of Celtic studies—including literature, language, history, law, folklore, art, and archeology. Unlike other journals of Celtic studies, NAJCS provides a forum for publication across all disciplines and all time periods that bear upon Celtic studies.

NAJCS is hosted online by JSTOR’s Current Scholarship Program and institutional and personal subscriptions are available. All individual subscriptions include membership in CSANA.

American Periodicals
Edited by Jean Lee Cole, Eric Gardner, and Cynthia Patterson

American Periodicals, the official publication of the Research Society for American Periodicals, is devoted exclusively to scholarship and criticism relating to American magazines and newspapers of all periods. It includes essays, notes, reviews, bibliographies, and histories on all aspects of American periodicals, from the earliest 18th-century magazines to 21st-century ‘zines and e-journals.

American Periodicals current content is included in the Project MUSE standard and premium collections. The journal has recently featured special issues on War & Periodicals and Black Periodical Studies.

Victorians
A Journal of Culture and Literature
Edited by Deborah Logan

New to OSU Press in 2017, and now in its 65th year, Victorians: A Journal of Culture and Literature welcomes interdisciplinary approaches to Victorian literature and culture and continues to respond to developmental shifts in the discipline of Victorian studies.

Formerly named The Victorian Newsletter (ISSN: 0042-5192), Victorians depends upon the contributions of students and scholars to maintain its long scholarly excellence and professional integrity.

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