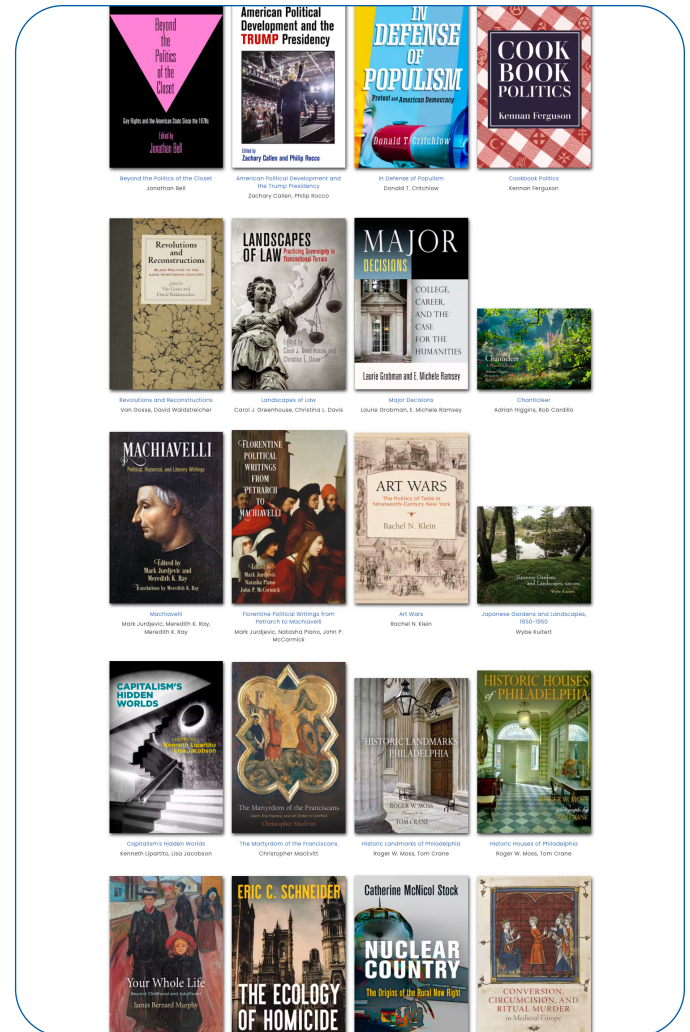


March 15, 2023

Introducing a New Section of the Penn Press Website: Franklin's Faves!

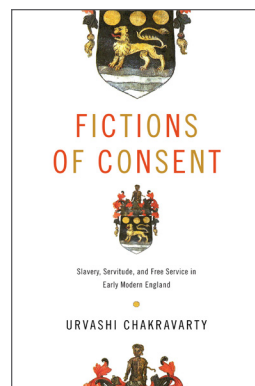
[Franklin's Faves](#) is not a sale but a permanent web page on the Penn Press site that features a collection of backlist gems selected by the Marketing Department. Shining a spotlight on twenty books, Franklin's Faves can be found on the main menu under the "Books" option. There will always be a mix of hardcover and paperbacks that represent many subjects from the Press's extensive lists in the humanities and the social sciences. Each book can be purchased at 75% discount for however long the title appears on the page.

The titles will rotate every few months and the Marketing Department will promote Franklin's Faves on social media: be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and/or [Twitter](#) to get all the news from Penn Press, including the announcement of new books appearing in Franklin's Faves!

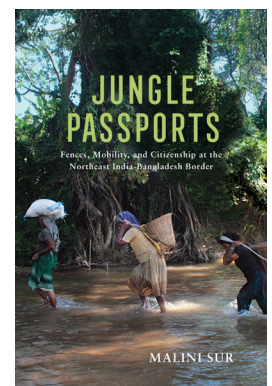


Penn Press Books Recognized for Excellence

Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude, and Free Service in Early Modern England by Urvashi Chakravarty was awarded the 2023 [Phyllis Goodhart Gordan Prize](#) from the Renaissance Society of America for the best book in Renaissance studies.



Jungle Passports: Fences, Mobility, and Citizenship at the Northeast India-Bangladesh Border by Malini Sur was awarded Honorable Mention for the 2023 [Bernard S. Cohn Prize](#) for a First book on South Asia, granted by the Association for Asian Studies.



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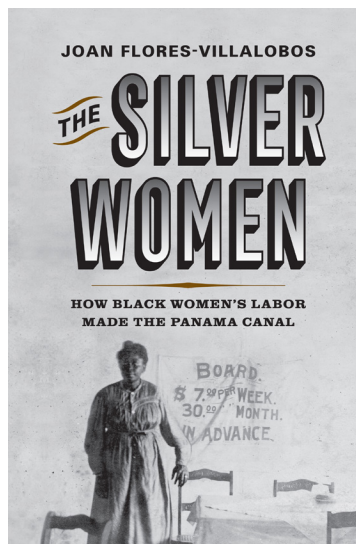
An Excerpt From *The Silver Women* in Honor of Women's History Month

March is [Women's History Month](#), and in commemoration, we're sharing an excerpt from the Introduction to the *The Silver Women* by Joan Flores-Villalobos. *The Silver Women* shows how the construction of the Panama Canal depended on the labor of Black migrant women. Save 40% on this title and others during Women's History Month with code WHM2023-FM on our website.

April 24, 1907, must have been a hot, muggy day in Empire, a busy industrial town near the train tracks of the Panama Railroad. Empire was the headquarters of the central division of the Isthmian Canal Commission (ICC), the administrative body that oversaw the construction of the Panama Canal. Empire was always a hotbed of activity, home to engineers, steam shovels, and foreign workers digging the deepest point on the Canal, the Culebra Cut. That day, Jane Hall, a Jamaican woman who owned a boarding house, walked out of the U.S. District Court of the Canal Zone after winning a civil case against one of her tenants. Hall alleged that her tenant had vacated his rooms without proper notice and had not paid three months' rent at the agreed price of twelve dollars Panama silver a month. After a lengthy case and appeal, the court ruled in her favor and awarded her the equivalent amount, nine dollars along with court fees, in United States gold.

Hall's payout was notable because, within the U.S. territory of the Canal Zone, West Indians rarely received pay in gold coin. The payroll system unequally divided the wages and benefits of the official Canal workforce. Skilled workers, almost entirely white Americans, were placed on the "Gold Roll" and were paid higher salaries than for equivalent jobs in the United States. They received their wages in gold American dollars. Meanwhile, the more than 150,000 migrant West Indian men who made up the majority of the "unskilled" workforce were placed on the "Silver Roll," only eligible for much lower pay rates in local coin, usually Colombian silver pesos. Officials, employees, and residents alike came to understand these categories as racialized—Gold as white, Silver as Black—even beyond the payroll. As all ICC services and facilities were designated for either Gold or Silver Roll personnel, the unique pay structure effectively extended racial segregation throughout the Canal Zone.

Into this arrangement came West Indian women like Jane Hall, who were for the most part not official employees of the Canal Commission. As Black women, they inevitably had to deal with the racialized labor scheme and spatial segregation that defined the Canal Zone, but as uncontracted workers, they did not have



to function strictly within the roll system. Jane Hall owned her own independent businesses—three boarding houses in Culebra that sheltered Silver workers who could not acquire decent housing from the ICC. She charged rent in silver because it was what workers had, but sometimes paid in gold for services and, as in her civil case, sued to receive back rent in gold. Other West Indian women similarly evaded the binaries of the roll system, moving across white American "Gold" spaces in their work as domestic servants, higglers (market women), and laundresses, and demanding gold as payment from their clients. West Indian women like Jane Hall played a crucial, double-edged role in the Canal construction. On the one hand, they built a provisioning economy that fed, housed, and cared for workers, in

effect subsidizing the construction effort and its racial calculus. But, working outside the umbrella of the ICC, they also found ways to skirt, and at times challenge, the legal, moral, and economic parameters imperial authorities sought to impose on this migrant workforce—to function beyond the boundaries of silver and gold.

As historians since the 1980s have firmly established, the Panama Canal was realized as much through the exploitation of a racialized class of workers as it was by American ingenuity. What is less visible, and less understood, is the project's dependence on the domestic and care labor of West Indian "Silver women." West Indian women sustained Silver Roll workers, providing food for those underfed by segregated Canal Zone cafeterias, laundering clothes daily for those who worked in dusty construction sites, and fostering links with legal and commercial institutions in their newfound homes on Panamanian territory. They were equally central to the survival of white Americans, who in the early construction years depended on the provisions of West Indian market women, as they had scant access to fresh foods from the commissary and lacked knowledge of local products. West Indian women took care of white American children and cleaned white American homes, physically maintaining the image of an orderly domestic sphere. In short, West Indian women's labor made the United States' imperial project possible.

March 15, 2023

Penn Press in the Media

Jocelyn Dawson, Director of Penn Press's Journals Program, co-authored an article in [The Scholarly Kitchen](#).

The inaugural W. E. B. Du Bois Lecture in Public Social Science was featured in [Penn Today](#) with a mention of the original Penn Press publication of *The Philadelphia Negro*.

Kathleen M. Brown, author of *Undoing Slavery* (2023), was interviewed in [Current's](#) The Author's Corner.

Joan Flores-Villalobos, author of *The Silver Women* (2023), was interviewed on [The Gilded Age and the Progressive Era](#) podcast.

Guian McKee, author of *Hospital City, Health Care Nation* (2023), published an op-ed in [The Hill](#).

Georgia Frank, author of *Unfinished Christians* (2023), was featured on Cornell University's [Society for the Humanities website](#).

Melanie Newport, author of *This Is My Jail* (2022), was interviewed on the [Unsung History podcast](#) and the book was excerpted in [In These Times](#).

Laura Wolf-Powers, author of *University City* (2022), published an op-ed in [The Chronicle of Higher Education](#).

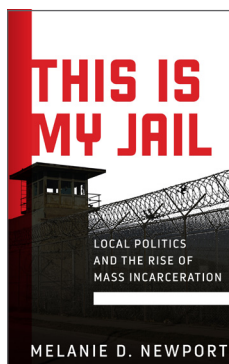
Elisheva Baumgarten, author of *Biblical Women and Jewish Daily Life in the Middle Ages* (2022), was interviewed on the [Seforim Chatter podcast](#).

Inventing William of Norwich (2022), by Heather Blurton, was reviewed in [The Christian Century](#).

The Permeable Self (2021), by Barbara Newman, was reviewed in the [London Review of Books](#).

Vaneesa Cook, author of *Spiritual Socialists* (2019), published an article in [Current](#).

A note about author events: Penn Press authors are always speaking about their books at virtual and in-person events. For the most recent and up-to-date [calendar](#), please visit: <https://www.pennpress.org/events/>.



Most-Read Journal Articles of 2022

All of the journals published by Penn Press are available electronically on [Project Muse](#). Subscribers who opt for the online rate (with or without the printed hard copy) can access journal articles by logging onto this platform. In 2022, Penn Press published its first “open access” journal, that is, anyone anywhere can access every issue’s complete articles without a subscription or login credentials. The “hits” below reflect Project Muse’s data on how many times a reader accessed an article.

TOP 5 JOURNAL ARTICLES (VIA SUBSCRIPTION)

- 1 **Farewell to *The German Ideology*** by Sarah Johnson. Published in the [Journal of the History of Ideas](#), the article received 6,102 hits.
- 2 **Redefining Reciprocity: Appointment Edicts and Political Thought in Medieval China** by Shoufu Yin. Published in the [Journal of the History of Ideas](#), the article received 3,918 hits.
- 3 **Two Regimes of Global Health** by Andrew Lakoff. Published in [Humanity](#), the article received 2,409 hits.
- 4 **Does the Field Deserve Our Work?** by Erin Bartram. Published in the [Journal of the Early Republic](#), the article received 2,100 hits.
- 5 **The Meanings of Magic** by Michael D. Bailey. Published in [Magic, Ritual, and Witchcraft](#), the article received 1,803 hits.

TOP 5 JOURNAL ARTICLES (OPEN ACCESS)

- 1 **Estimating Treatment Effects with Causal Forests: An Application** by Stefan Wager and Susan Athey. Published in [Observational Studies](#), the article received 6,359 hits.
- 2 **Causal Inference: History, Perspectives, Adventures, and Unification (An Interview with Judea Pearl)** by Judea Pearl. Published in [Observational Studies](#), the article received 4,335 hits.
- 3 **Interview with James Heckman** by James J. Heckman. Published in [Observational Studies](#), the article received 3,712 hits.
- 4 **Interview with Jamie Robins** by Jamie Robins. Published in [Observational Studies](#), the article received 2,231 hits.
- 5 **Breiman's Two Cultures: A Perspective from Econometrics** by Guido Imbens and Susan Athey. Published in [Observational Studies](#), the article received 2,101 hits.