We live in an information-rich world. As a publisher of international scope, the University of Texas Press serves the University of Texas at Austin community, the people of Texas, and knowledge seekers around the globe by identifying the most valuable and relevant information and publishing it in books, journals, and digital media that educate students; advance scholarship in the humanities and social sciences; and deepen humanity’s understanding of history, current events, contemporary culture, and the natural environment.
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Why Síneád O’Connor Matters,
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Why Tammy Wynette Matters,
Easton ................ 6
Steely Dan's songs are exercises in fictional world-building. No one else in the classic-rock canon has conjured a more vivid cast of rogues and heroes, creeps and schmucks, lovers and dreamers and cold-blooded operators—or imbued their characters with so much humanity. Pulling from history, lived experience, pulp fiction, the lore of the counterculture, and their own darkly comic imaginations, Donald Fagen and Walter Becker summoned protagonists who seemed like fully formed people with complicated pasts, scars they don’t talk about, delusions and desires and memories they can’t shake. From Rikki to Dr. Wu, Hoops McCann to Kid Charlemagne, Franny from NYU to the Woolly Man without a Face, every name is a locked-room mystery, beguiling listeners and earning the band an exceptionally passionate and ever-growing cult fandom.

Quantum Criminals presents the world of Steely Dan as it has never been seen, much less heard. Artist Joan LeMay has crafted lively, color-saturated images from the Daniverse to accompany writer Alex Pappademas’s explorations of the famous and obscure songs that inspired each painting, in essays full of cultural context, wild speculation, and the occasional conspiracy theory. All of it is refracted through the perspectives of the characters themselves, making for a musical companion unlike any other. Funny, discerning, and visually stunning, here is a singular celebration of Steely Dan’s musical cosmos.

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7 x 10 inches, 288 pages, 109 illustrations

ISBN 978-1-4773-2499-8
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$35.00
PDF e-book
With hits such as “Stand By Your Man” and “Golden Ring,” Tammy Wynette was an icon of American domesticity and femininity. But there were other sides to the first lady of country. Steacy Easton places the complications of Wynette’s music and her biography in sharp-edged relief, exploring how she made her sometimes-tumultuous life into her work, a transformation that was itself art.

Wynette created a persona of high femininity to match the themes she sang about—fawning devotion, redemption in heterosexual romance, the heartbreak of loneliness. Behind the scenes, her life was marked by persistent class anxieties; despite wealth and fame, she kept her beautician’s license. Easton argues that the struggle to meet expectations of southernness, womanhood, and southern womanhood, finds subtle expression in Wynette’s performance of “Apartment No. 9”—and it’s because of these vocal subtleties that it came to be called the saddest song ever written. Wynette similarly took on elements of camp and political critique in her artistry, demonstrating an underappreciated genius. Why Tammy Wynette Matters reveals a musician who doubled back on herself, her façade of earnestness cracked by a melodrama that weaponized femininity and upended feminist expectations, while scoring twenty number-one hits.
A stirring defense of Sinéad O’Connor’s music and activism and an indictment of the culture that canceled her

Why Sinéad O’Connor Matters

ALLYSON MCCABE

In 1990, Sinéad O’Connor’s video for “Nothing Compares 2 U” turned her into a superstar. Two years later, an appearance on Saturday Night Live turned her into a scandal. For many people—including, for years, the author—what they knew of O’Connor stopped there. Allyson McCabe believes it’s time to reassess our old judgments about Sinéad O’Connor and to expose the machinery that built her up and knocked her down.

Addressing triumph and struggle, sound and story, Why Sinéad O’Connor Matters argues that its subject has been repeatedly manipulated and misunderstood by a culture that is often hostile to women who speak their minds (in O’Connor’s case, by shaving her head, championing rappers, and tearing up a picture of the pope on live television). McCabe details O’Connor’s childhood abuse, her initial success, and the backlash against her radical politics without shying away from the difficult issues her career raises. She compares O’Connor to Madonna, another superstar who challenged the Catholic Church, and Prince, who wrote her biggest hit and allegedly assaulted her. A journalist herself, McCabe exposes how the media distorts not only how we see O’Connor but how we see ourselves, and she weighs the risks of telling a story that hits close to home.

In an era when popular understanding of mental health has improved and the public eagerly celebrates feminist struggles of the past, it can be easy to forget how O’Connor suffered for being herself. This is the book her admirers and defenders have been waiting for.
Astros and Asterisks
Houston’s Sign-Stealing Scandal Explained

EDITED BY JONATHAN SILVERMAN

In 2017 the Houston Astros won their first World Series title, a particularly uplifting victory for the city following Hurricane Harvey. But two years later, the feel-good energy was gone after The Athletic revealed that the Astros had stolen signs from opposing catchers during their championship season, perhaps even during the playoffs and World Series. Their methods were at once high-tech and crude: staff took video of opponents’ pitching signals and transmitted the footage in real time to the Astros’ dugout, where players banged on trash cans to signal to their teammates at bat which pitches were coming their way. Wry observers labeled them the Asterisks, pointing to the title that no longer seemed so earned.

Astros and Asterisks examines the scandal from historical, journalistic, legal, ethical, and cultural perspectives. Authors delve into the Astros’ winning-above-all attitude, cultivated by a former McKinsey consultant; the significance of hiring a pitcher recently suspended for domestic abuse; the career-ending effects of the Astros’ transgression on opposing players; and the ethically fraught choices necessary to participate in sign-stealing. Ultimately, it links the Astros’ choices to the sporting world’s obsession with analytics. What emerges is a sobering tale about the impact of new technology on a game whose romanticized image feels increasingly incongruous with its reality in the era of big data and video.
The Thirty-First of March
An Intimate Portrait of Lyndon Johnson

HORACE BUSBY

Horace Busby was one of LBJ’s most trusted advisors; their close working and personal relationship spanned twenty years. In *The Thirty-First of March* he offers an indelible portrait of a president and a presidency at a time of crisis. From the aftereffects of the Kennedy assassination, when Busby was asked by the newly sworn-in president to sit by his bedside during his first troubled nights in office, to the concerns that defined the Great Society—civil rights, the economy, social legislation, housing, and the Vietnam War—Busby not only articulated and refined Johnson’s political thinking, he also helped shape the most ambitious, far-reaching legislative agenda since FDR’s New Deal.

Here is Johnson the politician, Johnson the schemer, Johnson who advised against JFK’s choice of an open limousine that fateful day in Dallas, and Johnson the father, sickened by the deaths of young men fighting and dying in Vietnam on his orders. *The Thirty-First of March* is a rare glimpse into the inner sanctum of Johnson’s presidency, as seen through the eyes of one of the people who understood him best.
Dinosaurs and Other Ancient Animals of Big Bend

CINDI SIROIS COLLINS AND ASHER ELBEIN

The sheer beauty of Big Bend National Park, along the shores of the Rio Grande in west Texas, never fails to astonish. Yet what lies beneath this natural treasure may be even more extraordinary than what meets the eye. Hidden in the rocks of Big Bend are the remains of giants: toothy sea lizards, enormous flying reptiles, and dinosaurs.

Dinosaurs and Other Ancient Animals of Big Bend is a field guide to what once was. Inspired by the latest research, Cindi Sirois Collins and Asher Elbein imagine what it was like to walk among the plants and animals whose fossil remains tell the story of evolution and geological transformation in this singular landscape. We glimpse the drama of Big Bend’s rugged landscape in creation—the desert’s emergence from retreating oceans and volcanic eruptions. Immersive vignettes introduce dinosaurs, giant fish, and saber-toothed cats. And the history of discovery in the park proves a gripping tale, as paleontologists sifted major scientific insights from the soils, rocks, and riverbeds. Complete with vivid illustrations, this is a wholly original sensory and narrative experience that will deepen any reader’s knowledge and sense of wonder.
**Above:** An *Agujaceratops*, the head of which, with its massive frill, is the largest fossil found so far in North America. **Right:** *Quetzalcoatlus northropi*, for a time the largest avian dinosaur in North America. **Below:** A fossil skull the size of a bowling ball, from a pachycephalosaur.
For most of five decades, evolutionary biologist David Hillis has studied the biodiversity of the Texas Hill Country. Since the 1990s, he has worked to restore the natural beauty and diversity of his Mason County ranch, the Double Helix. In his excursions around his ranch and across the Edwards Plateau, Hillis came to realize how little most people know about the plants and animals around them or their importance to our everyday lives. He began thinking about how natural history is connected to our enjoyment of life, especially in a place as beautiful and beloved as the Hill Country, which, not coincidentally, happens to be one of the most biodiverse parts of Texas.

Featuring short nontechnical essays accompanied by vivid color photos, *Armadillos to Ziziphus* is a charming and casual introduction to the environment of the region. Whether walking the pasture with his Longhorn cattle, explaining the ecological significance of microscopic organisms in springtime mud puddles, or marveling at the local *Ziziphus* (aka Lotebush, a spiny shrub), Hillis guides first-time visitors and long-term residents alike in an appreciation for the Hill Country's natural beauty and diversity.
Nature Backlist

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Shifting Sands

Landscape, Memory, and Commodities in China’s Contemporary Borderlands

XIAOXUAN LU

XIAOXUAN LU
Hong Kong Island, Hong Kong

Lu is an assistant professor in the Division of Landscape Architecture at the University of Hong Kong. She is the coauthor of From Crisis to Crisis, Interstitial Hong Kong, and Critical Landscape Planning during the Belt and Road Initiative.

LATERAL EXCHANGES: Architecture, Urban Development, and Transnational Practices, Felipe Correa, Bruno Carvalho & Alison Isenberg, Editors

RELEASE DATE | AUGUST 7 x 10 inches, 344 pages, 65 color and 49 b&w illustrations


$50.00* | £45.00 | C$62.95 hardcover


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China’s land borders, shared with fourteen other nations, are the world’s longest. Like all borders, they are not just lines on a map but also spaces whose histories and futures are defined by their frontier status. An ambitious appraisal of China’s borderlands, Shifting Sands addresses the full scope and importance of these regions, illustrating their transformation from imperial backwaters to hotbeds of resource exploitation and human development in the age of neoliberal globalization.

Xiaoxuan Lu brings to bear an original combination of archival research, fieldwork, cartography, and landscape analysis, broadening our understanding of the political economy and cultural changes in China’s borderlands in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. While conventional wisdom looks to the era of Deng Xiaoping for China’s “opening,” Lu shows the integration of China’s borderlands into national and international networks from Sun Yat-sen onward. Yet, while the state has left a firm imprint on the borderlands, they were hardly created by China alone. As the Chinese case demonstrates, all borderlands are transnational, their physical and socioeconomic landscapes shaped by multidirectional flows of materials, ideas, and people.

Top: Inside the Nanla New Town Planning Exhibition Center, featuring a scale model (1:100) of proposed real estate developments displaying a variety of investment options. Photo by the author.

Bottom: The jade-rich Ruili/Shweli River basin, in the China/Myanmar borderland. Map by the author.
Depositions
Roberto Burle Marx and Public Landscapes under Dictatorship
CATHERINE SEAVITT NORDENSON

Winner, 2019 John Brinckerhoff Jackson Book Prize, Foundation for Landscape Studies

“This seminal book will enable greater understanding not only of Burle Marx’s position as a designer operating under dictatorial conditions, but also of the convoluted circumstances underlying Brazil’s modern architectural history.”—JOURNAL OF THE SOCIETY OF ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIANS

“Offers an understanding of Burle Marx beyond his gardens and parks; it is a solid introduction to both his work and Brazil’s quest to establish its cultural identity.”—ARCHITECTURAL RECORD

“A well-researched, well-written, and laudatory study that substantially adds to, and significantly amends, our view of Burle Marx as a landscape architect and cultural figure.”—LANDSCAPE JOURNAL

Catherine Seavitt Nordenson is a professor and director of the Master of Landscape Architecture program at the City College of New York. She coauthored On the Water: Palisade Bay and coedited Waterproofing New York.

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A Pure Solar World
Sun Ra and the Birth of Afrofuturism

PAUL YOUNGQUIST

Finalist, 2016 Marfield Prize, the National Award for Arts Writing

“An excellent critical take on Sun Ra’s creation myth and its relation to broader currents of America’s postwar social imaginary.” —PopMatters

“[Youngquist’s] writing is fired by the sense that Sun Ra’s musical metaphysic truly matters in the here and now.” —The Wire

“Youngquist’s prose is vivid and concise, making a subject some might still find forbidding anything but. A welcome invitation to the spaceways.” —Jazzwise


Paul Youngquist is professor emeritus of English at the University of Colorado Boulder. He writes on music, popular literature, and Caribbean history and is the author of Cyberfiction: After the Future and other books.

RELEASE DATE | MARCH
6 x 9 inches, 372 pages, 25 b&w photos

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The Mexican American Experience in Texas
Citizenship, Segregation, and the Struggle for Equality

MARTHA MENCHACA

“Martha Menchaca has done what no one else has to date. In concise, cogent prose and analysis, she seamlessly synthesizes the vast historical literatures spanning the Spanish colonial period, Mexican era, and US conquest and incorporation, up through the present.”—Raúl Coronado, University of California, Berkeley, author of A World Not to Come: A History of Latino Writing and Print Culture

“The Mexican American Experience in Texas is essential reading for anyone who wants to understand Texas history. With impeccable research and fluid, accessible, and powerful writing, Martha Menchaca weaves together the experiences of African, Indian, and European people as they meet, fight, and settle together.”—Margaret E. Dorsey, University of Richmond, coauthor of Fencing in Democracy: Border Walls, Necrocitizenship, and the Security State

Martha Menchaca is a professor of anthropology at the University of Texas at Austin. She is the author of Recovering History, Constructing Race: The Indian, Black, and White Roots of Mexican Americans and Naturalizing Mexican Immigrants: A Texas History.

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Photographs by Keith Carter; story by Bret Anthony Johnston
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After archaeologists rediscovered a corner of the Templo Mayor in 1914, artists, intellectuals, and government officials attempted to revive Tenochtitlan as an instrument for reassessing Mexican national identity in the wake of the Revolution of 1910. What followed was a conceptual excavation of the original Mexica capital in relation to the transforming urban landscape of modern Mexico City.

Revolutionary-era scholars took a renewed interest in sixteenth century maps as they recognized an intersection between Tenochtitlan and the foundation of a Spanish colonial settlement directly over it. Meanwhile, Mexico City developed with modern roads and expanded civic areas as agents of nationalism promoted concepts like *indigenismo*, the embrace of Indigenous cultural expressions. The promotion of artworks and new architectural projects such as Diego Rivera’s Anahuacalli Museum helped to make real the notion of a modern Tenochtitlan. Employing archival materials, newspaper reports, and art criticism from 1914 to 1964, *Resurrecting Tenochtitlan* connects art history with urban studies to reveal the construction of a complex physical and cultural layout for Mexico’s modern capital.
Predatory Economies
The Sanema and the Socialist State in Contemporary Amazonia

AMY PENFIELD

Predation is central to the cosmology and life-ways of the Sanema-speaking Indigenous people of Venezuelan Amazonia, but it also marks their experience of modernity under the socialist “Bolivarian” regime and its immense oil wealth. Yet predation is not simply violence and plunder. For Sanema people, it means a great deal more: enticement, seduction, persuasion. It suggests an imminent threat but also opportunity and even sanctuary.

Amy Penfield spent two and a half years in the field, living with and learning from Sanema communities. She discovered that while predation is what we think it is—invading enemies, incursions by gold miners, and unscrupulous state interventions—Sanema are not merely prey. Predation, or appropriation without reciprocity, is essential to their own activities. They use predatory techniques of trickery in hunting and shamanism activities; in addition, they employ tactics of manipulation to obtain resources from neighbors and from the state. A richly detailed ethnography, Predatory Economies looks beyond well-worn tropes of activism and resistance to tell a new story of agency from an Indigenous perspective.
The Comitán Valley
Sculpture and Identity on the Maya Frontier

CAITLIN C. EARLEY

A thousand years ago, the Comitán Valley, in the Mexican state of Chiapas, was the western edge of the Maya world. Far from the famous power centers of the Classic period, the valley has been neglected even by specialists. Here, Caitlin C. Earley offers the first comprehensive study of sculpture excavated from the area, showcasing the sophistication and cultural vigor of a region that has largely been ignored.

Supported by the rulers of the valley’s cities, local artists created inventive works that served to construct civic identities. In their depictions of warrior kings, ballgames, rituals, and ancestors, the artists of Comitán made choices that reflected political and spiritual goals and distinguished the artistic production of the Comitán Valley from that of other Maya locales. After the Maya abandoned their powerful lowland centers, those in the Comitán were maintained, a distinction from which Earley draws new insights concerning the Maya collapse. Richly illustrated with never-before-published photographs of sculptures unearthed from key archaeological sites, The Comitán Valley is an illuminating work of art historical recovery and interpretation.
Roots of Resistance
A Story of Gender, Race, and Labor on the North Coast of Honduras
SUYAPA G. PORTILLO VILLEDA

Winner of the 2021 Sara A. Whaley Prize of the National Women’s Studies Association (NWSA)

“Suyapa Portillo Villeda advances a bold argument about the relationship between the Honduran resistance to the destructive coup of 2009 and its roots in the deep Caribbean capitalist history of this so-called classic banana republic.”—Darío A. Euraque, Trinity College, author of Reinterpreting the Banana Republic: Region and State in Honduras, 1870–1972

“Roots of Resistance offers a much-needed intersectional approach to histories of labor activism in Honduras by integrating race, class, and gender. Suyapa Portillo Villeda relates her stories with an underlying sense of urgency driven not only by her interest in documenting past struggles but also by a desire to show their relevance for the future of Honduras and Hondurans.”—John Soluri, Carnegie Mellon University, author of Banana Cultures: Agriculture, Consumption, and Environmental Change in Honduras and the United States
Managed Migrations
Growers, Farmworkers, and Border Enforcement in the Twentieth Century

CRISTINA SALINAS

2020 National Association for Chicana and Chicano Studies (NACCS) Book Award Winner

“An engaging addition to the literature on labor and immigration at the Texas-Mexico border.” —Southwestern Historical Quarterly

“Makes deep analytical arguments about the connections between the South’s system of labor immobility that derives from plantation agriculture and the West’s free labor ideology rooted in mobility.” —Journal of American Ethnic History

“Managed Migrations addresses the central question of how, against all the evidence of this dysfunctional and racialized migration and labor system, the blame has historically been placed on undocumented migrants rather than on those who created it, maintain it, and continue to benefit from the exploitation of migrants’ precarious status.” —American Historical Review

Cristina Salinas is an associate professor of history and a faculty affiliate of the Center for Mexican American Studies at the University of Texas at Arlington.

Release date | March
6 x 9 inches, 286 pages, 7 b&w images, 1 map, 1 table

$29.95 | £25.99 | C$36.95 paperback

ISBN 978-1-4773-1617-7
$29.95 e-book
From Juan Marichal and Pedro Martínez to Albert Pujols and Juan Soto, Dominicans have long been among Major League Baseball’s best. How did this small Caribbean nation become a hothouse of baseball talent? To many fans, the answer is both obvious and disconcerting: pro teams use their riches to develop talent abroad, creating opportunities for superhuman athletes and corrupt officials, while the rest of the population sees little benefit.

Yet this interpretation of history is incomplete. April Yoder traces how baseball has empowered Dominicans in their struggles for democracy and social justice. While the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo saw the sport as a means of cementing its power at home and abroad, the Dominican people fashioned an emancipated civic sphere by seeing their potential for democratic success in their compatriots’ baseball success. Later, Dominicans articulated demands for democracy, economic opportunity, and civil rights through successful calls for public support of amateur and professional baseball. Today, Dominicans continue to demand that incentives for the baseball industry foster human as well as economic development. A revelatory and innovative history, Pitching Democracy restores agency to the Dominican people and honors their true love of the game.
How water enables Caribbean and Latinx writers to reconnect to their pasts, presents, and futures

Channeling Knowledges
Water and Afro-Diasporic Spirits in Latinx and Caribbean Worlds

REBECA L. HEY-COLON

Water is often tasked with upholding division through the imposition of geopolitical borders. We saw this in the construction of the Rio Grande/Río Bravo on the US-Mexico border, as well as in how the Caribbean Sea is used to delineate the limits of US territory. By contrast, water is seen by practitioners of Afro-diasporic religions as a place of connection; it is where spiritual entities and ancestors reside, and where knowledge awaits.

Channeling Knowledges fathoms water’s depth and breadth in the work of Latinx and Caribbean creators, including Mayra Santos-Febres, Rita Indiana, Gloria Evangelina Anzaldúa, and the Border of Lights collective. Combining methodologies from literary studies, anthropology, history, and religious studies, Rebeca Hey-Colón’s interdisciplinary volume traces how Latinx and Caribbean cultural production draws on systems of Afro-diasporic worship—Haitian Vodou, La 21 División (Dominican Vodou), and Santería/Regla de Ocha—to channel the power of water, both salty and sweet, in sustaining connections between our past, our present, and our not-yet-imagined futures.

REBECA L. HEY-COLON
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA

Hey-Colón is an assistant professor in the Spanish department at Temple University.

LATINX: THE FUTURE IS NOW, LORGIA GARCÍA-Peña & NICOLE GUIDOTTI-HERNÁNDEZ, EDITORS

RELEASE DATE | JULY
6 x 9 inches, 280 pages, 7 b&w images

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e-book
How Latinx artists around the US adopted the medium of printmaking to reclaim the lands of the Americas

Reclaiming the Americas
Latinx Art and the Politics of Territory

TATIANA REINOZA

Printmakers have conspired, historically, to illustrate the maps created by European colonizers that were used to chart and claim their expanding territories. Over the last three decades, Latinx artists and print studios have reclaimed this printed art form for their own spatial discourse. This book examines the limited editions produced at four art studios around the US that span everything from sly critiques of Manifest Destiny to printed portraits of Dreamers in Texas.

Reclaiming the Americas is the visual history of Latinx printmaking in the US. Tatiana Reinoza employs a pan-ethnic comparative model for this interdisciplinary study of graphic art, drawing on art history, Latinx studies, and geography in her discussions. The book contests printmaking’s historical complicity in the logics of colonization and restores the art form and the lands it once illustrated to the Indigenous, migrant, mestiza/o, and Afro-descendant people of the Americas.

Nested Ecologies
A Multilayered Ethnography of Functional Medicine

ROSALYNN A. VEGA
EDINBURG, TEXAS

Vega is associate professor of medical anthropology at the University of Texas Rio Grande Valley. She is the author of No Alternative: Childbirth, Citizenship, and Indigenous Culture in Mexico.

THE WILLIAM AND BETTYE NOWLIN ENDOWMENT IN ART, HISTORY, AND CULTURE OF THE WESTERN HEMISPHERE

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How functional medicine leverages systems biology and epigenetic science to treat the microbiome and reverse chronic disease

Each body is a system within a system—an ecology within the larger context of social, political, economic, cultural, and environmental factors. This is one of the lessons of epigenetics, whereby structural inequalities are literally encoded in our genes. But our ecological embeddedness extends beyond DNA, for each body also teems with trillions of bacteria, yeast, and fungi, all of them imprints of our individual milieus. Nested Ecologies asks what it would mean to take seriously our microbial being, given that our internal ecologies are shaped by inequalities embedded in our physical and social environments.

Further, Rosalynn Vega argues that health practices focused on patients’ unique biology inadvertently reiterate systemic inequities. In particular, functional medicine—which attempts to heal chronic disease by leveraging epigenetic science and treating individual microbiomes—reduces illness to problems of “lifestyle,” principally diet, while neglecting the inability of poor people to access nutrition. Functional medicine thus undermines its own critique of the economics of health care. Drawing on novel digital ethnographies and reflecting on her own experience of chronic illness, Vega challenges us to rethink not only the determinants of well-being but also what it is to be human.
Anthropology Backlist

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An examination of the art in superhero comics and how style influences comic narratives

Super Bodies
Comic Book Illustration, Artistic Styles, and Narrative Impact

JEFFREY A. BROWN

For many, the idea of comic book art implies simplistic four-color renderings of stiff characters slugging it out. In fact, modern superhero comic books showcase a range of complex artistic styles, with diverse connotations. Leading comics scholar Jeffrey A. Brown assesses six distinct approaches to superhero illustration—idealism, realism, cute, retro, grotesque, and noir—examining how each visually represents the superhero as a symbolic construct freighted with meaning.

Whereas comic book studies tend to focus on text and narrative, Super Bodies gives overdue credit to the artwork, which is not only a principal source of the appeal of comic books but also central to the values these works embody. Brown argues that superheroes are to be taken not as representations of people but as iconic types, and the art conveys this. Even the most realistic comic illustrations are designed to suggest not persons but ideas—ideas about bodies and societies. Thus the appearance of superheroes both directly and indirectly influences the story being told as well as the opinions readers form concerning justice, authority, gender, puberty, sexuality, ethnicity, violence, and other concepts central to political and cultural life.
How female directors, producers, and writers navigate the challenges and barriers facing female-driven projects at each stage of filmmaking in contemporary Hollywood

The Value Gap
Female-Driven Films from Pitch to Premiere

Courtney Brannon Donoghue

Conversations about gender equity in the workplace accelerated in the 2010s, with debates inside Hollywood specifically pointing to broader systemic problems of employment disparities and exploitative labor practices. Compounded by the devastating #MeToo revelations, these problems led to a wide-scale call for change. The Value Gap traces female-driven filmmaking across development, financing, production, film festivals, marketing, and distribution, examining the realities facing women working in the industry during this transformative moment. Drawing from five years of extensive interviews with female producers, writers, and directors at different stages of their careers, Courtney Brannon Donoghue examines how Hollywood business cultures “value” female-driven projects as risky or not bankable. Industry claims that “movies targeting female audiences don’t make money” or “women can’t direct big-budget blockbusters” have long circulated to rationalize systemic gender inequities and have served to normalize studios prioritizing the white male–driven status quo. Through a critical media industry studies lens, The Value Gap challenges this pervasive logic with firsthand accounts of women actively navigating the male-dominated and conglomerate-owned industrial landscape.

Courtney Brannon Donoghue
Dallas, Texas

Brannon Donoghue is an assistant professor of media industry studies in the Department of Media Arts at the University of North Texas. She is the author of Localising Hollywood and the coeditor of Digital Media Distribution: Portals, Platforms, Pipelines.

Texas Film & Media Studies Series, Tom Schatz, Editor

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American ideals position work as a source of pride, opportunity, and meaning. Yet the ravages of labor are constant grist for horror films. Going back decades to the mad scientists of classic cinema, the menial motel job that prepares Norman Bates for his crimes in Psycho, and the unemployed slaughterhouse workers of The Texas Chain Saw Massacre, horror movies have made the case that work is not so much a point of pride as a source of monstrosity.

Editors Aviva Briefel and Jason Middleton assemble the first study of horror’s critique of labor. In the 1970s and 1980s, films such as The Shining and Dawn of the Dead responded to deindustrialization, automation, globalization, and union busting. Labors of Fear explores these critical frameworks and extends them in discussions of recent works such as The Autopsy of Jane Doe, Midsommar, Survival of the Dead, It Follows, Get Out, and Us. Covering films ranging from the 1970s onward, these essays address novel and newly recognized modes and conditions of labor: reproductive labor, emotion work and emotional labor, social media and self-branding, intellectual labor, service work, precarity, and underemployment. In its singular way, horror continues to make spine-tingling sense of what is most destructive in the wider sociopolitical context of US capitalism.
How science fiction films in the 1950s were marketed and helped create the broader genre itself

Selling Science Fiction Cinema
Making and Marketing a Genre

J. P. Telotte

For Hollywood, the golden age of science fiction was also an age of anxiety. Amid rising competition, fluid audience habits, and increasing government regulation, studios of the 1950s struggled to make and sell the kinds of films that once were surefire winners. These conditions, leading media scholar J. P. Telotte argues, catalyzed the incredible rise of science fiction.

Though science fiction films had existed since the earliest days of cinema, the sci-fi genre as a whole continued to resist easy definition through the 1950s. In grappling with this developing genre, the industry began to consider new marketing approaches that viewed films as fluid texts and audiences as ever-changing. Drawing on trade reports, film reviews, pressbooks, trailers, and other archival materials, Selling Science Fiction Cinema reconstructs studio efforts to market a promising new genre and, in the process, shows how salesmanship influenced what that genre would become. Telotte uses such films as The Thing from Another World, Forbidden Planet, and The Blob, as well as the influx of Japanese monster movies, to explore the shifting ways in which the industry reframed the sci-fi genre to market to no-longer static audience expectations. Science fiction transformed the way Hollywood does business, just as Hollywood transformed the meaning of science fiction.

J. P. Telotte
Smyrna, GA

Telotte is a professor emeritus of film and media studies at the Georgia Institute of Technology. He is the author of Animating the Science Fiction Imagination and Movies, Modernism, and the Science Fiction Pulps and a former coeditor for the film journal Post Script.

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Supersex
Sexuality, Fantasy, and the Superhero
EDITED BY ANNA F. PEPPARD

2021 Comic Studies Society Prize for Edited Collection

“Supersex is a broad cultural survey of superheroes, with insights that are beguiling fuel for the critical imagination.”—Foreword

Reviews

“Supersex has what no other current title has: a multidisciplinary, multifaceted, and intersectional exploration of superheroes and sexuality across media.”—Carolyn Cocca, author of Superwomen: Gender, Power, and Representation

“Well-researched and thought-provoking, Supersex provides an enjoyable read and effective observations about gender and sexuality.”—Joan Ormrod, author of Wonder Woman: The Female Body and Popular Culture

Anna F. Peppard is a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada postdoctoral fellow in Brock University’s Department of Communication, Popular Culture, and Film.

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Comic Book Women
Characters, Creators, and Culture in the Golden Age

PEYTON BRUNET AND BLAIR DAVIS

“This study of women in Golden Age comics is an absolute joy to read. It progresses from pioneering superhero stories to less well-known horror and science fiction titles, before shifting to the unexpected complexity behind teen and romance comics. As each chapter makes clear, evidence of the integral role that women played in the growth of the comics medium in the U.S. is overwhelming, as are the disturbing obstructions and predatory work environments that hindered their full public participation in the industry.”—Qiana Whitted, author of EC Comics: Race, Shock, and Social Protest

“Comic Book Women is beautifully organized and exquisitely well researched. The authors’ method of framing various problems in terms of genre propels the volume into relevance for broader conversations regarding the intersection of gender studies and genre studies. The idea of a recuperation of the role of women in comics is long overdue, and this volume holds the possibility of re-envisioning comics history.”—Kate Polak, author of Ethics in the Gutter: Empathy and Historical Fiction in Comics

Peyton Brunet is a graduate of DePaul University’s communication and media master’s program. Blair Davis is an associate professor of media and cinema studies at DePaul University. He is the author of Comic Book Movies and other books on popular culture.

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We Are All Armenian
Voices from the Diaspora

EDITED BY ARAM MRJOIAN

In the century since the Armenian Genocide, Armenian survivors and their descendants living in North America have written of a vast range of experiences using storytelling and activism, two important aspects of Armenian culture. Wrestling with questions of home and self, diasporan Armenian writers bear the burden of repeatedly telling their history, as it remains widely erased and obfuscated. Telling this history requires a tangled balance of contextualizing the past and reporting on the present, of respecting a culture even while feeling lost within it.

*We Are All Armenian* brings together established and emerging Armenian authors to reflect on the complications of Armenian ethnic identity today. These personal essays elevate diasporic voices that have been historically silenced inside and outside of their communities, including queer, multiracial, and multi-ethnic writers. The eighteen contributors to this contemporary anthology explore issues of displacement, assimilation, inheritance, and broader definitions of home. Many of them question what it is to be Armenian enough through engaging creative nonfiction writing that expresses the muffled perspectives inside an often unacknowledged community.
Circumcision and Medicine in Modern Turkey

OYMAN BAŞARAN

In Turkey, circumcision is viewed as both a religious obligation and a rite of passage for young boys, as communities celebrate the ritual through gatherings, gifts, and special outfits. Yet the procedure is a potentially painful and traumatic ordeal. With the expansion of modern medicine, the social position of sünnetçi (male circumcisers) became subject to the institutional arrangements of Turkey’s evolving health care and welfare system. In the transition from traditional itinerant circumcisers to low-ranking health officers in the 1960s and hospital doctors in the 1990s, the medicalization of male circumcision has become entangled with state formation, market fetishism, and class inequalities.

Based on Oyman Başaran’s extensive ethnographic and historical research, Circumcision and Medicine in Modern Turkey is a close examination of the socioreligious practice of circumcision in twenty-five cities and their outlying towns and villages in Turkey. By analyzing the changing subjectivity of medical actors who seek to alleviate suffering in male circumcision, Başaran offers a psychoanalytically informed alternate approach to the standard sociological arguments surrounding medicalization and male circumcision.
The Victorian Era. The Age of Enlightenment. The post-9/11 years. We are accustomed to demarcating history, fencing off one period from the next. But societies have not always operated in this way. Paul Hay returns to Rome in the first century BCE to glimpse the beginnings of periodization as it is still commonly practiced, exploring how the ancient Romans developed a novel sense of time and used it to construct their views of the past and of the possibilities of the future.

It was the Roman general Sulla who first sought to portray himself as the inaugurator of a new age of prosperity, and through him Romans adopted the Etruscan term saeculum to refer to a unique era of history. Romans went on to deepen their investment in periodization by linking notions of time to moments of catastrophe, allowing them to conceptualize their own epoch and its conclusion, as in the literature of Vergil and Horace. Periodization further introduced the idea of specific agents of change into Roman thought—agents that were foundational to narratives of progress and decline. An eye-opening account, Saeculum describes nothing less than an intellectual and cognitive revolution that fundamentally reorganized the meanings of history and time.
Middle East Backlist

The Right Kind of Suffering
Gender, Sexuality, and Arab Asylum Seekers in America
BY RHODA KANAANEH
An examination of Arab asylum seekers who feel compelled to package their tales of disenfranchisement and suffering to satisfy a deeply reluctant immigration system.

COVID and Gender in the Middle East
EDITED BY RITA STEPHAN
A comprehensive study of the gendered economic and social impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic in the Middle East and North Africa.

Palestinian Rituals of Identity
The Prophet Moses Festival in Jerusalem, 1850–1948
BY AWAD HALABI
An innovative approach to modern Palestinian history as viewed through a study of the Prophet Moses festival from the mid-nineteenth to the mid-twentieth century.
Tower Books is named in honor of the University of Texas at Austin’s most prominent landmark. Acting as a consultant and publisher, the University of Texas Press partners with colleges, schools, and other divisions of the university to produce institutional histories, commemorative anniversary editions, exhibition catalogues, and similar volumes under the Tower Books imprint.
Contar historias
Escritura creativa en el aula

EDITED BY GABRIELA POLIT DUEÑAS

Contar historias: Escritura creativa en el aula (Telling Stories: Creative Writing in the Classroom) is a remarkable collection of topical essays and poignant stories written by undergraduate and graduate students who took courses and/or writing workshops offered by the Spanish Creative Writing Initiative in the Department of Spanish and Portuguese at the University of Texas at Austin. The book showcases an abundance of amazingly creative work and includes heritage speakers who have never before written a creative work in Spanish; students for whom Spanish is a second, third, and even fourth language; and native speakers. The diversity of voices from an array of cultural, linguistic, and geographical backgrounds collected in this volume reflects the multiplicity of ways in which Spanish appeals to students, not just at UT but everywhere.

The stories include—but are not limited to—intimate tales of attending college; personal testimonials on the effects of climate change, narratives of navigating the US health system, and accounts of many beautiful memories from childhood. They reveal the moving and diverse ways of communicating in Spanish and are themselves potent arguments for the importance of using creativity, working collaboratively, and telling stories in the classroom.
Praise for *Contar historias*

“*Contar historias* was born in a laboratory of effervescent creation and every word dances with the vigorous power of youth. These are rebellious tongues that speak their truth on burning issues of the day: education, borders, migration, love, inequality, violence, and the environment.”


“In *Contar historias* colleagues from various disciplines and with varying levels of Spanish address the importance of telling stories that allow us to inhabit and make sense of the world. Together we learned the importance of doing the hard work that is centered on who we are as people, on our privileges, and on the emotions that dwell inside us when we conceive and write stories.”

—Daniela Rea, author of *Nadie les pidió perdón, historias de impunidad y resistencia*, and investigative reporter for *Pie de Página*
Elaine McCarthy of MIT helps a patron of the Queens Borough Public Library use a Kurzweil Reading Machine in 1985. Image courtesy of the Queens Borough Public Library, Archives, Queens Borough Public Library Photographs. From Information & Culture.
Asian Music

EDITOR: RICARDO D. TRIMILLOS
University of Hawai’i at Mānoa

Asian Music, the journal of the Society for Asian Music, is the leading journal devoted to ethnomusicology in Asian music, publishing all aspects of the performing arts of Asia and their cultural context.

Diálogo

EDITOR: BILL JOHNSON GONZÁLEZ
DePaul University

Diálogo: An Interdisciplinary Studies Journal is published with support from DePaul University’s College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences and the Office of the Provost. Diálogo is a refereed journal published since 1996 that seeks research and reflection articles of regional and hemispheric contexts with a focus on diverse Latin American, US Latino, and Indigenous populations and experiences, recent immigration, and places of origin. Diálogo publishes articles that help bridge barriers between academic and local communities, book and film/media reviews, and interviews pertinent to Latino communities in the US, the Caribbean, and Latin America.
Information & Culture

EDITOR: ANDREW DILLON
University of Texas at Austin

Information & Culture: A Journal of History publishes high-quality peer-reviewed articles examining the social and cultural influences and impact of information and its associated technologies, broadly construed, on all areas of human endeavor.

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Journal of Advancement Analytics

EDITORS: JOHN GOUGH AND JUAN GARCIA
University of Texas at Austin

The Journal of Advancement Analytics is the journal of the Texas Advancement Analytics Symposium (TAAS), which brings together industry thought leaders and practitioners to discuss advanced problems in fundraising analytics. Together we explore, exhibit, and envision advancement analytics problems and their solutions. TAAS provides a venue for in-depth discussion and topical exploration in the advancement analytics space.

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EDITORS: ISHITA PANDE, Queen’s University and NICHOLAS L. SYRETT, University of Kansas

The Journal of the History of Sexuality spans geographic and temporal boundaries, providing a much-needed forum for historical, critical, and theoretical research in its field. Its cross-cultural and cross-disciplinary character brings together original articles and critical reviews from historians, social scientists, and humanities scholars worldwide.

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The Journal of Individual Psychology provides a forum for the finest dialogue on Adlerian practices, principles, and theoretical development. Articles relate to theoretical and research issues as well as to concerns of practice and application of Adlerian psychological methods. The Journal of Individual Psychology is the journal of the North American Society of Adlerian Psychology.

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EDITOR: JOHN FINN
Christopher Newport University
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The Journal of Latin American Geography is a publication of the Conference of Latin American Geography (CLAG). JLAG publishes original geographical and interdisciplinary research on Latin America and the Caribbean.

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University of Texas at Austin

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EDITOR: MELISSA A. FITCH
The University of Arizona

*Studies in Latin American Popular Culture*, an annual interdisciplinary journal, publishes articles, review essays, and interviews on diverse aspects of popular culture in Latin America. Since its inception in 1982, the journal has defined popular culture broadly as “some aspect of culture which is accepted by or consumed by significant numbers of people.”

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*Texas Studies in Literature and Language* is an established journal of literary criticism publishing substantial essays reflecting a variety of critical approaches and covering all periods of literary history.

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EDITOR: SUMRU BELGER KRODY
The George Washington University Museum and The Textile Museum
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Established in 1962, The Textile Museum Journal is the leading publication for the exchange of textile scholarship in North America. The journal promotes high-quality research on the cultural, technical, historical, and aesthetic significance of textiles from various cultures.

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US Latina & Latino Oral History Journal

EDITOR: MAGGIE RIVAS-RODRIGUEZ
University of Texas at Austin

The US Latina & Latino Oral History Journal is a research publication created to mine, showcase, and promote the rich field of oral history as it relates specifically to the US Latina and Latino experience. This annual volume focuses on specific topics, and the journal features articles and book reviews. The University of Texas Press publishes the journal for the Voces Oral History Project at the university’s School of Journalism.

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The Velvet Light Trap offers critical essays on significant issues in film studies while expanding its commitment to television as well as film research. Each issue provokes debate about critical, theoretical, and historical topics relating to a particular theme.

The Velvet Light Trap is edited at the University of Wisconsin at Madison and the University of Texas at Austin, with the support of media scholars at those institutions and throughout the country.

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