Divided Loyalties
Young Somali Americans and the Lure of Extremism
Joseph Weber

Why do people join violent extremist movements? What attracts so many to fight for terrorist groups like al-Shabab, al-Qaida, and the Islamic State? Journalism professor Joseph Weber answers these questions by examining the case of the more than fifty Somali Americans, mostly young men from Minnesota, who made their way to Somalia or Syria, attempted to get to those countries, aided people who did, or financially backed terrorist groups there. Often defying parents who had fled to the United States seeking safety and prosperity for their children, many of these youths ended up dead, missing, or imprisoned. But for every person who went on or attempted this journey believing they were rising to the defense of Islam, more rejected the temptations of terrorism. What made the difference? The book takes a close look at one man from Minneapolis, the American-born son of a couple who had fled Somalia, who came dangerously close to answering the ISIS call. Abdirahman Abdirashid Bashir’s cousins and friends had taken up arms for the group and reached out to him to join them. From 2014 to 2016 he and a dozen friends—some still in their teens—schemed to find ways to get to Syria. Some succeeded. In the end, Bashir made a different choice. Not only did he reject ISIS’s call, he decided to work with the FBI to spy on his friends and ultimately to testify against them in court. Drawing on extensive interviews, Weber explains why.

JOSEPH WEBER is the Jerry and Karla Huse Professor of News-Editorial and an Associate Professor of Journalism at the University of Nebraska–Lincoln. Weber worked for thirty-five years in daily and weekly journalism, including twenty-two years in several posts across North America for BusinessWeek, departing as the magazine’s chief of correspondents.

ALSO OF INTEREST
Afrodescendants, Identity, and the Struggle for Development in the Americas
Edited by Bernd Reiter and Kimberly Eison Simmons
978-1-61186-040-5, paper, $45.60
Writing That Breaks Stones
African Child Soldier Narratives
Joya Uraizee

Writing That Breaks Stones: African Child Soldier Narratives is a critical examination of six memoirs and six novels written by and about young adults from Africa who were once child soldiers. It analyzes not only how such narratives document the human rights violations experienced by these former child soldiers but also how they connect and disconnect from their readers in the global public sphere. It draws on existing literary scholarship about novels and memoirs as well as on the fieldwork conducted by social scientists about African children in combat situations. Writing That Breaks Stones groups the twelve narratives into categories and analyzes each segment, comparing individually written memoirs with those written collaboratively, and novels whose narratives are fragmented with those that depict surreal landscapes of misery. It concludes that the memoirs focus on a lone individual’s struggles in a hostile environment, and use repetition, logical contradictions, narrative breaks, and reversals of binaries in order to tell their stories. By contrast, the novels use narrative ambiguity, circularity, fragmentation, and notions of dystopia in ways that call attention to the child soldiers’ communities and environments. All twelve narratives depict the child soldier’s agency and culpability somewhat ambiguously, effectively reflecting the ethical dilemmas of African children in combat.

JOYA URAIZEE is Associate Professor and Associate Chair in the Department of English at Saint Louis University in Missouri. She is the author of This Is No Place for a Woman: Nadine Gordimer, Nayantara Sahgal, Buchi Emecheta and the Politics of Gender and In the Jaws of the Leviathan: Genocide Fiction and Film.

ALSO OF INTEREST
Murder at Small Koppie
The Real Story of South Africa’s Marikana Massacre
Greg Marinovich
978-0-87013-276-8, paper, $24.95
The Crisis of School Violence
A New Perspective
Marianna King

*The Crisis of School Violence* is the only interdisciplinary book about school violence. It presents a broad and in-depth approach to the key questions about why bullying continues at an unprecedentedly high rate and why rampage school shootings continue to shock the nation. Based on extensive research, *The Crisis of School Violence* investigates human nature and its relation to aggressive behavior, with a special focus on the culture of violence that predicates school violence (including rampage shootings) and perpetuates industries that profit from violence. Marianna King presents the considerable psychological and neuroscientific research that investigates the effects of violent entertainment media on the brain and, subsequently, on behavior, which clearly reveals a causal connection between exposure to violent electronic entertainment media—especially violent video games—and increased aggressive and violent behavior. The book also reveals a more specific connection between exposure to violent video games and rampage school shootings. Ultimately this volume is a call to action that includes recommendations for parents, teachers, decision-makers, and citizens alike.

MARIANNA KING’s academic and other professional work focuses on violence and violence prevention. Because of her ground-breaking work in violence prevention, she was honored with a New Mexico Woman of the Year award in 2000.

“Marianna King’s book is a must-read for anyone interested in the level of violence in American schools. This is not an opinion piece; it is grounded in research evidence. It also treats this important topic with the complexity it deserves, covering multiple risk factors for school violence. No single factor can account for violence in schools.”

—BRAD J. BUSHMAN, Professor of Communication and Margaret Hall and Robert Randal Rinehart Chair of Mass Communication, Ohio State University

ALSO OF INTEREST

After the Bloodbath
Is Healing Possible in the Wake of Rampage Shootings?
James D. Diamond
978-1-61186-331-4, paper, $22.95
Re-Membering and Surviving
African American Fiction of the Vietnam War
Shirley A. James Hanshaw

The first book-length critical study of the black experience in the Vietnam War and its aftermath, this text interrogates the meaning of heroism based on models from African and African American expressive culture. It focuses on four novels: Captain Blackman (1972) by John A. Williams, Tragic Magic (1978) by Wesley Brown, Coming Home (1971) by George Davis, and De Mojo Blues (1985) by A. R. Flowers. Discussions of the novels are framed within the historical context of all wars prior to Vietnam in which Black Americans fought. The success or failure of the hero on his identity quest is predicated upon the extent to which he can reconnect with African or African American cultural memory. He is engaged therefore in “re-membering,” a term laden with the specificity of race that implies a cultural history comprised of African retentions and an interdependent relationship with the community for survival. The reader will find that a common history of racism and exploitation that African Americans and Vietnamese share sometimes results in the hero’s empathy with and compassion for the so-called enemy, a unique contribution of the black novelist to American war literature.

SHIRLEY A. JAMES HANSHAW is Professor Emerita in the English Department at Mississippi State University where she was instrumental in establishing the first African American Studies Program. She is the recipient of a Woodrow Wilson Fellowship, a Danforth Associateship for Outstanding Teaching in the Sciences and Humanities, and a National Endowment for the Humanities Fellowship.
Day of Days

John Smolens

In the spring of 1927, Andrew Kehoe, the treasurer for the school board in Bath, Michigan, spent weeks surreptitiously wiring the public school, as well as his farm, with hundreds of pounds of dynamite. The explosions on May 18, the day before graduation, killed and maimed dozens of children, as well as teachers, administrators, and village residents, including Kehoe’s wife, Nellie. A respected member of the community, Kehoe himself died when he ignited his truck, which he had loaded with crates of explosives and scrap metal. Decades later, one survivor, Beatrice Marie Turcott, recalls the spring of 1927 and how this haunting experience leads her to the conviction that one does not survive the present without reconciling hard truths about the past. In its portrayal of several Bath school children, Day of Days examines how such traumatic events scar one’s life long after the dead are laid to rest and physical wounds heal, and how an anguished but resilient American village copes with the bombing, which at the time seemed incomprehensible, and yet now may be considered a harbinger of the future.

JOHN SMOLENS has published eleven works of fiction, ten novels and a collection of short stories. He is Professor Emeritus at Northern Michigan University, where he taught in the English Department and served as the Director of the Master of Fine Arts Program in Creative Writing. In 2010 he was the recipient of the Michigan Author Award from the Michigan Library Association.

“Smolens’s prose . . . is an understated marvel.”
—PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

“Smolens is that rare and gifted writer who can capture both our exterior and interior worlds with equal dexterity, grace, and power.”
—Andre Dubus III

ALSO OF INTEREST

The Anarchist
John Smolens
978-1-61186-268-3, paper, $19.95
ALSO IN THIS SERIES

Indigenizing Philosophy through the Land
A Trickster Methodology for Decolonizing Environmental Ethics and Indigenous Futures
Brian Burkhart
978-1-61186-330-7, paper, $29.95

Aazheyadizi
Worldview, Language, and the Logics of Decolonization
Mark D. Freeland

Many of the English translations of Indigenous languages that we commonly use today have been handed down from colonial missionaries whose intent was to fundamentally alter or destroy prior Indigenous knowledge and praxis. In this text, author Mark D. Freeland develops a theory of worldview that provides an interrelated logical mooring to shed light on the issues around translating Indigenous languages in and out of colonial languages. In tandem with other linguistic and narrative methods, this theory of worldview can be employed to help root out the reproduction of colonial culture in Indigenous languages and can be a useful addition to the repertoire of tools needed to return to life-giving relationships with our environment. These issues of decolonization are highlighted in the trajectory of treaty language associated with relationships to land and their present-day importance. This book uses the 1836 Treaty of Washington and its contemporary manifestation in Great Lakes fishing rights and the State of Michigan’s 2007 Inland Consent Decree as a means of identifying the role of worldview in deciphering the logics embedded in Anishinaabe thought associated with these relationships to land. A fascinating study for students of Indigenous and linguistic disciplines, this book deftly demonstrates the significance of worldview theory in relation to the logics of decolonization of Indigenous thought and praxis.

MARK D. FREELAND is Assistant Professor of American Indian Studies at South Dakota State University and the Coordinator of the American Indian Studies Program. He was a community organizer at Four Winds American Indian Council in Denver, Colorado, between 2003 and 2015.
Famine Pots
The Choctaw–Irish Gift Exchange, 1847–Present
Edited by LeAnne Howe and Padraig Kirwan

The remarkable story of the money sent by the Choctaw to the Irish in 1847 is one that is often told and remembered by people in both nations. This gift was sent to the Irish from the Choctaw at the height of the potato famine in Ireland, just sixteen years after the Choctaw began their march on the Trail of Tears toward the areas west of the Mississippi River. Famine Pots honors that extraordinary gift and provides further context about and consideration of this powerful symbol of cross-cultural synergy through a collection of essays and poems that speak volumes of the empathy and connectivity between the two communities. As well as signaling patterns of movement and exchange, this study of the gift exchange invites reflection on processes of cultural formation within Choctaw and Irish society alike, and sheds light on longtime concerns surrounding spiritual and social identities. This volume aims to facilitate a fuller understanding of the historical complexities that surrounded migration and movement in the colonial world, which in turn will help lead to a more constructive consideration of the ways in which Irish and Native American Studies might be drawn together today.

LEANNE HOWE, born and raised in Oklahoma, is an enrolled citizen of the Choctaw Nation. Howe is the Eidson Distinguished Professor in American Literature at the University of Georgia.

PADRAIG KIRWAN is Senior Lecturer in the Department of English and Comparative Literature at Goldsmiths, University of London.
African Diasporic Cinema
Aesthetics of Reconstruction
Daniela Ricci, translated from French by Melissa Thackway, with foreword by Alexie Tcheuyap

African Diasporic Cinema: Aesthetics of Reconstruction analyzes the aesthetic strategies adopted by contemporary African diasporic filmmakers to express the reconstruction of identity. Having left the continent, these filmmakers see Africa as a site of representation and cultural circulation. The diasporic experience displaces the center and forges new syncretic identities. Through migratory movement, people become foreigners, Others—and in this instance, black. The African diasporic condition in the Western world is characterized by the intersection of various factors: being African and bearing the historical memory of the continent; belonging to a black minority in majority-white societies; and finally, having historically been the object of negative, stereotyped representation. As a result, quests for the self and self-reconstruction are frequent themes in the films of the African diaspora, and yet the filmmakers refuse to remain trapped in the confines of an assigned, rigid identity. Reflecting these complex circumstances, this book analyzes the contemporary diaspora through the prism of cultural hybridization and the processes of recomposing fragmented identities, out of which new identities emerge.

DANIËLA RICCI teaches film studies at of Paris Nanterre University and the University of Paris 8 in France. She is part of the research laboratory Histoire des Arts et des Représentations and is a member of the African Federation of Film Critics, the African Studies Association, and the African Literature Association.

MELISSA THACKWAY is an independent researcher and translator. She lectures in African cinema at Sciences Po and the Institut National des Langues et Civilisations Orientales in Paris.
The Beautiful Skin
Football, Fantasy, and Cinematic Bodies in Africa
Vlad Dima

In this original and provocative study of contemporary African film and literature, Vlad Dima investigates the way that football and cinema express individual and collective fantasies, and highlights where football and cinema converge and diverge with regard to neocolonial fantasies. Shedding new light on both well-known and less familiar films by Mahamat-Saleh Haroun, Abderrahmane Sissako, Jean-Pierre Bekolo, Moussa Touré, Safi Faye, Cheick Doukouré, and Joseph Gai Ramaka, among others, the study asks just whose fantasy is articulated in football and African cinema. Answering this question requires the exploration of body and identity issues, here through the metaphor of skin: fantasy as a skin; the football jersey as a skin; and ultimately film itself as a skin that has visual, aural, and haptic qualities. The neocolonial body is often depicted as suffering and in the process of being flattened or emptied. So frequently do African cinema and literature replicate this hollowed body, all skin as it were, that it becomes the very type of body that defines neocolonialism. Could the body of film—the depth of both characters and story within the cinematic skin—hold the key to moving into a post-neocolonial era, an era defined by “full” bodies and personal affirmation? This is the question Dima seeks to answer.

VLAD DIMA is an Associate Professor of African Cultural Studies and French at the University of Wisconsin–Madison. He has published numerous articles, mainly on French and francophone cinemas, but also on francophone literature, comics, American cinema, and television.

“Vlad Dima’s dedication to the global and the transnational are evident in this groundbreaking work. He probes African cinema in order to answer important questions pertaining to representations of sexuality and the body, African identity, femininity, masculinity, and queerness. Dima’s contribution to African film studies encourages readers to think about the films of the postcolonial era that expose the enduring neocolonial relationships that bind Africans in capitalist systems of exploitation.”

—VALÉRIE K. ORLANDO, Professor of French and Francophone Literatures and Cultures, University of Maryland, College Park

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ALSO IN THIS SERIES

West African Screen Media
Comedy, TV Series, and Transnationalization
Boukary Sawadogo
978-1-61186-311-6, paper, $49.95
Projecting Nation
South African Cinemas after 1994
Cara Moyer-Duncan

In 1994, not long after South Africa made its historic transition to multiracial democracy, the nation’s first black-majority government determined that film had the potential to promote social cohesion, stimulate economic development, and create jobs. In 1999 the new National Film and Video Foundation was charged with fostering a vibrant, socially engaged, and self-sufficient film industry. What are the results of this effort to create a truly national cinematic enterprise? Projecting Nation: South African Cinemas after 1994 answers that question by examining the ways in which national and transnational forces have shaped the representation of race and nation in feature-length narrative fiction films. Offering a systematic analysis of cinematic texts in the context of the South African film industry, author Cara Moyer-Duncan analyzes both well-known works like District 9 (2009) and neglected or understudied films like My Shit Father and My Lotto Ticket (2008) to show how the ways filmmakers produce cinema and the ways diverse audiences experience it—whether they watch major releases in theaters in predominantly white suburban enclaves or straight-to-DVD productions in their own homes—are informed by South Africans’ multiple experiences of nation in a globalizing world.

"The history of South African film is well documented, especially during the period of political transition. Less well examined is the contemporary post-millennial era, on which Moyer-Duncan's book offers a very useful analytical frame to underpin study of those cinema themes that followed liberation after 1994."

—KEYAN G. TOMASELLI, Distinguished Professor of Communication Studies, University of Johannesburg, and Professor Emeritus and Fellow, University of KwaZulu-Natal

CARA MOYER-DUNCAN is an Assistant Professor of Africana Studies in the Institute for Liberal Arts and Interdisciplinary Studies at Emerson College.

ALSO IN THIS SERIES

Contemporary African Cinema
Olivier Barlet
978-1-61186-211-9, paper, $39.95
The Passport That Does Not Pass Ports
African Literature of Travel in the Twenty-First Century
Edited by Isabel Balseiro and Zachariah Rapola

These seventeen pieces on travel in Africa by leading African authors take readers to places at once homelike and foreign. Against the tropes of travel writing, this book offers the acuity of vision of particular types of travelers. These are travelers whose mother tongue may find the hint of familiarity across otherwise unintelligible languages and for whom a foreign land isn’t necessarily strange; in it they perceive vestiges of the familiar. For them, the act of traveling extends a canvas on which to depict someone else’s reality—a reality never too distant from their own. What makes these writings coalesce is a reflection about the act of being in motion, about reconfiguring place; a consciousness of how geography redirects the focus of one’s gaze and, in turn, how that altered gaze filters inward. Having absorbed the landscape, inhaled the scents, paid heed to accents, and accepted the condition of being out of place, these travelers reconstitute individual consciousness and join a collective sense of existing beyond borders. Place inhabits this renewed sense of self; literature enables its expression. An inviting introduction to travel writing on Africa, The Passport That Does Not Pass Ports is absorbing reading for travelers and students of literature alike.

ISABEL BALSEIRO teaches Comparative Literature and Cultural Studies at the Claremont Colleges in California. She is the recipient of fellowships from the Andrew W. Mellon Foundation, the American Council of Learned Societies, and the James Irvine Foundation, among others.

ZACHARIAH RAPOLA is a writer and filmmaker who currently mentors emerging young writers in rural parts of South Africa. His collection of stories Beginnings of a Dream won the Noma Award for Publishing in Africa in 2008.

“Africa is not a country, but it must be again—from Cape Town to Cairo, from Dakar to Djibouti—one open land of promise, of peace, and of creativity. Isabel Balseiro and Zachariah Rapola’s anthology is an invitation to that land, by a plural choir of interwoven African voices, among the most powerful. No passport needed.”

—SOULEYMANE BACHIR DIAGNE, Professor, French and Philosophy, and Director, Institute of African Studies, Columbia University

ALSO IN THIS SERIES
Who Owns the Problem?
Africa and the Struggle for Agency
Pius Adesanmi
978-1-61186-355-0, paper, $29.95
In 2011, in one sign of a burgeoning interest in the morality of human interactions with nonhuman animals, the American Association for the Advancement of Science declared that dolphins and orcas should be legally regarded as persons. Multiple law schools now offer classes in animal law and have animal law clinics, placing their students with a growing range of animal rights and animal welfare advocacy organizations. But is legal personhood the best means to achieving total interspecies liberation? To answer that question, Impersonating Animals evaluates the rhetoric of animal rights activists Steven Wise and Gary Francione, as well as the Earth jurisprudence paradigm. Deploying a critical ecofeminist stance sensitive to the interweaving of ideas about race, gender, class, sexuality, ability, and species, author S. Marek Muller places animal rights rhetoric in the context of discourses in which some humans have been deemed more animal than others and some animals have been deemed more human than others. In bringing rhetoric and animal studies together, she shows that how we communicate about nonhuman beings necessarily affects relationships across species boundaries and among people. This book also highlights how animal studies scholars and activists can and should use ideological rhetorical criticism to investigate the implications of their tactics and strategies, emphasizing a critical vegan rhetoric as the best means of achieving liberation for human and nonhuman animals alike.

S. MAREK MULLER is an Assistant Professor of Rhetorical Studies at Florida Atlantic University.
Animal Resistance in the Global Capitalist Era
Sarat Colling

The concept of animal resistance is now reaching a wide audience across the social media landscape. Animal Resistance in the Global Capitalist Era offers an overview of how animals resist human orderings in the context of capitalism, domestication, and colonization. Exploring this understudied phenomenon, this book is attentive to both the standpoints of animal resisters and the ways they are represented in human society. Together, these lenses provide insight into how animals’ resistance disrupts the dominant paradigm of human exceptionalism and the distancing strategies of enterprises that exploit animals for profit. Animals have been relegated to the margins by human spatial and ideological orderings, but they are also the subjects of their own struggle, located at the center of their liberation movement. Well-researched and accessible, with over fifty images that aid in understanding both the experiences of and responses to animals who resist, Animal Resistance in the Global Capitalist Era is an important contribution to scholarship on animals and society. The text will appeal to a broad audience interested in the relationships between humans and the other animals with whom we share this planet.

SARAT COLLING is a writer, activist, and critical animal studies scholar. She works as the program director for the Hornby Island Natural History Centre on Hornby Island, British Columbia.

“Woodsmen and women of all ages are known to speak directly to the trees...”
—James Millican, author of Woodsmen: The American Woodsmen and Their Trees
Communication Convergence in Contemporary China
International Perspectives on Politics, Platforms, and Participation
Edited by Patrick Shaou-Whea Dodge

In a speech opening the nineteenth Chinese Communist Party Congress meeting in October 2017, President Xi Jinping spoke of a “New Era” characterized by new types of communication convergence between the government, Party, and state media. His speech signaled that the role of the media is now more important than ever in cultivating the Party’s image at home and disseminating it abroad. Indeed, communication technologies, people, and platforms are converging in new ways around the world, not just in China. This process raises important questions about information flows, control, and regulation that directly affect the future of US–China relations. Just a year before Xi proclaimed the New Era, scholars had convened in Beijing at a conference cohosted by the Communication University of China and the US-based National Communication Association to address these questions. How do China and the United States envision each other, and how do our interlinked imaginaries create both opportunities for and obstacles to greater understanding and strengthened relations? Would the convergence of new media technologies, Party control, and emerging notions of netizenship in China lead to a new age of opening and reform, greater Party domination, or perhaps some new and intriguing combination of repression and freedom? Communication Convergence in Contemporary China presents international perspectives on US–China relations in this New Era with case studies that offer readers informative snapshots of how these relations are changing on the ground, in the lived realities of our daily communication habits.

PATRICK SHAOU-WHEA DODGE is an Associate Professor Clinical Track and past Associate Program Chair at the University of Colorado Denver’s International College Beijing. He is also the 2018–2020 Association for Chinese Communication Studies’ Vice President and will serve as the ACCS President in 2021–2023.

“Media convergence is well-known as a concept, but as a historical process, it is complicated by changing social contexts. This volume studies media convergence in China while making sensitive comparisons with the United States. The result is an engaging comparative study that illuminates the concrete processes of media convergence and fragmentation in both countries. This is an important contribution to the study of global communication as well as media politics in China.”

—GUOBIN YANG, Grace Lee Boggs Professor of Communication and Sociology, Annenberg School for Communication, University of Pennsylvania

ALSO OF INTEREST

Imagining China
Rhetorics of Nationalism in an Age of Globalization
Edited by Stephen John Hartnett, Lisa B. Keränen, and Donovan Conley
978-1-61186-257-7, paper, $39.95
Green Communication and China
On Crisis, Care, and Global Futures
Edited by Jingfang Liu and Phaedra C. Pezzullo

How does China speak for nature? How are the pollution and climate change crises being addressed? What are the possibilities and limitations of mobilizing publics to care about the environment through new media, tourism, and government policy? *Green Communication and China* is the first volume to identify the importance of studying environmental communication in, about, and with China, a rising global environmental leader whose ecological and political controversies often make international headlines. Organized into three sections on communicating crisis, communicating care, and environmental futurity, these essays span multimodal communication practices and methods in green public culture and address topics ranging from The North Face advertisements to NGO advocacy to global governmental policy. The volume showcases the work of leading scholars, all of them deeply intimate with China, in disciplines ranging from cultural studies and rhetoric to public opinion polling, discourse analysis, ethnic studies, and sociology. These complex projects engage transnational and national politics, ecological and economic challenges, media saturation, and government control. Holding these tensions together without glossing over differences, *Green Communication and China* will inform new agendas for environmental communication in China, the United States, and beyond.

**JINGFANG LIU** is an Associate Professor at the School of Journalism at Fudan University in Shanghai, China, as well as a Harvard-Yenching Visiting Scholar from 2019 to 2020.

**PHAEDRA C. PEZZULLO** is an Associate Professor at University of Colorado Boulder. She authored the award-winning *Toxic Tourism: Rhetorics of Pollution, Travel, and Environmental Justice*.

**ALSO OF INTEREST**

*Service-Learning as a New Paradigm in Higher Education of China*
Edited by Carol Ma Hok-ka, Alfred Chan Cheung-ming, Alice Liu Cheng, and Fanny Mak Mui-fong
978-1-61186-271-3, paper, $49.95
Desire
Flaubert, Proust, Fitzgerald, Miller, Lana Del Rey
Per Bjørnar Grande

Desire can take many forms. Hegel related desire to acceptance, Nietzsche to power, and Freud to the erotic. In novels and plays by Gustave Flaubert, Marcel Proust, F. Scott Fitzgerald, and Arthur Miller and music by Lana Del Rey, desire operates in a complex, slippery way that eludes philosophical and psychoanalytic attempts to pin it down. These and other great works of literature corroborate René Girard’s understanding of desire as taking shape “according to the other’s desire.” The mimetic approach frees desire from the preconceptions of both subject- and object-oriented psychologies and puts literary criticism in touch with the concrete substance of fictional narratives. Drawing on both modern masterpieces and iconic works of contemporary pop culture, Per Bjørnar Grande sketches a Girardian phenomenology of desire, one that sheds new light on the frustrating and repetitive nature of human relations in a world of vanishing taboos.

“Literature and theology is a burgeoning field. The author deploys his expert knowledge of Girard to splendid effect in his analysis of some of the great works of modern literature. Highly recommended!”
—DOUGLAS HEDLEY, Professor of the Philosophy of Religion, Faculty of Divinity, University of Cambridge

PER BJØRNAR GRANDE is Professor in the Department of Pedagogy, Religion and Social Studies at the Western Norway University of Applied Sciences.

ALSO IN THIS SERIES
Ressentiment
Reflections on Mimetic Desire and Society
Stefano Tomelleri
978-1-61186-184-6, paper, $19.95
Oedipus; or, The Legend of a Conqueror
Marie Delcourt, translated by Malcolm DeBevoise, with foreword by Vinciane Pirenne-Delforge

Marie Delcourt’s brilliant study of the Oedipus legend, an unjustly neglected monument of twentieth-century classical scholarship published in 1944 and issued here for the first time in English translation, bridges the gap between Carl Robert’s influential Oidipus (1915) and the work of Lowell Edmunds seventy years later. Delcourt studies the legend in its various aspects, six episodes that have equal weight and that stress the same themes: greatness, conquest, domination, the right to rule—all of them bound up with the idea of kingship. Together they form the biography of a Theban hero, the fullest account that has come down to us about the prehistory of sovereign power among the ancient Greeks. Delcourt does not suppose that Oedipus, or indeed any other Greek hero, was a historical figure. The personality familiar to us from the plays of the tragedians of the fifth century—our oldest source, and a very late one—was the result of their extraordinary artistry in linking together themes rooted in very ancient social and religious rites that in the interval had come to describe the feats of Oedipus, then his life, and finally his character. It was in order to explain these rites, whose meaning had ceased to be understood, that myths and legends were invented in the first place. Oedipus, Delcourt argues, is the archetype of all heroes of essentially (if not exclusively) ritual origin, whose acts were prior to their person. This is a very different—and far more complex—Oedipus than the one rather implausibly imagined by Freud. More generally, the origin and transmission of the Oedipus legend tells us a great deal about the strength and persistence of public memories in prehistoric societies.

MARIE DELCOURT (1891–1979) was Professor of Classical Philology at the University of Liège for more than three decades and the author of many works, including translations, biographies, and studies in the mythology and religion of ancient Greece.

MALCOLM DEBEVOISE is a three-time winner of the French-American Foundation Prize for nonfiction and has translated more than forty works from French and Italian in all branches of scholarship.
Roads to Renewal
The Report of Activities and Accomplishments of the Civil Works Administration in Michigan, November 1933–March 1934
With a new introduction and afterword by James R. Anderson

This publication makes available to historians and general readers a little-known document mapping the achievement of a crucial initiative in the plans for recovery from the harshest blows of the Great Depression, in one of America’s hardest-hit states. It presents a historically unique case history of the Federal Civil Works Administration, established by Franklin D. Roosevelt’s New Deal. The CWA addressed the issues of unemployment and destitution brought on by the Depression, specifically in Michigan. With a contextualizing introduction and afterword by historian James R. Anderson, the republication of this report—with its wealth of data and statistics, and its compelling information about the extent of the crisis and of the government’s initiatives—brings to light fascinating aspects of how critical (and impactful) such interventions were in the context of unprecedented economic challenges.

“James R. Anderson has done a masterful job framing the experience of the Civil Works Administration and showing how investing in paying people to work, rather than giving them direct relief, was the difference that truly mattered to poverty eradication and rebuilding morale in Depression-ravaged Michigan. This volume is a valuable read for anyone who wants a real taste for what it meant to be ‘on the ground’ across our state in the early 1930s.”

—JOHN P. BECK, cofounder and codirector of Our Daily Work/Our Daily Lives and Associate Professor, MSU School of Human Resources and Labor Relations

JAMES R. ANDERSON is Professor of History at Michigan State University, where he has taught since 1967. He has assisted with technical elements of historic preservation work of the Archives of Michigan.

ALSO OF INTEREST
What Roosevelt Thought
The Social and Political Ideas of Franklin D. Roosevelt
Thomas H. Greer
978-0-87013-565-1, paper, $26.95
The Pere Marquette Railroad has not one but two histories—one for the twentieth century and one for the nineteenth. While the twentieth-century record of the Pere Marquette Railroad has been well studied and preserved, the nineteenth century has not been so well served. This volume aims to correct that oversight by focusing on the nineteenth-century part of the company’s past, including the men who formed and directed these early roads, and the development of the system. The Pere Marquette Railroad was formed in 1900 by a merger of three Michigan railroad companies and lasted forty-seven years, disappearing in June 1947 by merger into the maw of the Chesapeake & Ohio Railroad. Prior to the 1900 merger, the Pere Marquette Railroad’s predecessors made up a motley collection of disconnected and unaffiliated short, local rail lines. After the financial panic of 1893, and with some commonality of ownership, the companies worked together more closely. Before the end of the decade, the three main railroads—the Flint & Pere Marquette; the Detroit, Lansing & Northern; and the Chicago & West Michigan—had decided that the only way to maintain solvency was to merge. Using a plethora of primary sources including railway timetables and maps, this work lends insight into the little-known corporate business history of the Pere Marquette Railroad.

GRAYDON M. MEINTS has published a number of acclaimed railroad histories, including Michigan Railroads & Railroad Companies, the two-volume Michigan Railroad Lines, Railroads for Michigan, and The Fishing Line: A History of the Grand Rapids & Indiana Railroad. He is a winner of a Historical Society of Michigan State History Award.

“Graydon M. Meints, the master compiler of Michigan railroad corporate histories, has again brought order from chaos. In this concise book he provides an invaluable guide to the confusing myriad of companies, many of them small lumbering lines, that were consolidated in stages to form the Pere Marquette Railroad. This helpful resource includes short histories of those companies and the people who built them.”

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