Michigan State University Press
FALL / WINTER 2023
NEW BOOKS
A Cold, Hard Prayer

*a novel by John Smolens*

“By all means, read John Smolens’s terrific new novel for the exciting, suspenseful story it is—a pair of orphans are on the run from forces both good and evil, their escape and pursuit played out in the often-treacherous wintry landscape of northern Michigan. But don’t be surprised to find that as you turn the pages you’re also involved in an American morality tale, in which the best of this country’s virtues—a sense of fairness, decency, and tolerance—are in deadly conflict with its worst qualities—bigotry, fanaticism, and hate. *A Cold, Hard Prayer* is a full, rich narrative and rewarding on many levels.”

—Larry Watson, author of *Montana 1948*, *Justice*, and *Let Him Go*, now a major motion picture

**OCTOBER 2023, 978-1-61186-478-6** hc., 6 x 9, 278 pp., $29.95

The Luck of the Fall

*stories by Jim Ray Daniels*

In *The Luck of the Fall*, characters get lost; they fall, but the falls shape their lives in ways that might even be called “lucky”—if luck is defined as survival, despite the scars left behind. They take consolation in their lack of prizes, in the clarity of their failures, while approaching the future with gallows humor and jaded naivety. The logic of the heart wins out in this short-fiction collection set along Eight Mile Road on the edge of Detroit.

—Jean Thompson, author of *Wide Blue Yonder*

**JULY 2023, 978-1-61186-467-0** pa., 6 x 9, 184 pp., $24.95

Landlocked

*poems by Julia McConnell*

**WHEELBARROW BOOKS**

“With humor, grace, the perfectly placed earthbound image, and ineffable longing, Julia McConnell writes of ‘things that seem unbearable’ in ways that make them bearable, glorious, necessary, true. These poems reawaken forgotten yearnings, and remind one of the complexities of love and loss, landscapes, and home. Julia McConnell is an important new voice in American poetry, and *Landlocked* is a stunning debut.”

—Rilla Askew, author of *Most American: Notes from a Wounded Place*

**JULY 2023, 978-1-61186-457-1** pa., 6 x 9, 100 pp., $15.95
Michigan’s Company K
Anishinaabe Soldiers, Citizenship, and the Civil War
by Michelle K. Cassidy

“Michelle Cassidy places the American Civil War within an Anishinaabe historical and cultural context. The result is a compelling Indigenous history centered on the men of Company K and driven by a narrative grounded in the strategies of Anishinaabe survivance.”

— John P. Bowes, history professor, Eastern Kentucky University, author of Land Too Good for Indians: Northern Indian Removal

SEPTEMBER 2023, 978-1-61186-463-2 pa., 6 x 9, 308 pp., $44.95(S)

Indigenous Journeys, Transatlantic Perspectives
Relational Worlds in Contemporary Native American Literature
edited by Anna M. Brígido-Corachán
American Indian Studies Series

The essays in this volume consider the relational place-worlds crafted by the Native American authors Louise Erdrich, Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, Gordon Henry Jr., Louis Owens, James Welch, Heid E. Erdrich, Ofelia Zepeda, and Simon J. Ortiz and sets them in conversation with kindred writers and global sociopolitical debates. Key issues to arise include Native American/Indigenous theories and literary practices that center on relationality, the planetary turn, grounded normativity, trans-Indigeneity, transborder identities, movement, journeying, migration, multilingualism, genomic research, futurity, ecology, and justice.

NOVEMBER 2023, 978-1-61186-469-4 pa., 6 x 9, 222 pp., $39.95(S)

As Sacred to Us
Simon Pokagon’s Birch Bark Stories in Their Contexts
edited by Blaire Morseau
American Indian Studies Series

“As Sacred to Us unfurls the complexity of Simon Pokagon’s work and the meaning his publications still hold for readers today. As Pokagon Potawatomi acts of bookmaking, his words and the material presentations of them are important intercultural artifacts. Simon includes several languages spoken by members of his community across the generations and gives insight into Anishinaabe philosophy, geosciences, and theology. This reprinting of his narratives allows the land his ancestors knew as ‘wawkwing dash Au-kee’ (heaven on earth) to remain part of the way we understand the southwest shores of Mi-shi-gan (Lake Michigan) today.”

— Margaret Noodin, cocreator of www.ojibwe.net, author of two bilingual collections of poetry in Anishinaabemowin and English

OCTOBER 2023, 978-1-61186-462-5 pa., 6 x 9, 166 pp., $24.95(S)
Mimetic Theory and Its Shadow
Girard, Milbank, and Ontological Violence
by Scott Cowdell
Studies in Violence, Mimesis, and Culture
Leading Girardian theologian Scott Cowdell seeks to resolve a long-standing challenge to mimetic theory: that it entails a fundamental brutishness—an ontological violence.

Violence and the Mimetic Unconscious
Vol. 2, The Affective Hypothesis
by Nidesh Lawtoo
Studies in Violence, Mimesis, and Culture
To grasp the speed, complexity, and contagiousness of violence today, Lawtoo finds it imperative to supplant the Freudian unconscious with a mimetic unconscious that is at once collective, differentiated, porous, and suggestible.

The Rhetoric of White Slavery and the Making of National Identity
by Leslie J. Harris
Rhetoric of Power and Protest
“Exhaustively researched, concisely written, and cogently argued, Harris’s analysis of historical debates over ‘white slavery’ provides insightful parallels to contemporary conspiracy theories about sex trafficking.”

— Catherine Helen Palczewski, professor of communication and media, University of Northern Iowa, coauthor of Rhetoric in Civic Life (3rd ed.)

Hillary Clinton’s Career in Speeches
The Promises and Perils of Women’s Rhetorical Adaptivity
by Shawn J. Parry-Giles, David S. Kaufer, and Xizhen Cai

Hillary Clinton’s Career in Speeches joins quantitative methods with close reading to analyze the rhetorical highs and lows of one of the most successful political women in U.S. history.

Covid and . . .
How to Do Rhetoric in a Pandemic
edited by Emily Winderman, Allison L. Rowland, Jennifer Malkowski
Among the first edited collections to consider how rhetoric shaped Covid’s disease trajectory, these essays showcase the forces that pandemic rhetoric exerts across health conditions, politics, and histories of social injustice.

Transformative Civic Education in Democratic Societies
edited by Tetyana Hoggan-Kloubert, Paul E. Mabrey III, and Chad Hoggan
Transformations in Higher Education
“The book is an impressive testimony to the importance of democratic, civic adult education in times of increasing authoritarianism.”

— Danny Widemeersch, professor emeritus of social and cultural pedagogy at KU Leuven (Belgium)
Kenya’s Running Women
A History
by Michelle M. Sikes
African History and Culture
The first full-length history of African female athletes, 
Kenya’s Running Women is a must-read for scholars of 
women, sports, and Africa—and runners at all levels.

Migrant World Making
edited by Sergio Fernando Juárez, Julia Khrebtan-Hörhager, Michael Lechuga, and Arthur D. Soto-Vásquez
The contributors to this edited collection showcase numerous 
practices migrants adopt to communicate and connect 
with others as they forge their own identities in globalized yet 
highly nationalistic societies.

Public Debate in the Civil War Era
A Rhetorical History of the United States, Volume IV
edited by David Zarefsky
Public debate and discussion was overshadowed by the slavery controversy during the period of the U.S. Civil War. Slavery was attacked, defended, amplified, and mitigated. This happened in the halls of Congress, the courts, the political debate, the public platform, and the lecture hall. This volume examines the issues, speakers, and venues for this controversy between 1850 and 1877.

Cover image from The Rhetoric of White Slavery and the Making of National Identity