Wharton School Press Becomes an Imprint of the University of Pennsylvania Press

Effective July 1, 2023, Wharton School Press (WSP), the book publishing arm of the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania, became an imprint of the University of Pennsylvania Press (Penn Press).

This transition builds on a successful two-year partnership in which WSP engaged Penn Press for licensing and distribution services. During this period, WSP published several notable titles, including The Prepared Leader: Emerge from Any Crisis More Resilient than Before, by Wharton School Dean Erika H. James and Simmons University President Lynn Perry Wooten. With Penn Press’s support, WSP broke its previous sales records.

“It is a tremendous opportunity to expand on our partnership with Penn Press,” notes WSP publisher Shannon Berning, “Penn Press’s deep knowledge of book publishing and the strategic mission alignment between our organizations will enable Wharton School Press to grow its publishing list and expand the reach of its books as well as Wharton faculty research.”

With this move, Penn Press will expand upon their contributions in the business, commerce, and economics categories as exemplified by Penn Press’s existing series, which include “Hagley Perspectives on Business and Culture” and “American Business, Politics, and Society.”

As part of this arrangement, Penn Press will take on the operational and financial responsibility for the WSP imprint, including but not limited to sales, licensing, marketing, distribution, warehousing, fulfillment, metadata management, accounting, and royalties management.

“We are committed to maintaining the high standards of quality and reputation associated with Wharton’s brand while utilizing Penn Press’s resources to drive growth and success,” says Penn Press director Mary C. Francis.

The WSP imprint will be led by Berning and retain its editorial autonomy. A Wharton School Press Faculty Editorial Board (FEB) has been established to ensure all acquisitions are worthy of the WSP imprint. The chair of the newly formed FEB will be Mauro Guillén, professor of Management at Wharton and Vice Dean of Wharton’s MBA Program for Executives. Guillén was previously Dean of the Cambridge Judge Business School, and is author of Rude Awakening: Threats to the Global Liberal Order (Penn Press, 2018), 2030: How Today’s Biggest Trends Will Collide and Reshape the Future of Everything (St. Martin’s Press, 2020), The Platform Paradox: How Digital Businesses Succeed in an Ever-Changing Global Marketplace (Wharton School Press, 2021), and the forthcoming The Perennials: The Megatrends Creating a Postgenerational Society (St. Martin’s Press, 2023).

“The partnership between Wharton School Press and Penn Press marks a transformative alliance that will deliver valuable knowledge to a global trade audience and leave an indelible mark on the scholarly community,” says Guillén.

Corrine Irish Joins Penn Press External Board of Advisors

As the newest member of Penn Press’s External Board of Advisors (EBOA), Corrine Irish, C’99, is a partner at Squire Patton Boggs (US) LLP in New York City, with expertise in contract law and intellectual property law that includes representation of artists, publishers and other clients in creative industries.

Irish has a long-standing commitment to pro bono work: she is a founding member of Squire Patton Boggs’s Public Service Initiative through which she successfully litigated cases of capital punishment, life imprisonment, and civil rights violations involving miscarriages of justice and/or denial of fundamental rights. She also represents low-income artists and arts organizations on compliance, intellectual property and other matters. Irish currently serves as Director of Pro Bono for the firm.

Crain’s New York Business named Irish to its 2022 list of Notable Diverse Leaders In Law and, in 2022, she was one of 60 leaders named to the Presidential Leadership Scholars program. She is also a member of the James Brister Society at Penn and the Trustees Council of Penn Women.

Notes Press Director Mary Francis, “It is always gratifying to work with talented, engaged alumni like Corrine, and her legal expertise will be a great asset to the Penn Press EBOA. Her presence at our most recent EBOA gathering added a palpable new energy: we’re honored to have her working with us to move Penn Press forward.”
On May 22nd, The McNeil Center for Early American Studies (MCEAS) launched its first ever podcast series, “Early American Conversations.” The podcast is a collaboration between Penn Press, Penn Libraries, and MCEAS and features in-depth conversations with authors of recent Penn Press publications in the Press’s Early American Studies book series, as well as special guests.

The first episode presented a discussion with Kathleen M. Brown, author of *Undoing Slavery: Bodies, Race, and Rights in the Age of Abolition* (2023), and Penn’s David Boies Professor of History. The inaugural podcast host was Anders Bright, 2022–2023 Marguerite Bartlett Hamer Dissertation Fellow at the McNeil Center and Ph.D. candidate in the Penn’s Department of History. This conversation was featured in the June 6th issue of *Penn Today*.

In addition to Dr. Brown’s interview, the podcast’s first season will feature talks with Emma Hart, Richard S. Dunn MCEAS Director and Professor of History at Penn and Elizabeth Ellis, Assistant Professor of History at Princeton University and author of *The Great Power of Small Nations: Indigenous Diplomacy in the Gulf South* (2022).

In a nod to the long tradition of advancing scholarship through publications at the McNeil Center, the podcast will feature a special segment named after the Pig of Knowledge, the MCEAS logo that first made an appearance in an early iteration of Penn Press journal *Early American Studies*. In this podcast segment, authors will reflect on an intriguing topic or source in their monograph, expand on a concept that did not make it into the book, and offer suggestions for further reading and research.

Robert Lockhart, Penn Press Senior Editor, consulted on the scope of the podcast and notes, “The McNeil Center and Penn Press have been close collaborators for more than 25 years, and I am delighted that we are working together on this new endeavor. And to have Kathy Brown as our first guest on the podcast is doubly gratifying, as she has always been such a stalwart supporter of both the Center and the Press.”

Cosette Bruhns Alonso, the Penn Libraries’ and Penn Press’s Contemporary Publishing Fellow, also worked with the MCEAS team to assist with digital publishing strategies and editorial development.

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**Penn Press Journals Offers Free Access to Low-Income Countries via Project MUSE**

Penn Press is pleased to participate in a program offered by Project MUSE to provide free access to some of our journals in low-income countries. Google Scholar is indexing the free journal content to ensure it is widely discoverable in these countries, while Project MUSE provides the free access to any user connecting via an IP address from the qualifying countries. All available volumes and issues from the participating journal titles may be accessed for free.

The Penn Press journals participating in the program are:

- Early American Studies
- The Eighteenth Century
- Eudora Welty Review
- French Forum
- Hispanic Review
- Humanity
- Huntington Library Quarterly
- Jewish Quarterly Review
- Journal for Early Modern Cultural Studies
- Journal of Ecumenical Studies
- Journal of the History of Ideas
- Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft
- Manuscript Studies
- Nova Religio
- Observational Studies
- The Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography
- Revista Hispánica Moderna

The qualifying countries are:

- Burkina Faso
- Burundi
- Central African Republic
- Chad
- Republic of the Congo
- Democratic Republic of Congo
- Eritrea
- Gambia
- Guinea
- Guinea-Bissau
- Liberia
- Madagascar
- Mali
- Niger
- Somalia
- South Sudan
- Sudan
- Togo
- Yemen
External Board of Advisors Celebrate Penn Press and Its Partners

On Monday, June 5, Penn Press hosted an afternoon reception at the LGBTQ+ Center on the University of Pennsylvania campus, during which we celebrated our brand-new partnership with the American Philosophical Society as well as recognizing our many longstanding and continuing partners in advancing knowledge and scholarship around the world. Many of Penn Press’s recent books were on display as were several Penn Press journals, all of which could be taken home by the attendee who answered a trivia question about the publication of their choice. We’re already looking forward to seeing everyone again next year!
Missives from the Field: Penn Press Represented at Spring/Summer Conferences

The late spring and early summer months saw Penn Press hosting several book exhibits at the following annual academic conferences: Associate Editor Jenny Tan reports back from the International Congress of Medieval Studies, aka Kalamazoo; Senior Editor Elisabeth Maselli writes about the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians; and Senior Editor Robert Lockhart reports on Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR) and Society for Historians of the Early American Republic (SHEAR).

International Congress of Medieval Studies
May 11–13, 2023

This year’s conference was the much-anticipated return of Kalamazoo in-person after a long hiatus due to Covid—the conference was virtual only in both 2021 and 2022. This year’s conference was hybrid: many panels were either fully virtual or had a mix of in-person and virtual participants, and the conference had organized viewing spaces for in-person attendees to view sessions that were being streamed.

Attendees expressed excitement and gratitude to see so many of our books there—we had our customary double booth, and brought all of our medieval studies books that had not yet been in Kalamazoo in person, as well as the most recent early modern titles. Recent titles by Margot Fassler, John Tolan, Ruth Karras, Barbara Newman, Jonathan Ray, Jessica Brantley, and Joel Anderson received considerable attention.

Berkshire Conference of Women Historians
June 28–July 2, 2023

This was the fiftieth Berks conference, and the first in-person one since 2017. It was a lively conference and I am glad to report that our place in the exhibit hall was great—we were one of the first two stands people saw when they entered the hall and often the first place they stopped. We received very enthusiastic feedback on Her Neighbor’s Wife, for both design and subject, and saw a lot of interest in The Silver Women; I’ve Been Here all the While; Wicked Flesh; Divorce, American Style; and Undoing Slavery. These made a great match with the thematic subjects at Berks (and indeed many received prizes or honorable mentions from the Berks prize committee) as most of the panels revolved around history of the twentieth century.

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations
June 15–17 2023

In the context of Penn Press’s exhibit history, SHAFR is a relatively new conference. The Society has traditionally focused on diplomatic history, but in the past ten years or so, an increasing number of scholars doing cutting-edge work in empire, borderlands, human rights, and transnational political movements have started attending. Their work drew me to the conference and inspired the creation of the “Power Politics and the World” (PPW) series. All three PPW series editors were in attendance: Chris Dietrich, Jennifer Mittelstadt, and Russell Rickford. Penn Press sponsored the Friday evening reception in order to highlight our offerings in eighteenth- and nineteenth-century history, including the The Early Imperial Republic, Cultivating Empire, The Great Power of Small Nations, and The Apache Diaspora, helping to cultivate a distinctive Penn Press profile in the field.

Society for Historians of the Early American Republic
July 13–16 2023

SHEAR is a smaller meeting and Penn had a robust presence in the book hall and in the program: we added a second table to our exhibit and we took out a two-page ad in the program. For the exhibit, we highlighted the Press’s local institutional partnerships, especially our new relationship with the American Philosophical Society, and also our continuing collaborative relationships with the Historical Society of Pennsylvania and the McNeil Center. A big thanks to Editorial Assistant Alex Gupta and Marketing Assistant Kathie Jiang for their great work setting up and managing the exhibit.
Penn Press Titles Recognized for Excellence

The Creole Archipelago: Race and Borders in the Colonial Caribbean by Tessa Murphy won the Mary Alice and Philip Boucher Book Prize, granted by the French Colonial Historical Society.

The Great Power of Small Nations: Indigenous Diplomacy in the Gulf South by Elizabeth Ellis was selected as a winner of the Best First Book Prize, granted by Native American and Indigenous Studies Association. It was also selected as the winner in the Nonfiction category of the Summerlee Book Prize, granted by the Center for History and Culture of Southeast Texas and the Upper Gulf Coast at Lamar University.

A Nation of Veterans: War, Citizenship, and the Welfare State in Modern America by Olivier Burtin won the Richard E. Neustadt Book Prize, granted by the American Politics Group of the UK Political Studies Association.

Divorce American Style: Fighting for Women’s Economic Citizenship in the Neoliberal Era by Suzanne Kahn was awarded Honorable Mention for a first book that deals substantially with the history of women, gender, and/or sexuality, granted by the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians.

I’ve Been Here All The While: Black Freedom on Native Land by Alaina E. Roberts was awarded Honorable Mention for a first book in any field of history that does not focus on the history of women, gender, and/or sexuality, granted by the Berkshire Conference of Women Historians.

The Virginia Venture: American Colonization and English Society, 1580–1660 by Misha Ewen was shortlisted for the Gladstone Prize, granted by the Royal Historical Society.

Scripts of Blackness: Early Modern Performance Culture and the Making of Race by Noémie Ndiaye was shortlisted for the Shakespeare’s Globe Book Award.

Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude, and Free Service in Early Modern England by Urvashi Chakravarty was also shortlisted for the Shakespeare’s Globe Book Award.

A New Shopping Cart for the Penn Press Website

As of June 22, 2023, Penn Press has a brand-new shopping cart for books! Customers using pennpress.org or one of our conference/event microsites to purchase books will now be directed to a Penn Press-branded version of the shopping cart from Indiepubs to complete their purchase. Indiepubs is an e-commerce site managed by our distributor, Ingram, that collects books from their many client presses in one single web store. Our website will now utilize Indiepubs’ “smart buy button,” a type of buy button link that sends customers to a version of the Indepubs cart that includes Penn Press branding.

The smart buy button automatically grants free shipping to any customer placing an order over $40, with our distributor Ingram covering the shipping costs.

Unfortunately, the Indiepubs cart will not allow preorders for any book more than 30 days before the book’s publication date and it does not accept backorders. But the good news is that Ingram soon plans to roll out a feature that will add a “Notify Me” button on the Indiepubs cart page when customers are denied a preorder more than 30 days prior to the publication date. This button will enable customers to enter their email address in order to receive a message when the book in question is available for preorder.

We are excited about the many benefits the new cart will provide, including enhanced information security, the $40 free-shipping threshold, and potentially, in the future, the ability to sell ebooks via our website directly to customers!
Penn Press in the Media

Speculation Nation (forthcoming 2023), by Michael A. Blaakman, was reviewed in Publishers Weekly.
The Paradox of Debt (2023), by Richard Vague, appeared on the Wall Street Journal’s bestseller list in the #9 spot for the week ending July 22 (see the screenshot below).

The book was also reviewed in Publishers Weekly, featured in Financial Times, and excerpted in The Philadelphia Citizen. And it appeared in the 20th spot on USA Today’s Bestseller List for July 26.

Illusions of Progress (2023), by Brent Cebul, was reviewed in Public Seminar and Phenomenal World.

Debbie Sharnak, author of Of Light and Struggle (2023), published an article on the North American Congress on Latin America website, and the book was reviewed on the site.

Michael Jackson, author of Friendship (2023), was interviewed on the New Books Network.

Sam Brody, co-editor of The King Is In the Field (2023), was featured on the KU News Service and WIBW13 websites.

Kathleen M. Brown, author of Undoing Slavery (2023), was interviewed on the inaugural episode of the McNeil Center for Early American Studies’ Early American Conversations podcast and the book was featured in Penn Today.

Frontiers of Gender Equality (2023), edited by Rebecca J. Cook, was reviewed in the New York Journal of Books.

Adrian Chastain Weimer, author of A Constitutional Culture (2023), was interviewed in Current’s The Author’s Corner.

England’s Jews (2023), by John Tolan, was reviewed in The Jewish Press.

Paola Tartakoff, author of Between Christian and Jew (PB2023, HC2012), was interviewed on the Seforim Chatter podcast.

The Philadelphia Negro (updated edition 2023), by W.E.B. Du Bois, was reviewed in The Broad Street Review.

Jacques Dalarun, Valerio Cappozzo, and Sean L. Field, authors of A Female Apostle in Medieval Italy (2022), were interviewed in Nonfiction.

Helle Porsdam, author of Science as a Cultural Human Right (2022), was interviewed on The Gilded Age and Progressive Era podcast.

Megan Threlkeld, author of Citizens of the World (2022), was interviewed on The Gilded Age and Progressive Era podcast.

Catherine J. Ross, author of A Right To Lie? (2021), was interviewed on CSPAN.

Ross Brann, author of Iberian Moorings (2021), was interviewed on the Seforim Chatter podcast.