

Spring 2025

## Ebooks Now Available for Sale on Penn Press Website

Penn Press is thrilled to share that after years of planning, preparation, and testing, ebooks are now available to order through pennpress.org! This exciting new change is the result of extensive collaboration between the Penn Press team, our distributor Ingram Academic, and our website provider Supadu.

Beginning in December, book pages on our website now include “Buy” buttons for ebook editions, and users are able to add ebooks to the website’s IndiePubs shopping cart and complete the checkout process exactly as they would for print titles (in fact, ebooks can be bought in the same transaction as paperback and hardcover editions!). Customers can then access and read their ebooks using a platform called VitalSource—after creating an account, users are able to see all purchased ebooks in their VitalSource “bookshelf” via web browser or mobile/tablet app. More information about the process for buying and accessing/reading ebooks can be found in the [Guide to Our Shopping Cart](#).

Ebook functionality was first rolled out to pennpress.org shortly before the beginning of the annual Penn Press Holiday Sale on Thursday, December 5. However, this was treated as a “soft launch”: we did not publicize the availability of ebooks on the site during the sale, in case there were any errors or issues that had not been caught by our earlier testing and that could create issues during a high-traffic time such as the sale. We were also curious to see whether Holiday Sale customers would buy ebooks without prompting—and sure enough, we sold several ebook copies during the course of the nearly monthlong sale! After reviewing these results and consulting with Ingram and Supadu, we moved forward with an official announcement of the new ebook functionality on January 22, accompanied by a weeklong 50% flash sale on ebooks.

Overall, we are excited that ebooks are now a part of the Penn Press website experience and that customers who prefer ebooks can buy directly from us! Kudos to the Penn Press leadership and marketing teams, and thank you to everyone on staff who helped with ebook testing in the weeks before launch.

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA PRESS

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**Underground Politics**  
Gold Mining and State-Making in Colombia  
Jesse Jonkman  
University of Pennsylvania Press  
Contemporary Ethnography

296 Pages, 6.00 x 9.00 in, 10 b/w illus, 1 map

Paperback 9781512824575 Published: November 2024	\$32.50	BUY
Hardcover 9781512824582 Published: November 2024	\$120.00	BUY
eBook 9781512824599 Published: November 2024	\$32.50	BUY

Customers outside of the Americas can buy books from our overseas distributor:

Combined Academic

Spring 2025

## Comings and Goings at Penn Press

There have been a lot of staff changes since our last issue; let's get caught up!

A belated congratulations is due to **Lauren Cunius**, who was promoted from Royalty Administrator to Business Administrator over the summer. Since she arrived in January 2022, she has engaged in transitioning the Press's royalty software to a new system, lead the charge to digitize our royalty contract files, and improved efficiencies in the Business Department.

On November 25th, **Jonathan Repetti** joined Penn Press as our new Editorial Assistant for acquisitions. Jonathan previously worked with the American Philosophical Society (APS) as a Princeton University GradFUTURES Social Impact Fellow.



We bid a fond farewell to **Gigi Lamm** in January, as she assumed the role of Director of Sales and Marketing at Indiana University Press. Gigi served as Publicist at Penn for just over 11 years—securing coverage for our titles in trade as well as scholarly outlets, booking author events, and serving as an excellent marketing copywriter whenever needed.

Starting February 3rd, **Isaiah Holbrook** moved “upstairs” from the Acquisitions department, where he served as an Editorial Assistant, to become one of our managing editors in our Production department, handling both journals and books.

**Kathie Jiang**, who had been guiding our exhibits and conference program for the past 2 ½ years, left the Press at the end of February to take a position in the field of public art. Her hard work, coordination, and diplomatic efforts were critical to the successful onboarding of the American Philosophical Society Press.

## Penn Press Celebrates Major Stride Towards Open Access

Penn Press is delighted to announce that five of our journals will have open-access content in 2025 as part of the successful launch of Project MUSE's Subscribe to Open Program (S2O). This program opens current issues without article processing charges for participating journals and allows Penn Press to join other publishers in our commitment to providing sustainable access to a broad readership. Combined with our select Diamond Open Access journals, this means one-third of all Penn Press journal content published in 2025 will be open-access!

With over 100 participating journals from 27 publishers, Project MUSE's S2O Program represents a significant step towards providing access to a wide range of current interdisciplinary scholarly material. S2O's community-based approach provides a low-risk path to increased access that benefits both libraries and publishers.

Five Penn Press journals are participating in MUSE's S2O offer for 2025:

- [\*Change Over Time\*](#)
- [\*Early American Studies\*](#)
- [\*Eudora Welty Review\*](#)
- [\*French Forum\*](#)
- [\*Humanity: An International Journal of Human Rights, Humanitarianism, and Development\*](#)

Join us in celebrating this milestone by checking out the most recent issues of the journals above. We appreciate the libraries who subscribed to or renewed the Project MUSE collection, making the Subscribe to Open offer possible.

Spring 2025

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## Missives from the Field: Highlights from Academic Conferences

The six months from November through April comprise the peak season for academic conferences. Although it's impossible for Penn Press staff to attend them all personally, we partner with The Scholar's Choice, a company that presents conference attendees with an extensive display of new books relevant to their field of study, including titles from Penn Press. See below for highlights from a selection of conferences attended by Penn Press staff, in their own words. Other academic conferences attended by Penn Press staff during the busy season include the Modern Language Association, the Medieval Academy, the joint Renaissance Society/Shakespeare Association, and the Organization of American Historians. Watch this space for future missives from the field!

### **American Anthropological Association November 20–23, 2024**

**Elisabeth Maselli, Senior Editor**

This was a productive but small conference. Because we had a table share with Ingram, I was able to attend on Nov. 20 and 21 to take meetings and could leave for AAR on Nov. 22, with Athena Pult from Ingram handling booth setup and breakdown. The Ingram table share with the shared banner worked very nicely—browsers and attendees I was meeting with saw the Penn Press name more quickly than in the past.

### **American Academy for the Study of Religion / Society for Biblical Literature November 23–26, 2024**

**Elisabeth Maselli, Senior Editor**

This was, once again, a great meeting for us. It was well attended, and authors Babak Rahimi, Shankar Ramaswami, Tehseen Thaver, Joy Palacios, Anne Krebs, and Devaka Premawardhana all stopped by the booth along with JCX series editor Beth Berkowitz. A lot of people took 40% off flyers—so many so that I had to reprint 50 flyers after the first batch ran out!

### **American Historical Association January 3–6, 2025**

**Bob Lockhart, Senior Editor**

I came away with the sense that the meeting had been productive from a sales and acquisitions perspective. All the order forms had been taken by the end of the second day. Penn continues to have a distinctive exhibit compared to other presses its size: the booth contained robust sections devoted to modern US, early American / Atlantic World, early modern and European, and Jewish history. Also illustrative of the list's breadth were the awards garnered by Penn Press books: *Sons of Saviors* by Rebekka Voß won the Dorothy Rosenberg Prize for the best book in Jewish Diaspora history, and *The Silver Women* by Joan Flores-Villalobos won the Wesley-Logan Prize for best book in African Diaspora history.

### **Black Philadelphia in the 18th and 19th Centuries February 20–22, 2025**

**Walter Biggins, Editor-in-Chief**

This conference was organized by the Library Company of Philadelphia, in partnership with Penn's McNeil Center for Early American Studies, the American Philosophical Society, and the 1838 Black Metropolis initiative. A wide range of scholarly disciplines were represented at the conference and I was pleasantly surprised by how many community activists, amateur historians, public historians (ensconced at museums and memorial sites), and non-scholars from the Philadelphia area were present.

There was a lot of participation from the University of Pennsylvania, from the program committee to panelists and session chairs. Several Penn Press also authors presented, as well as friends of the Press who have served as peer reviewers and on series advisory boards.

### **Eastern Sociological Society March 6–8, 2025**

**Bob Lockhart, Senior Editor**

I believe this was the first time Penn Press exhibited at this conference. We did so at the invitation of Derek Hyra, co-editor of the new series "Disrupting Urban Policy" and current ESS president. Our aim was to highlight the series and connect with prospective authors in urban studies. I am pleased to report we have our first viable submission to the series: Diane Wong's "Housing Justice and Abolitionist Futures, Chinatown Style."

### **African American Intellectual History Society March 14–15, 2025**

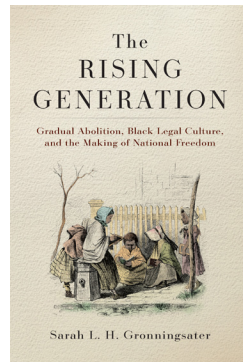
**Bob Lockhart, Senior Editor**

With the inaugural issue of *Global Black Thought* forthcoming, the journal was featured prominently at Penn's exhibit. Thanks to Jocelyn Dawson, Director of Journals, and Paul Chase, Operations Manager, we had a poster of the cover as well as postcards for the taking. The latter were also stuffed into the conference totes, and the Friday luncheon was sponsored by the journal, where it received several shout-outs.

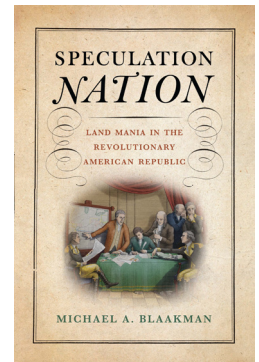
Spring 2025

## Penn Press Books Recognized for Excellence

*The Rising Generation: Gradual Abolition, Black Legal Culture, and the Making of National Freedom* (2024), by Sarah Gronningsater, was awarded the [James A. Rawley Award](#) from the Organization of American Historians (OAH), which recognizes the best book dealing with the history of race relations in the United States, and received an honorable mention for the [Frederick Jackson Turner Award](#), also from the OAH, which is for the best first book in American history across all fields. This marks the sixth consecutive year that a Penn Press book has won an award from the OAH and the third consecutive year one has won or received honorable mention for the Turner Award.



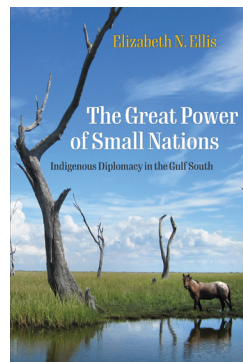
*Speculation Nation: Land Mania in the Revolutionary American Republic* (2023), by Michael A. Blaakman, won the [William Nelson Cromwell Foundation Book Prize](#) for the best book in American legal history by an early career scholar from the American Society for Legal History.



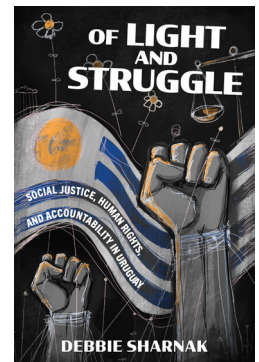
*The Silver Women: How Black Women's Labor Made the Panama Canal* (2023) by Joan Flores-Villalobos won the [Wesley-Logan Prize in African Diaspora History](#) from the American Historical Association.

*Sons of Saviors: The Red Jews in Yiddish Culture* (2023) by Rebekka Voß won the [Dorothy Rosenberg Prize](#) for the best book in the history of the Jewish diaspora from the American Historical Association.

*The Great Power of Small Nations: Indigenous Diplomacy in the Gulf South* (HC 2022, PB 2024), by Elizabeth N. Ellis, won the [Donald Fixico Award](#), recognizing innovative work in American Indian history, from the Western History Association, and the [John Ewers Award](#), for the best book on North American Indian ethno-history, also from the Western History Association.



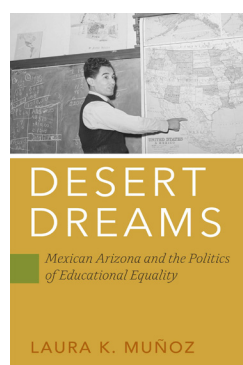
*Of Light and Struggle: Social Justice, Accountability, and Human Rights in Uruguay* (2023) by Debbie Sharnak won the [Mejor libro de Humanidades from the Southern Cone Studies section](#) of the Latin American Studies Association.



*A Feast of Flowers: Race, Labor and Postcolonial Capitalism in Ecuador* (HC/PB 2022) by Christopher Krupa received Honorable Mention for the [Premio al Mejor Libro from the Ecuadorian Studies section](#) of the Latin American Studies Association.

*The Driver's Story: Labor and Power in the World of Atlantic Slavery* (2024), by Randy Browne, has won the Senior Scholar Publication Award from the Ohio Academy of History.

*Desert Dreams: Mexican Arizona and the Politics of Educational Equality* (2023), by Laura K. Muñoz, has won the [New Scholar's Book Award](#) from American Educational Research Association, Division F.



*American Burial Ground: A New History of the Overland Trail* (2023) by Sarah Keyes was chosen as the runner up for the Bonney MacDonald Award for Outstanding Western Book from the Center for the Study of the American West at West Texas A&M University.

Adrienne Williams Boyarin's *The Christian Jew and the Unmarked Jewess: the Polemics of Sameness in Medieval English Anti-Judaism* (2020) was awarded the [Jerome E. Singerman Prize](#) from the Medieval Academy of America.

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Spring 2025

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## Penn Press in the Media

*Crusading for Globalization* (2025), by Janick Marina Schaufelbuehl was included in the [Publishers Weekly](#) Spring 2025 Adult Preview.

*Still Lives* (2025), by Ofer Ashkenazi, Rebekka Grossmann, Shira Miron, and Sarah Wobick-Segev, was featured in [Jewish Book Council](#). The reviewer wrote that the book “ably shows that the spaces of Jewish life captured by pocket-sized cameras convey vital narratives of life before a seismic rupture.”

Edward Tenner, author of *Why the Hindenburg Had a Smoking Lounge* (APSP 2025), was interviewed about his work and research in [Print Magazine](#).

*Lead Well*, by Paula Davis (WSP 2025) was listed as a February 2025 “Must Read” in [The Next Big Idea Club](#).

The [Penn Almanac](#) holiday gift guide including the following Penn Press and Wharton School Press titles:

*The Rising Generation* (2024), by Sarah L. H. Gronningsater

*Baby Bust, 10th Anniversary Edition* (WSP 2024), by Stewart D. Friedman

*The Shopping Revolution, Updated and Expanded Edition* (WSP 2021), by Barbara E. Kahn

*Free Speech on Campus* (2017), by Sigal R. Ben-Porath.

Mary Ellen Curtin, author of *She Changed the Nation* (2024), was interviewed on the [Political Junkie Substack](#) and the same interview was a [Public Seminar “Why Now” podcast](#).

Paul Kahan, author of *Philadelphia* (2024), was interviewed on [WMMR](#)’s “Markus in the Darkus” and the [PA Books podcast](#), and the book was reviewed in the [Los Angeles Review of Books](#).

*Philadelphia* was reviewed in *Pennsylvania Heritage* by Isabel Steven. Steven noted that Kahan “delivers a deft and accessible narrative of one of America’s oldest cities . . . offers a clear-sighted, critical, and sharp introduction to ‘The City of Brotherly Love.’”

Hannah Pollin-Galay, author of *Occupied Words* (2024), was interviewed on the [New Books Network](#).

*Spirals in the Caribbean* (2024), by Sophie Maríñez, was featured on the [National Endowment for the Humanities](#) blog.

Roni Henig, author of *On Revival* (2024), was interviewed on the [New Books Network](#).

*In Plain Sight* (2024), by Ann Zimo, was featured on [Medievalists.net](#).

CJ Jones, author of *Fixing the Liturgy* (2024), was interviewed on the [Medievalists.net podcast](#).

*Resolute Japan* (WSP 2024), by Jusuke JJ Ikegami, Harbir Singh, and Michael Useem, was featured in [Knowledge at Wharton](#).

*Empire of Contingency* (2024), by Jorge Flores, was included in [History Today](#)’s “Books of the Year 2024” roundup.

Alan M. Stahl, author of *The House of Condulmer* (2024), was interviewed on the [Medievalists.net podcast](#).

Chelsea Berry, author of *Poisoned Relations* (2024), was interviewed on the [New Books Network](#).

Martin Woessner, author of *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life* (2024), was interviewed on the [Writers on Film podcast](#).

*The Hedgehog Review* published a review essay by Alan Jacobs that featured *Terrence Malick and the Examined Life*. Jacobs noted the book “is well worth reading, even if you have no interest in the philosophical questions that Woessner raises. But it is Woessner’s treatment of the philosophical character of the work that makes this book so important.”

Kerry Smith, author of *Predicting Disasters* (2024), was interviewed on the [New Books Network](#).

Adam Lovett’s *Democratic Failures and the Ethics of Democracy* (2024) was reviewed in the most recent issue of *Ethics*.

Sarah Keyes, author of *American Burial Ground* (2023), wrote a post for [Clio and the Contemporary](#).

*Speculation Nation* (2023), by Michael Blaakman, was featured in [Hogeland’s Bad History](#) (Substack).

Frank Leone, co-author (with Sarah Evers-Casey) of *Why People Smoke* (2023), was featured in [The Philadelphia Inquirer](#).

*The Violence of Recognition* (2023), by Pinky Hota, was reviewed in the journal *Wasifiri*.

Joan Flores-Villalobos, author of *The Silver Women* (2023), was interviewed on the [BBC’s “The History Hour”](#).

*Journal of African American History* reviewed both *The Silver Women* and *Time for Reparations* (2021), edited by Jacqueline Bhabha, Margareta Matache, and Caroline Elkins, in their most recent issue.

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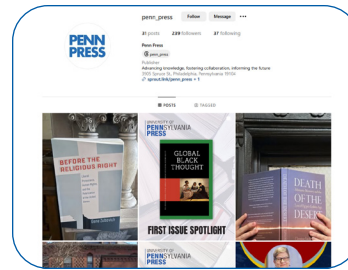
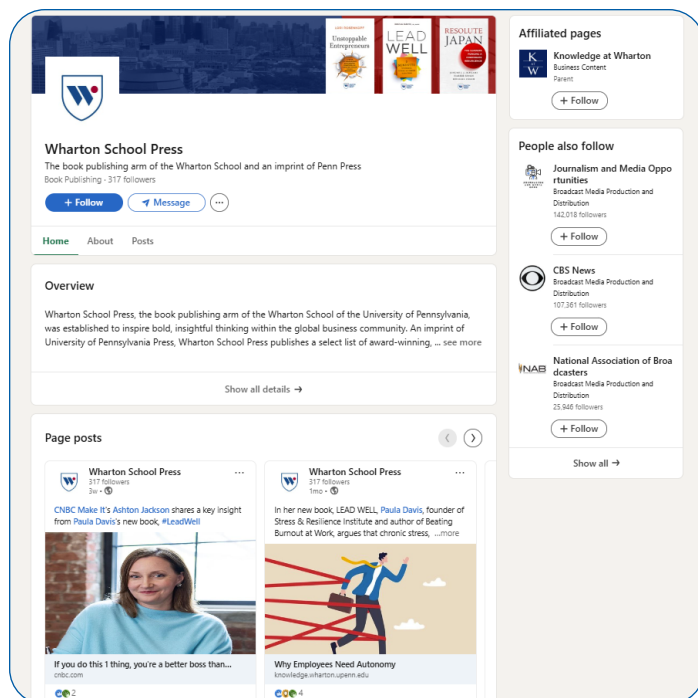
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Spring 2025

## Penn Press Expands Across Social Media

Penn Press's social media presence is rapidly expanding! In the last six months, we have launched a LinkedIn page for our in-house imprint Wharton School Press, relaunched our previously dormant Instagram profile, and launched a Penn Press profile on the fast-growing new platform Bluesky.

Wharton School Press (WSP) publishes trade books that offer trusted business knowledge on a variety of topics including leadership, analytics, strategy, innovation, entrepreneurship, and more. Many of its authors have found LinkedIn, with its focus on career and networking, to be an effective platform for sharing knowledge about their areas of expertise and engaging with followers interested in their work. To connect with its authors and reach an audience with strong potential interest in its titles, WSP established an official LinkedIn presence. WSP Publisher Shannon Berning and Penn Press Electronic Marketing Coordinator Peter Valelly developed a WSP LinkedIn strategy in close coordination with their fellow members of the Penn Press Digital Marketing Advisory Committee (DMAC) as well as digital marketing colleagues at The Wharton School. In late January, WSP launched its LinkedIn page! The page was set up as a "showcase" page, which means that it is affiliated with Knowledge at Wharton's page (which has 38,000 followers), with both pages linking to each other. In its first few months on LinkedIn, WSP has posted publicity links related to new and noteworthy titles, engaged with authors on the platform, and begun to grow its follower base.



This winter, Penn Press's DMAC began strategizing for how to relaunch Penn Press's Instagram page, which had been defunct since 2019. The DMAC determined that a new workflow was needed to create content to post to Instagram, given the platform's focus on images and minimal emphasis on links. The DMAC created a plan for creating various kinds of image content, including photos of backlist titles posted weekly and tied to a special discount code; a variety of Canva templates that can be used to promote new titles, reviews, and awards news; and many other creative ideas for image-based content that highlights Penn Press's publications and brand. Beginning in mid-February, the Penn Press Instagram is back up and running—be sure to follow us if you're on the platform!



Penn Press has also ventured into Bluesky, a relatively new social media platform that has gained traction as an alternative to Twitter/X in recent months. Bluesky offers a similar interface and user experience to Twitter/X but utilizes a decentralized network structure and offers greater user control over algorithms and data. Bluesky began as a research project within Twitter in 2019 and became an independent company in 2021, and it first launched as an invite-only platform in February 2023 before opening to the public one year later. Penn Press had reserved its username on the platform during the invite-only period, and when Bluesky saw considerable userbase growth in November, we began posting to the platform, amassing over 1,000 followers in less than one month. In the short time since then, Bluesky has become one of the platforms where Penn Press sees the strongest user engagement on our posts and we now have more than 2,000 followers! If you haven't already, follow us!

### WSP LinkedIn:

<https://www.linkedin.com/showcase/wharton-school-press/>

Instagram: [https://www.instagram.com/penn\\_press/](https://www.instagram.com/penn_press/)

Bluesky: <https://bsky.app/profile/pennpress.bsky.social>

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/PennPress/>

X: <https://x.com/PennPress>