From the Medieval to the Modern, Penn Press Books Win Awards in Numerous Fields

**Scripts of Blackness: Early Modern Performance Culture and the Making of Race** by Noémie Ndiaye won the following awards and prizes:

- The Shakespeare’s Globe Book Award
- The Rose Mary Crawshay Prize, granted by The British Academy
- The George Freedley Memorial Award, granted by Theatre Library Association
- The Aldo and Jeanne Scaglione Prize for Comparative Literary Studies, granted by the Modern Language Association

A Feast of Flowers: Race, Labor, and Postcolonial Capitalism by Christopher Krupa was awarded the Society for Economic Anthropology Book Prize and the SLACA Book Prize, granted by the Society for Latin American and Caribbean Anthropology.

Defensive Relativism: The Use of Cultural Relativism in International Legal Practice by Frederick Cowell was awarded the ESIL Monograph Prize, granted by The European Society of International Law.

Poisoned Wells: Accusations, Persecution, and Minorities in Medieval Europe, 1321–1422 by Tzafrir Barzilay won the Jordan Schnitzer Book Award in the category of Medieval and Early Modern Jewish History and Culture, granted by the Association for Jewish Studies.

Embodying the Soul: Medicine and Religion in Carolingian Europe by Meg Leja won the Ecclesiastical History Society’s Book Prize.

The Paradox of Debt: A New Path to Prosperity Without Crisis by Richard Vague was a PenCraft Book Award First Place Winner in the category of Nonfiction - Government/Politics.

The titles below were chosen as Outstanding Academic Titles by CHOICE, a publishing unit of the Association of College and Research Libraries:

- A Nation of Veterans: War, Citizenship, and the Welfare State in Modern America by Olivier Burtin
- Blood Inscriptions: Science, Modernity, and Ritual Murder at Europe’s Fin de Siècle by Hillel J. Kieval
- Contracting Freedom: Race, Empire, and U.S. Guestworker Programs by Maria L. Quintana
- Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude, and Free Service in Early Modern England by Urvashi Chakravarty
- Mastering Emotions: Feelings, Power, and Slavery in the United States by Erin Austin Dwyer
- Of Light and Struggle: Social Justice, Human Rights, and Accountability in Uruguay by Debbie Sharnak
- The Paradox of Urban Revitalization: Progress and Poverty in America’s Postindustrial Era by Howard Gillette, Jr.

Faith in Exposure: Privacy and Secularism in the Nineteenth-Century United States by Justine Murison won the Midwest Modern Language Association Book Prize.

Contracting Freedom: Race, Empire, and U.S. Guestworker Programs by Maria L. Quintana won Empowering Latino Futures’ International Latino Book Awards, under the categories Best History Book and The Hank Lacayo Best Labor Themed Book.

Historic Real Estate: Market Morality and the Politics of Preservation in the Early United States by Whitney Martinko won the On The Brinck Book Award, granted by The University of New Mexico School of Architecture and Planning.

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Counseling Women: Kinship against Violence in India by Julia Kowalski won the Michelle Z. Rosaldo Prize, granted by the Association for Feminist Anthropology.

Jewish Life in Medieval Spain: A New History by Jonathan Ray was chosen as a finalist for the National Jewish Book Award, in the Sephardic Culture category.

Fictions of Consent: Slavery, Servitude, and Free Service in Early Modern England by Urvashi Chakravarty was chosen as a finalist for the Paul E. Lovejoy Prize, granted by the Journal of Global Slavery.

Living with the Law: Gender and Community Among the Jews of Medieval Egypt by Oded Zinger was chosen as a finalist, for the National Jewish Book Award in the Scholarship category.

The Silver Women: How Black Women’s Labor Made the Panama Canal by Joan Flores-Villalobos was chosen as a finalist for the Pauli Murray Book Prize in Black Intellectual History, granted by the African American Intellectual History Society.

Philosophical Siblings: Varieties of Playful Experience in Alice, William, and Henry James by Jane F. Thrailkill was shortlisted for the Christian Gauss Award, granted by the Phi Beta Kappa Society.

Imitations of Infinity: Gregory of Nyssa and the Trans-formation of Mimesis by Michael Motia was chosen as a finalist for the American Academy of Religion’s Best First Book in the History of Religions.

Ceremonial Splendor: Performing Priesthood in Early Modern France by Joy Palacios was chosen as a finalist for the American Academy of Religion’s Best First Book in the History of Religions.

Time for Reparations: A Global Perspective edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, Caroline Elkins, and Margareta Matache was shortlisted for the Modernist Studies Association Book Prize for an Edition, Anthology, or Essay Collection.

The American Academy for the Study of Religion/Society for Biblical Literature conference reported more than 7,300 attendees. Penn Press authors Tehseen Thaver, Joy Palacios, A. J. Berkovitz, Anne Krebs, and Devaka Premawardhana all stopped by the booth along with Jewish Culture and Contexts Series Editor (and Penn author) Shaul Magid. The four editors of the journal Nova Religio also stopped by and were pleased to see the banner for their book. The editors of Journal of Ecumenical Studies were able to sit outside of the stand and meet with potential authors—and they were great managing conference traffic!

I was glad to see attendees look for and engage with titles like Unfinished Christians, Unsettling Jewish Knowledge, Zimzum, and Decolonization and the Remaking of Christianity. Our new-in-paper titles, Spiritual Socialists and God’s Country, also stood out to browsers.

The Association of Jewish Studies was a lively and well-attended conference, and I was glad to see new titles like A Life of Psalms in Jewish Late Antiquity; Hasidism, Haskalah, Zionism; and Zimzum receive attention and excitement from conference goers. I was also glad to represent Penn Press at a reception that the Katz Center for Advanced Judaic Studies hosted, where the edited collections we develop in partnership with the Katz Center—titles like Unsettling Jewish Knowledge and The King is in the Field—were on display. Series editors Steve Weitzman and Beth Berkowitz were in attendance, along with dozens of Penn authors. Attendees were delighted to see us in the exhibit hall, and expressed appreciation for the wide range of topics, areas, and time periods our list in Jewish Studies covers.
Spring 2024

Five Penn Press Journals Join Project MUSE’s Subscribe to Open Program

As a part of Penn Press journals’ commitment to supporting open-access initiatives, five Penn Press journals have joined Project MUSE’s Subscribe to Open Program (S2O). If the program is successful in securing support, 2025 content from these journals will be available Open Access without article processing charges.

Project MUSE, a leading platform of humanities and social sciences scholarship from non-profit publishers, will launch S2O in 2025. This collaborative effort marks a giant stride towards reshaping the landscape of equitable participation and access to a wide range of current interdisciplinary content by providing a low-risk path to increased access that benefits both libraries and publishers. As of January 2024, 24 publishers are participating in S2O, representing 87 journals and the program continues to grow.

The Penn Press journals that will participate in S2O are:

- Change Over Time: An International Journal of Conservation and the Built Environment, sponsored by the Weitzman School of Design
- Early American Studies: An Interdisciplinary Journal, sponsored by The McNeil Center for Early American Studies
- Eudora Welty Review
- French Forum, sponsored by the department of Francophone, Italian, and Germanic Studies at the University of Pennsylvania
- Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development

“Penn Press is proud to participate in the Project MUSE Subscribe to Open Program alongside other publishers seeking a sustainable and equitable alternative to traditional open-access models. We are confident in the program’s success and look forward to making content from these five titles openly available to the global community of researchers in 2025,” said Penn Press Director Mary Francis.

French Forum editor Philippe Met noted, “We are looking forward to the increase in visibility that Open Access will provide for our authors’ work,” and Rosalind Beiler and Judith Ridner commented that “the editors of Early American Studies are excited to participate in Subscribe to Open. We believe open access will encourage global conversations among scholars of early American studies and expand the readership of the journal to a wider audience.”

Open Access at Penn Press

Penn Press currently provides Diamond open-access content to the academic community via four of its journals:

- Observational Studies
- Pasados: Recovering History, Imagining Latinidad
- Journal of Disaster Studies
- Manuscript Studies: A Journal of the Schoenberg Institute for Manuscript Studies

Penn Press also supports Gold and Green open access models, and in February, Observational Studies will join the LYRASIS Open Access Community Investment Program, which provides a community-driven framework to enable multiple stakeholders to evaluate and collectively fund Diamond Open Access journals.

Missive from the Field: Editor-in-Chief Walter K. Biggins Reports from the MLA

The annual meeting of the Modern Language Association (MLA) was held here in Philly, January 3–7, 2024. According to the conference organizers, there were roughly 4,000 registered attendees—signalling an upward trend since the pandemic.

Several new books garnered considerable attention at the booth, representing the temporal and geographical range of our literature and culture studies list: Joseph Gamble’s Sex Lives (early modern Europe); Christopher Castiglia and Susan Gillman’s Neither the Time Nor the Place (nineteenth-century United States); and Michael Behrent’s Becoming Foucault (intellectual history of the modern age). Although MLA is becoming an increasingly important conference for medieval and early modern studies, titles with an interdisciplinary approach and a global scope, such as Noémie Ndiaye’s Scripts of Blackness, are the most popular.

There was a lot of excitement expressed for our new journal Pasados, an open-access publication with a focus on Latinx cultural pasts. And Publicity Manager Gigi Lamm represented us wonderfully in a panel session: “Reviewing Academic Books: Perspectives from Journal Editors, Reviewers, and Publishing Professionals.”

*The First Last Man* (2024), by Eileen M. Hunt, was reviewed in *Publishers Weekly*.

*Black Elders* (2024), by Frederick Knight, was included in *Publishers Weekly*’s Spring 2024 Adult Preview and the author was interviewed on *North Carolina Public Radio*.

Terrence Malick and the *Examined Life* (2024), by Martin Woessner, was reviewed in *Publishers Weekly* and *Library Journal*, and the book was excerpted in *FilmInk*.

Tyeshia Maddox, author of *A Home Away From Home* (2024), was interviewed on the *Fordham News* website.

*American Burial Ground* (2023), by Sarah Keyes, was named one of the Best Books of 2023 in *The Tombstone Epitaph*, which also published an author interview. Keyes was also interviewed on the *Extreme History* and *New Books Network* podcasts and published an article in *TIME*’s “Made By History” column. (No digital edition of *The Tombstone Epitaph* is available.)

Jennifer Black, author of *Branding Trust* (2023), was interviewed on the *Read Beat* podcast, on the *Hagley Library’s History Hangout* podcast, and in *Current’s The Author’s Corner*. Black was also featured on the *Misericordia University Community Realized* website and the book appeared on *The Page 99 Test*.

Faiza Moatasim, author of *Master Plans and Encroachments* (2023), was interviewed on the *Chapati Mystery* blog.

Michael Blaakman, author of *Speculation Nation* (2023), was interviewed in *Current’s The Author’s Corner*.

Elijah Anderson, author of the introduction to the new edition of *The Philadelphia Negro* (2023), was interviewed in *The Conversation*.

Regina Lee Blaszczyk and David Suisman, editors of *Capitalism and the Senses* (2023), were interviewed on the *New Books Network*.

Rebekka Voß, author of *Sons of Saviors* (2023), was interviewed on the *Seforim Chatter* podcast.

David R. Brigham, editor of *Two Hundred Years: The Historical Society of Pennsylvania, 1824–2024* (2023), was interviewed on the *New Books Network*.

*Landscape and Authority in the Early Modern World* (2023), edited by Stephen H. Whiteman, was reviewed in *Sun Austin News* (LBJ Presidential Library).

*I’ve Been Here All the While* (PB 2023, HC 2021), by Alaina Roberts, was featured in *Pitt Magazine*.

Zachary Goldsmith, author of *Fanaticism* (2022), published an article in *Forward*.

Sanaa Alimia, author of *Refugee Cities* (2022), was interviewed on the *Brown History* podcast and the book was reviewed on the *Bloomsbury Pakistan* website.

*University City* (2022), by Laura Wolf-Powers, was reviewed in *Hidden City*.

*Iberian Moorings* (2021), by Ross Bran was reviewed on *Radio Sefarad/The Shelf*.

Christopher A. Frilingos, author of *Jesus, Mary, and Joseph* (2017), was interviewed on the *Misquoting Jesus* podcast (second part).