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“More than any other previous biography of Malcolm X that I have read, in *Malcolm Before X*, Patrick Parr delivers an air-tight, well documented chronology of the well-known episodes in Malcolm's early life combined with a compelling, revelatory portrait of the six and a half transformative years he spent in prison.”

— Abdur-Rahman Muhammad is a scholar, historian, journalist, writer, activist, and authority on the life and legacy of Malcolm X.
Malcolm Before X
PATRICK PARR

In February 1946, when 21-year-old Malcolm Little was sentenced to eight to ten years in a maximum-security prison, he was a petty criminal and street hustler in Boston. By the time of his parole in August 1952, he had transformed into a voracious reader, joined the Black Muslims, and was poised to become Malcolm X, one of the most prominent and important intellectuals of the civil rights era. While scholars and commentators have exhaustively detailed, analyzed, and debated Malcolm X’s post-prison life, they have not explored these transformative six and a half years in any depth.

Utilizing a trove of previously overlooked documents, Patrick Parr immerses readers into the unique cultures of Charlestown State Prison, the Concord Reformatory, and the Norfolk Prison Colony, where Malcolm devoured books, composed poetry, boxed, debated, and joined the Nation of Islam. This time in prison changed the course of Malcolm’s life and set the stage for a decade of antiracist activism that would fundamentally reshape American culture.

“Parr offers an extraordinary portrait of Malcolm by relying on a cornucopia of significant primary sources that, in many instances, no one—literally no one—has ever tapped before. His rare and extremely commendable detective work shows on virtually every page.”

—Keith Miller, author of Voice of Deliverance: The Language of Martin Luther King, Jr., and Its Sources

PATRICK PARR is professor of writing at Lakeland University Japan. He is author of The Seminarian: Martin Luther King Jr. Comes of Age and his work has appeared in The Atlantic, Politico, USA Today, and The American Prospect.

“African American History, Biography and Autobiography, Intellectual History
352 pp., 12 illus., 8 tables
$99.00 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-62534-817-3
November 2024

“This World Is Not My Home”
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ALSO OF INTEREST

November 2024

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The Innermost House
A Memoir
CYNTHIA BLAKELEY

Raised in a nineteenth-century saltbox house in Wellfleet, Massachusetts, Cynthia Blakeley was both surrounded by generations of immediate and extended family and isolated by the mysteries locked inside her affectionate yet elusive mother and short-fused father. While she and her sisters and cousins roamed the Outer Cape—drinking in the dunes, swimming in kettle ponds, and dancing in Provincetown—Blakeley also turned to the inner world of her journals as she contended with her own secrets and memories.

Blakeley’s captivating memoir moves fluidly through time, grappling with the question of who owns a memory or secret and how our narrative choices not only describe but also shape and change us. In this insightful and poignant account of tenacious year-rounders on Cape Cod, Blakeley contends that making sense of ourselves is a collaborative affair, one that begins with understanding those we came from.

“In a beautifully evocative depiction of life growing up in a working-class family on Cape Cod, Cynthia Blakeley struggles with forging an identity from things remembered, things forgotten, and perhaps things only dreamed or imagined. Informed by contemporary neuroscience of memory, Blakeley considers how we both live in the past and leave it behind, how we reconcile the family we love with the harrowing secrets we hold, and, ultimately, how each of us crafts a life story in the face of these ambiguities.”
—Robyn Fivush, professor of psychology and Psychology Today’s “The Stories of Our Lives” blogger

“Anyone interested in memoir as a literary genre should read The Innermost House. This is not just a memoir but a meta-memoir, an examination of what memoir-making is about, how life story and identity are intertwined, and how memory, that slippery devil, shapes and reshapes what we tell ourselves about ourselves. Blakeley’s not just telling us a life story, she’s constructing one as we watch, and for me there’s something eerily familiar about the process, because even though my life has been nothing like Blakeley’s, I do this too—I suspect we all do.”
—Tamim Ansary, author of The Invention of Yesterday

CYNTHIA BLAKELEY is an instructor at Emory University in Atlanta, where she teaches courses on memory and memoir, interdisciplinary research, and theories of dream interpretation. Her creative nonfiction has appeared in the Cape Cod Voice, HerStry, and Dreamers Magazine.

ALSO OF INTEREST

The Memory Eaters
ELIZABETH KADETSKY

256 pp., 3 illus.
$99.00 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-62534-815-9
November 2024
Our Science, Ourselves

How Gender, Race, and Social Movements Shaped the Study of Science

CHRISTA KULJIAN

When Christa Kuljian arrived on the Harvard College campus as a first-year student in the fall of 1980 with copies of Our Bodies, Ourselves and Ms. magazine, she was concerned that the women's movement had peaked in the previous decade. She soon learned, however, that there was a long way to go in terms of achieving justice for women and that social movements would continue to be a critical force in society. She began researching the history of science and gender biases in science, and how they intersect with race, class, and sexuality.

In Our Science, Ourselves, Kuljian tells the origin story of feminist science studies by focusing on the life histories of six key figures—Ruth Hubbard, Rita Arditti, Evelyn Fox Keller, Evelyne Hammonds, Anne Fausto-Sterling, and Banu Subramaniam. These women were part of a trailblazing network of female scientists in the 1970s, 80s, and 90s in the Boston area. Inspired by the social and political activism of the women's movement, they began to write and teach about women in science, gender and science, and sexist and racist bias and exclusion. The book also explores how these contributions differed from those of Nancy Hopkins', author of the 1999 MIT report on women in science, and a 'reluctant feminist.’ Drawing on a rich array of sources, Kuljian chronicles and celebrates the contributions that these women have made to our collective scientific knowledge and our view of the world.

“Writing in lucid and accessible prose, and with a primary source base that is extensive and offers a strong background for understanding the personal dimensions of this history, Kuljian has something important to tell us about the origins of feminist science studies.”

—Jenna Tonn, assistant professor of the practice, Department of Engineering, Boston College, whose current book project is Boys in the Laboratory: Gender and the Rise of the American Life Sciences

CHRISTA KULJIAN grew up in the Boston area, and has lived in Johannesburg, South Africa for the past thirty years. She is the author of Sanctuary and Darwin’s Hunch: Science, Race and the Search for Human Origins, which was short listed for the Sunday Times Alan Paton Award for Non-Fiction.

Gender and Women’s Studies; Science and Technology

352 pp., 12 illus.
$99.00 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-62534-819-7
September 2024

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More Than Blue, More Than Yankee
Complexity and Change in New England Politics
EDITED BY AMY FRIED AND ERIN O’BRIEN

New England politics can, at first blush, appear monochromatic. After all, only one member of the entire region’s current delegation to the US Congress is a Republican; in contrast, only two states in the region—Rhode Island and Connecticut—had Democratic senators in 1948. Yet a closer examination of the region today reveals fascinating variation. Liberal policies, greater diversity, and engaged social movements are reshaping stereotypical Yankee tendencies. This compelling volume captures both the political history and contemporary moment and exposes the surprisingly varied civic landscape.

This book argues that New England is and always has been an important part of the national puzzle, from demonstrating democratic principles in early America to producing major present-day figures such as Elizabeth Warren, Ayanna Pressley, and Susan Collins. The shifts at work mirror similar transformations in the South but have received much less attention. This important collection corrects that omission by profiling movements and candidates, revealing rhetoric (from activists to pundits), and exploring demographics and voting in each state as well as the region as a whole.

“This book makes a tremendous addition to understanding state and local government. It specifically captures how national parties’ stances on issues differ from the region’s outlook in politics. This is a critical intervention because there is little modern scholarship in this area, and many outsiders and the media tend to frame New England as simply a ‘blue’ region.”

—Jonathan L. Wharton, author of Democracy in New England: A Community Politics Reader

AMY FRIED is professor emerita of political science at the University of Maine. Her most recent book is At War with Government: How Conservatives Weaponized Distrust from Goldwater to Trump, co-authored with Douglas B. Harris.

ERIN O’BRIEN is associate professor of political science at the University of Massachusetts Boston. Her most recent book is The Politics of Massachusetts Exceptionalism: Reputation Meets Reality, co-edited with Jerold Duquette.

ALSO OF INTEREST

The Politics of Massachusetts Exceptionalism
Reputation Meets Reality
EDITED BY JEROLD DUQUETTE AND ERIN O’BRIEN
$30.95 paper
978-1-62534-667-4

New England History and Culture / Political History

280 pp., 8 charts, 14 tables
$99.00 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-62534-831-9
October 2024
Inventing the Boston Game
Football, Soccer, and the Origins of a National Myth
KEVIN TALLEC MARSTON AND MIKE CRONIN

On Boston Common stands a monument dedicated to the Oneida Football Club. It honors the site where, in the 1860s, sixteen boys played what was then called the “Boston game”—an early version of football in the United States. In the 1920s, a handful of the players orchestrated a series of commemorative events, donating artifacts to museums, depositing self-penned histories into libraries and archives, and erecting bronze and stone memorials, all to elevate themselves as the inventors of American football. But was this self-laudatory origin story of what, by then, had become one of America’s favorite games as straightforward as they made it seem or a myth-making hoax?

In Inventing the Boston Game, Kevin Tallec Marston and Mike Cronin investigate and reveal the true story of the Oneida Football Club. In a compelling narrative informed by sports history, Boston history, and the study of memory, they posit that these men engaged in self-memorialization to reinforce their elite status during a period of tremendous social and economic change. This exploration provides fascinating insight into how and why origin stories are created in the first place.

“A thoroughly researched history set during a time when Americans created all kinds of memorials—especially for famous sporting events—to create a usable past that mythologized the nation while also reinforcing the established social order.”

—Brian Ingrassia, author of The Rise of Gridiron University: Higher Education’s Uneasy Alliance with Big-Time Football

“A fascinating study of historical memory and a terrific history of sport and youth culture in Boston.”

—Joel Wolfe, author of the forthcoming The American Game: Gridiron Football and the Making of a Modern Nation

KEVIN TALLEC MARSTON’S writings on sports have appeared in edited collections and journals such as Contemporary European History and the International Sports Law Journal.

MIKE CRONIN’S publications include Sport: A Very Short Introduction.

Sports and Recreation; New England History and Culture; Memory Studies
360 pp., 12 illus.
$34.95 paper, ISBN 978-1-62534-842-5
December 2024

Expanding the Strike Zone
Baseball in the Age of Free Agency
DANIEL A. GILBERT
$27.95 paper
978-1-55849-997-3

ALSO OF INTEREST
Unfracked
The Struggle to Ban Fracking in New York
RICHARD BUTTNY

When hydraulic fracturing, or fracking, emerged as a way of extracting natural gas in 1949, it was seen as a great opportunity for farmers and large landowners. Over time, however, environmental and public health concerns arose, which by 2010, had gained widespread attention. After reading a story in his local paper in New York about hydrofracking coming to his area, Richard Buttny, a scholar who works in communication studies, had to research what it was and what it could mean for his community. Soon he joined neighbors in fighting to have the practice banned locally as well as statewide. At the same time, he turned his scholarly eye to examining the messaging from both sides of the fight, using interviews, media coverage, and first-person accounts.

New York is now the only state in the US with sizable deposits of natural gas that has banned fracking. Unfracked explains the competing messages about fracking among New York-based advocates, experts, grassroots organizers, and political officials. The result is a look at a very recent, important historical moment and a useful examination of environmental activist and fossil fuel advocate discourse around an issue that continues to cause debate nationwide.

“This easy-to-read book is the first I know of which squarely analyzes and documents the push for a fracking ban in New York. The autobiographical account Buttny includes is gripping because readers get an on the ground, inside look at one town’s push for a ban, and it fits nicely because, as the author argues, towns’ pushes to ban fracking locally played a large part in pressing the governor to ban the practice.”

—Colin Jerolmack, author of Up to Heaven and Down to Hell: Fracking, Freedom and Community in an American Town

RICHARD BUTTNY’S writing on fracking has appeared in The Sustainability Communication Reader, as well as in Frontiers in Communication: Science and Environmental Communication, the Journal of Risk Research, Discourse & Communication, and Environmental Communication.

Democratic Spaces
Land Preservation in New England, 1850–2010
RICHARD W. JUDD
$32.95 paper
978-1-62534-757-2

EnvironmenTal History & eCology / Capitalism, Labor, and Class
184 pp., 4 illus., 1 table
$99.00 hardcover, ISBN 978-1-62534-823-4
October 2024

ALSO OF INTEREST
Democratic Spaces
Land Preservation in New England, 1850–2010
RICHARD W. JUDD
$32.95 paper
978-1-62534-757-2

ALSO OF INTEREST
Democratic Spaces
Land Preservation in New England, 1850–2010
RICHARD W. JUDD
$32.95 paper
978-1-62534-757-2
Introducing
BLACK NEW ENGLAND

This interdisciplinary series seeks to publish original, ground-breaking, and path-blazing research that critically examines the experiences of African-descended people in New England from the era of colonization to the present day. The series editors are particularly interested in work that centers the Black experience in New England and that considers Black people to be key agents in the region’s history, economy, culture, politics, and society. Geographically comprehensive, including all parts of the region and both rural and urban areas, the series also seeks work on the transnational experience of Black New England.

“I know of no comparable series. The past decade has seen an explosion of scholarly work on race in the North. This is an especially good time to begin a series on Black New England.”

—Jason Sokol, author of All Eyes Are Upon Us: Race and Politics from Boston to Brooklyn

“Bravo to the editors of this bold new, and very much needed, series. Because of the symbolism of New England to the development of America, a systematic investigation of the area’s Black history is something that many of us who are working in this field have long wanted to see come to fruition, and it fills an important gap in the scholarship.”


KABRIA BAUMGARTNER is Dean’s Associate Professor of history and Africana studies at Northeastern University and the author of In Pursuit of Knowledge: Black Women and Educational Activism in Antebellum America.

KERRI GREENIDGE is Mellon Associate Professor of Studies in Race, Colonialism, and Diaspora at Tufts University and the author of The Grimkes: The Legacy of Slavery in An American Family.


NICOLE MASKIELL is associate professor of history at University of South Carolina and the author of Bound by Bondage: Slavery and the Creation of a Northern Gentry.
Captain Paul Cuffe, Yeoman
A Biography
JEFFREY A. FORTIN

Paul Cuffe is best understood as a member of the Black founding fathers in the United States. Born in 1759 on Cuttyhunk Island in Massachusetts, Cuffe emerged from anonymity to become the most celebrated African American sea captain during the Age of Sail. Cuffe was a well-known abolitionist, veteran, and community activist, and celebrity followed him as he built a shipping empire. Cuffe and his Black crews shook the foundations of systemic racism by sailing into ports where slavery was legal. He established the first racially integrated school in the United States in Westport, Massachusetts, and is considered the leader of America’s first back-to-Africa movement.

Jeffrey A. Fortin describes Cuffe’s experiences in vivid detail and places them within the broader history of the Early Republic, revealing the central role of African Americans in the founding of the United States. Fortin situates Cuffe within a fascinating Atlantic world where race and identity were fluid, and Africans and African Americans sought to build and govern a free Black nation in West Africa.

“Cuffe’s influence on the history of the colonization movement and African American, New England, and US history during the earliest days of the republic has been neglected over the past half-century. Fortin’s biography is a significant achievement because it deeply considers this influence.”

—Ousmane Power-Greene, author of Against Wind and Tide: The African American Struggle against the Colonization Movement

JEFFREY A. FORTIN is associate professor of history at Emmanuel College. He is co-editor with Mark Meuwese of Atlantic Biographies: Individuals and Peoples in the Atlantic World.

African American History; History: Colonial, Revolutionary Era, and Early American; Biography and Autobiography

240 pp.
November 2024
The Precious Birthright
Black Leaders and the Fight to Vote in Antebellum Rhode Island
CJ MARTIN

In 1842, Black Rhode Islanders secured a stunning victory rarely seen in antebellum America: they won the right to vote. Amid heightened public discourse around shifting ideas of race, citizenship, and political rights, they methodically deconstructed the arguments against their enfranchisement and chose the perfect moments in which to act forcefully. At the head of this movement was a cohort of prominent business and community members that formed an early example of a Black leadership class in the US.

CJ Martin argues that Black leaders employed a unique combination of agitation and accommodation to ensure the success of this movement. By focusing on Black leadership, Martin relates this history through the people who lived it, and by investigating their tactics, he deepens the story of how race played a crucial role in American citizenship. Exploring a fight that was as important to the pioneers of interracial democracy as it was for the civil rights activists of the twentieth century, *The Precious Birthright* provides new insight into the larger story of Black freedom.

“What immediately jumps out from *The Precious Birthright* is its wealth of new evidence documenting the agency of hitherto obscure leadership groups among Black men and women in Providence from the 1780s on, including their social position and relationships with each other, and their alliances with a sector of the city’s white elites. This constitutes a significant deepening in the narrative of this state’s free people of color.”

—Van Gosse, author of *The First Reconstruction: Black Politics in America, From the Revolution to the Civil War*

“With convincing arguments and grounded in original research, *The Precious Birthright* is enlivened with portraits of remarkable Black political activists, writers, and organizers—and a series of tumultuous events, including remarkable examples of institution-building, violent attacks, and heartbreaking setbacks.”

—John Wood Sweet, author of *Bodies Politic: Negotiating Race in the American North, 1730–1830* and *The Sewing Girl’s Tale: A Story of Crime and Consequences in Revolutionary America*

CJ MARTIN is Visiting Assistant Professor at the College of Holy Cross. He has taught at the University of Massachusetts Amherst and Emerson College. His work has appeared in journals such as *Rhode Island History* and *Commonplace*.

*African American History; History: Nineteenth Century American and Civil War; New England History and Culture*

288 pp., 1 chart
$34.95 paper, ISBN 978-1-62534-838-8
October 2024
**Tasting and Testing Books**
*Good Housekeeping, Popular Modernism, and Middlebrow Reading*

**AMY L. BLAIR**

In its February 1926 issue, *Good Housekeeping* introduced an advice column called “Tasting and Testing Books,” authored by Emily Newell Blair until 1934. During this period, the magazine became the most widely circulated periodical in the United States, largely because of its coveted Seal of Approval for a variety of products. With her focus on popular, everyday books, Blair distinguished herself from highbrow literary critics by offering advice to empower middle-class women to make their own choices about the best books in which to invest time and money.

From the heights of the “Roaring Twenties” to the depths of the Great Depression, Blair’s recommendations offer a window into the uses of middlebrow reading during this era of dramatic economic and social change. *Tasting and Testing Books* argues that the consumer-first message of the magazine infused Blair’s column and validated a new attitude of proudly middlebrow pleasure reading. This illuminating book sheds new light on the tastes of too-often overlooked readers and presents Emily Newell Blair as a pioneering, democratic tastemaker.

AMY BLAIR is associate professor of English at Marquette University and author of *Reading Up: Middle-Class Readers and the Culture of Success in the Early Twentieth-Century United States*.

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**Closely and Consciously**
*Reading and the U.S. Women’s Liberation Movement*

**YUNG-HSING WU**

The significant archive of writing that came out of the US women’s liberation movement, from 1965 to 1980, speaks to the phenomenal power of reading, as an act that is both personal and about the collective good. Yung-Hsing Wu examines the importance of reading and how it brought a host of women, each with their own history with the broader movement, into relation with one another.

The value placed on reading can be seen in the ways feminists pursued media representation. *Closely and Consciously* crisscrosses distinct print spheres from feminist cells and consciousness-raising groups, feminist presses seeking to articulate their visions for women’s writing, the emergence of feminist literary criticism in first-time monographs and newly established journals, to personal and editorial correspondence, press records, and the publishing histories of bestsellers that testified to the increasingly broad popularity of women’s writing. Uniting all these disparate activists and media outlets, and providing crucial relationality, was reading.

YUNG-HSING WU is professor of English at the University of Louisiana at Lafayette. Her scholarship has appeared in journals, including *Digital Humanities Quarterly, Modern Fiction Studies, PMLA, Profession, the Mississippi Quarterly*, and the *Children’s Literature Association Quarterly*. 
Writing Themselves into the Movement
Child Authors of the Black Arts Era
AMY FISH

Between 1967 and 1972 at least thirty anthologies by African American, Latinx, Asian American, and Native American children came out of adult-led writing workshops and classrooms. These anthologies gained national media coverage, occasionally became bestsellers, and even inspired a hit Broadway musical. While writings by children had long attracted attention, this coverage was distinguished by the widespread belief that children of color from poor and working-class neighborhoods were uniquely able to speak about racism and inequality.

Focusing on youth within New York City, Amy Fish examines child-authored texts of these years within the context of their production and reception. These writers were often supervised and edited by white adults, raising concerns about the authenticity and agency of their voices. Fish contends that young authors shared these concerns and employed savvy rhetorical strategies to interrogate the perils and possibilities of their adult-influenced work. Young writers thus contributed to the era’s debates about the nature of authorship and readership within a racist society.

AMY FISH is Assistant Director for Experiential Learning and Academic & Co-Curricular Initiatives at Boston University. Her writings have appeared in numerous publications, including The Lion and the Unicorn and Research on Diversity in Youth Literature.

Making World Literature
Actors, Institutions, and Networks in the United States since 1890
ANNA MUENCHRATH

From universities to governments, the Big Five publishers to Amazon, the influence of institutions abounds in US publishing. A diverse array of books from around the globe have been made into world literature in the US, selected by editors, publishers, and bureaucrats, produced by non-profits and for-profit presses of all sizes, and distributed through schools, publishing programs, and bookstores. The “world” of world literature, Anna Muenchrath argues, is a heterogeneous network of people whose circulation of literature is necessarily imbricated in the market economy, but whose selections might resist that economy and open new literary futures.

Making World Literature posits that network theory can effectively model the agency of traditional actors and institutions in the literary field who make visible the long-term accrual of power as well as the choices of individuals who do not simply replicate the values of a global literary marketplace, but also divert, question, and undermine them. Through archival research and close readings, Muenchrath considers what those participating in a book’s creation are trying to do in circulating a text, and what communities they are helping to form or strengthen.

ANNA MUENCHRATH is assistant professor of English at the Florida Institute of Technology. Her scholarship has appeared in American Literature, Post-45, Journal of World Literature, and Book History.
Racializing Objectivity
How the White Southern Press Used Journalism Standards to Defend Jim Crow
Gwyneth Mellinger

When the civil rights movement began to challenge Jim Crow laws, the white southern press reframed the coverage of racism and segregation as a debate over journalism standards. Many white editors, for instance, designated Black Americans as “Negro” in news stories, claiming it was necessary for accuracy and “objectivity,” even as white subjects went unlabeled. This weaponization of journalism standards—particularly the idea of objectivity—was used to counter and discredit reporting that challenged white supremacy.

Gwyneth Mellinger exposes how these standards were used as rationalization for white supremacy and as a political strategy to resist desegregation, while arguing that white privilege gave these professionals a stake in the racial status quo and was thus a conflict of interest. Elegant and incisive, Racializing Objectivity unequivocally demonstrates that a full telling of twentieth-century press history must reckon with the white southern press’ cooptation of objectivity and other professional standards to skew racial narratives about Black Americans, as well as about northern whites and democracy itself.

GWYNETH MELLINGER is a Ruth D. Bridgeforth Professor of Telecommunications at James Madison University. She is the author of Chasing Newsroom Diversity: From Jim Crow to Affirmative Action.

Unsettling Thoreau
Native Americans, Settler Colonialism, and the Power of Place
John J. Kucich

Henry David Thoreau’s life-long fascination with Native Americans has been a recurring topic of interest, and it is also a source of modern debate. John J. Kucich charges into the contradiction of Thoreau, considering how he could demonstrate deep respect for this group on one hand and ignore their genocide on the other. Thoreau’s long study of Native peoples, as reflected in his writing, allowed him to glimpse an Indigenous worldview, but it never fully freed him from the blind spots of settler colonialism.

Drawing on Indigenous studies and critiques of settler colonialism, as well as new materialist approaches, Unsettling Thoreau explores the stakes of Thoreau’s effort to live mindfully and ethically in place when living alongside, or replacing, marginalized peoples. By examining the whole scope of his published and unpublished writings and placing them alongside Native writings and communities, this book gauges Thoreau’s effort to use Indigenous knowledge to reimagine a settler colonial world, without removing him from its trappings.

JOHN J. KUCICH is professor of English at Bridgewater State University. He is editor of Rediscovering the Maine Woods: Thoreau’s Legacy in an Unsettled Land and author of Ghostly Communion: Cross-Cultural Spiritualism in Nineteenth Century American Literature.
Capturing COVID
*Media and the Pandemic in the Digital Era*
KATHERINE A. FOSS

When health authorities quarantined guests aboard the Diamond Princess on February 5, 2020, the cruise ship abruptly shifted from a dream vacation vessel to a public health nightmare. Over the next three weeks, 712 passengers tested positive for the COVID-19 coronavirus. There were fourteen deaths, and the ship outbreak quickly became the largest cluster of cases outside of China. Guests shared updates on social media that became a key source of information for news outlets and helped set the tone for how media would cover the pandemic for the next several years.

Unlike past pandemics, COVID-19 emerged in a digital world of instant communication, with citizen-produced content mingling with more traditional media. *Capturing COVID* makes sense of how this modern landscape shaped the public’s knowledge and perceptions during the progression of the pandemic. Katherine A. Foss focuses on crucial media moments to illuminate how this digital era kept people informed and connected, but also led to the politicization of the virus, rampant mis/disinformation, and stigmatizing messaging that contributed to public distrust and division.

KATHERINE A. FOSS is the director of the School of Journalism and Strategic Media at Middle Tennessee State University. She is author of numerous books, including *Constructing the Outbreak: Epidemics in Media and Collective Memory*.

Mothering in the Time of Coronavirus
*AMY LUTZ, SUJUNG (CRYSTAL) LEE, AND BAURZHAN BOKAYEV*

When stay-at-home orders during the COVID-19 pandemic erased the division between home and school, many parents in the United States were suddenly expected to become their children’s teachers. Despite this new arrangement, older gender norms largely remained in place, and these extra child rearing responsibilities fell disproportionately on mothers. *Mothering in the Time of Coronavirus* explores how they juggled working, supervising at-home learning, and protecting their children’s emotional and physical health during the outbreak.

Focusing on both remote and essential workers in central New York, Amy Lutz, Sujung (Crystal) Lee, and Baurzhan Bokayev argue that the pandemic transformed an already intensive style of contemporary American child rearing into extremely intensive mothering. The authors investigate the many ramifications of this shift, and how it is influenced by issues such as class and race. Targeting their study within larger intersections of gender, families, and education, they contend that to fully understand the broader social consequences of COVID-19, we must understand the experiences of mothers.

AMY LUTZ is associate professor of sociology at Syracuse University and co-author of *Parenting in Privilege or Peril: How Social Inequality Enables or Derails the American Dream*.

SUJUNG (CRYSTAL) LEE’S work has appeared in the *Journal of Social Issues* and *Journal of Comparative & International Higher Education*.

BAURZHAN BOKAYEV’S work has appeared in the *Journal of Social Issues* and *Politics and Society*.
Branching Out
The Public History of Trees
EDITED BY LEAH S. GLASER AND PHILIP LEVY

Trees are not just natural resources; they are also cultural ones that present unique challenges and opportunities for public historians and local preservation activities. Trees can serve as important objects of memory, recalling past triumphs or tragedies. They can also be the last living witness to important events or community memories. But they are living entities and therefore defy the kind of preservation applicable to buildings and other inanimate historical objects. Their inherent organic fragility can also create significant problems for historical sites; storm and fire damage, intensified by climate-change, highlight the ways that trees—however historical or beloved—can become considerable threats.

The fourteen new essays in this fascinating volume explore the many ways that trees are an integral part of public history practice and sites. The authors draw on a range of approaches and historiographies to look at how memories of race-based hate, patriotic stories, community identities, and changed places all have centered on trees.

LEAH S. GLASER is professor of history at Central Connecticut State University. Her books include Interpreting Energy at Museums and Historic Sites and Electrifying the Rural American West: Stories of Power, People, and Place.

PHILIP LEVY is professor of history at University of South Florida. His books include Yard Birds: The Lives and Times of America’s Urban Chickens and The Permanent Resident: Explorations and Excavations of the Life of George Washington.

No Man Is an Island
Community and Commemoration on Norway’s Utøya
JØRGEN WATNE FRYDNES
TRANSLATED BY WENDY H. GABRIELSEN

On July 22, 2011, a white supremacist killed eight people at Oslo’s Government Center in Norway and then terrorized the idyllic island of Utøya, where he executed sixty-nine more people, mostly teenagers. The country had never suffered such a massacre, and in the aftermath the entire population was reeling.

Utøya, home of the Norwegian Labor Party’s summer camp for youth, became mired in grief. When Jørgen Watne Frydnes took on the task of rebuilding the island, he made a radical decision: talk with each family of a murdered person, seeking to understand their needs and hopes for the future of the island. This emotionally grueling work led to a true renewal for Utøya, resulting in a meaningful memorial to those who were lost as well as welcoming and beautiful surroundings for campers. Frydnes’s narrative tracks one person’s account of learning how to remember, commemorate, and honor the dead and acknowledge a mass tragedy yet also create a nurturing and inspiring space for the future and for hope.

JØRGEN WATNE FRYDNES is the director of PEN Norway and former director of Utøya, a Norwegian island owned by the Workers’ Youth League. He is chair of the Nobel Peace Prize Committee and a board member of The Norwegian Helsinki Committee.

Frydnes has led the effort to rebuild Utøya after the terrorist attack in 2011.
In the mid-nineteenth century, Boston fashioned itself as a global hub. By the early 1970s, it was barely a dot on the national picture, having gained a reputation as a decaying city rife with crime, dysfunctional politics, and decidedly retrograde race relations. Despite this historical ebb in its national and international presence, it still possessed the infrastructure—superb educational institutions, world-class sports teams, powerful media outlets, and extensive shipping capacity—required to eventually thrive in an age of worldwide trade and mass communication.

In *Boston Mass-Mediated*, Stanley Corkin explores the tremendous power of mass media to define a place. He examines the tensions between the emergent and prosperous modern city of today and its representation in a range of media sources that have emphasized tropes suggestive of an earlier Boston, even as it becomes increasingly diverse and multicultural. Using Boston as a case study, Corkin contends that our contemporary sense of place is created through an increasingly media-saturated world via an explosion of digital technology that is frequently steeped in outdated preconceptions.

“Corkin does a marvelous job weaving together literatures, ideas, and concepts from sociology, history, geography, urban studies, and literary studies to show how the image of Boston is tied up in the mediated stories people tell about it.”

—Michael Ian Borer, author of *Urban People and Places: The Sociology of Cities, Suburbs, and Towns and Faithful to Fenway: Believing in Boston, Baseball, and America’s Most Beloved Ballpark*

“Corkin is one of the leading proponents of urban-oriented cinema and media studies, and *Boston Mass-Mediated* will be the first authoritative book-length study of Boston in mass media. Given its historical importance as a city and in media, this is essential reading.”

—Mark Shiel, author of *Hollywood Cinema and the Real Los Angeles*
When critics of poet Phillis Wheatley, the first African American to publish a collection of poetry, dismiss her work as derivative, they fail to see her writing as part of a new creative pantheon of works that are structured as a conversation between artistic allies. Ekphrasis, the literary description of a work of visual art, reveals a particularly interesting form of copying where the artwork in question becomes a kind of mediated space between author and reader. This practice, then, becomes the emblematic form of literature as collective production.

Original Copy frames ekphrasis and other forms of literary and visual copy-work as key practices for understanding the discussions of nationalism, originality, and gender that dominated US literary circles during the first half of the nineteenth century. Christa Holm Vogelius focuses on four major writers of the period—Phillis Wheatley, Margaret Fuller, Sophia Hawthorne, and Henry Longfellow—to offer a narrative of a self-consciously feminine antebellum literary culture that was equally invested in literary nationality and convention. Bridging studies of literary nationalism and transnationalism, scholarship on gender in nineteenth-century literary culture, and aesthetic and media theory, this book argues for the significance of both imitation and intimate author-reader relations to the development of an American literature.

“This is an important work of scholarship, full of illuminating insights and brilliant readings. The story Original Copy tells has implications not only for our understanding of the aesthetics of the nineteenth century, but its reconfiguration of imitation and original sheds important new light on modernism and twentieth-century literature, as well.”

—Brian Glavely, author of The Wallflower Avant-Garde: Modernism, Sexuality, and Queer Ekphrasis

“Original Copy makes a significant contribution to the field of American literary studies in that it revises our understanding of the importance of vivid description, as opposed to original invention, to imagining and understanding America. Vogelius has a lively and readable way of handling all of this complicated material.”

—Mary Louise Kete, author of Sentimental Collaborations: Mourning and Middle-Class Identity in 19th Century America

CHRISTA HOLM VOGELOIUS is New Carlsberg Fellow in Art Research at the Jacob A. Riis Museum and Center for American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark. Her scholarship has appeared in Poe Studies, Legacy, ESQ, Common-Place, American Periodicals, and The Emily Dickinson Journal.
Tagus Press is the publishing arm of the University of Massachusetts Dartmouth Center for Portuguese Studies and Culture, a multidisciplinary international studies and outreach unit dedicated to the study of the language, literatures, and cultures of the Portuguese-speaking world. Recognized as a leader in bringing Portuguese literature, history, and culture to an English-speaking audience, Tagus Press’s groundbreaking translations and journals address both Portuguese life abroad and in the United States.

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FRANK X. GASPAR was born and raised in Provincetown, Massachusetts. The author of five collections of poetry and two novels, Leaving Pico was a Barnes and Noble Discovery Prize winner, a recipient of the California Book Award for First Fiction, and a New York Times Notable Book.

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INTRODUCTION BY KATHERINE VAZ
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DARRELL KASTIN is a Sacramento-based writer and musician. The author of The Conjurer and Other Azorean Tales and Shadowboxing with Bukowski, Kastin received the Independent Publishers Book Awards’ Silver Prize for Multicultural Fiction for The Undiscovered Island.

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RAYMOND OLIVER is emeritus professor of English at the University of California Berkeley. The recipient of a Stegner Fellowship from Stanford University, Oliver’s verse-translations, poems, and critical work have been widely published. He is the author of three volumes of poetry, including Entries, Greeting the End of Time, and The Night When God Spoke French.

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