Empire and Environment

Ecological Ruin in the Transpacific

Empire and Environment argues that histories of imperialism, colonialism, militarism, and global capitalism are integral to understanding environmental violence in the transpacific region. The collection draws its rationale from the imbrication of imperialism and global environmental crisis, but its inspiration from the ecological work of activists, artists, and intellectuals across the transpacific region. Taking a postcolonial, ecocritical approach to confronting ecological ruin in an age of ecological crises and environmental catastrophes on a global scale, the collection demonstrates how Asian North American, Asian diasporic, and Indigenous Pacific Island cultural expressions critique a de-historicized sense of place, attachment, and belonging. In addition to its thirteen body chapters from scholars who span the Pacific, each part of this volume begins with a poem by Craig Santos Perez. The volume also features a foreword by Macarena Gómez-Barris and an afterword by Priscilla Wald.

Rina Garcia Chua is a PhD IGS Candidate at the University of British Columbia Okanagan.

Heidi Amin-Hong is Assistant Professor of English at University of California. Santa Barbara.

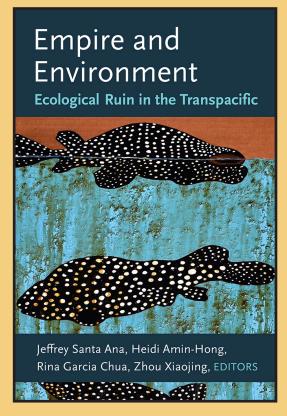
Jeffrey Santa Ana is Associate Professor of English at Stony Brook University.

Zhou Xiaojing is Professor of English at the University of the Pacific.

"Empire and Environment speaks to the urgency of the contemporary political moment and to the long histories of militarization, empire, and extraction that continue to shape transpacific ecologies. It centers the political, literary, and artistic work of Pacific Islanders, diasporic Asians, and Asian North Americans as offering the crucial insights, theories, and resistance that are necessary to developing sustainable and decolonial futures. This is an outstanding, important collection."

-Sarah D. Wald, University of Oregon

Asian Studies



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October 2022

6 x 9 | 320 pages | 13 illustrations

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05493-0 | \$24.95



Twisting in the Wind

The Politics of Tepid Transitions to Renewable Energy

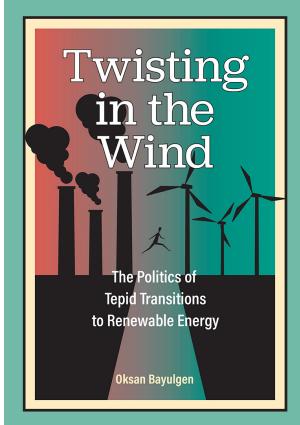
Whereas most scholars study alternative energy policy in developed, Western nations, Oksan Bayulgen wonders why renewable energy has not advanced in countries that do not have deep fossil fuel resources. This book focuses on the political determinants of clean energy transitions, especially in developing country settings, which most of the literature has overlooked. Using an in-depth case study of energy policymaking in Turkey, Bayulgen constructs a dynamic, multidimensional theoretical model to explain the political feasibility of energy solutions to climate change in much of the world. By using Turkey as a case study, she clearly shows the role of the state and elites in energy policies that have failed to make the transition to renewables. This timely topic will be of interest to scholars, policymakers, energy investors, and anyone interested in environmental studies.

Oksan Bayulgen is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Connecticut.

"I applaud Professor Bayulgen for taking us outside the Western world to look at green energy transitions. To reverse global warming requires sufficient buy-in from non-Western countries. Her analysis is theoretically informed and empirically rich. It is a must-read for students of Turkish politics and for those who like to understand green energy transitions."

- -Christoph Stefes, University of Colorado Denver
- "Twisting in the Wind criticizes the predominance of technological and market-based explanations and aims to establish that transition to clean energy is a political process."
- -Hande Paker, Bahçesehir University

Public Policy Environmental Studies Political Theory



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September 2022

6 x 9 | 310 pages | 7 figures, 7 tables, 1 map

HARDCOVER 978-0-472-13325-3 | \$80



The Passion of International Leadership

How Emotions Shape Transatlantic Cooperation

How do international leaders emerge and why are they successful in bringing followers to converge on their positions? *The Passion of International Leadership* draws on recent advances in political psychology and state-of-the-art research in international relations to go beyond current knowledge and simplistic accounts of international leadership. It tells surprising and intense stories of policymakers at the head of great powers attempting to cooperate during crisis moments, and uses these stories to challenge commonly held beliefs and intuitions about international leadership.

Beauregard explores international leadership in four cases of transatlantic cooperation when Western policymakers were confronted to foreign conflicts, like civil or secessionist wars. He provides a fascinating study of the recognition of Slovenia, Croatia, and Bosnia during the wars in Yugoslavia; the peace mediation during the Russia-Georgia war in 2008; the adoption of economic sanctions against Russia over the conflict in Ukraine; and finally, cooperation on striking against the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria. The book argues that leaders are driven by their convictions, and that they must strike a balance between the intense emotions associated with their beliefs and their need to represent a broader community. At the same time as they seek to bring followers on board by persuading them, they need to pay attention to emotionally contagious and resonant events that can alter the course of international cooperation.

Philippe Beauregard is Postdoctoral Researcher at the Centre for International Studies of the University of Montreal (CÉRIUM).



The Passion of International Leadership

How Emotions Shape Transatlantic Cooperation

Philippe Beauregard

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October 2022

6 x 9 | 288 pages | 6 tables

HARDCOVER 978-0-472-13319-2 | \$75

International Relations



Youth without Representation

The Absence of Young Adults in Parliaments, Cabinets, and Candidacies

Officeholders in contemporary parliaments and cabinets are more likely than not to be male, wealthy, middle-aged or older, and from the dominant ethnicity, whereas young adults have an insufficient presence in political office. Young adults—those aged 35 years or under—comprise a mere ten percent of all parliamentarians globally, and three percent of all cabinet members. Compared to their presence in the world's population, this age group faces an underrepresentation of one to three in parliament and one to ten in cabinet. In this book, Stockemer and Sundström provide a holistic account of youths' marginalization in legislatures, cabinets, and candidacies for office through a comparative lens. They argue that youths' underrepresentation in political office constitutes a democratic deficit and provide ample evidence for why they think that youth must be present in politics at much higher rates. They further embed this book within what they label a vicious cycle of political alienation, which involves the declining political sophistication of the young, their waning electoral participation, and their insufficient of representation in office. Empirically, the authors combine a global focus with in-depth studies, discussing the country-level, party-level, and individual-level factors that bar young adults' entry to positions of political power. This is the first comprehensive book on youth representation and it has relevance for those broadly interested in issues of representation, democracy, inequality, and comparative politics.

Daniel Stockemer is Full Professor and Konrad Adenauer Research Chair in Empirical Democracy Studies in the School of Political Studies at the University of Ottawa, Canada.

Aksel Sundström is Associate Professor and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political Science at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden.

"This book is a unique take on the issue of youth representation, making the case for their participation in parliaments and cabinets. This well-researched, data-driven study will make a significant contribution to our understanding of why young citizens are underrepresented in parliaments and cabinets around the world."

 Holly Ann Garnett, Associate Professor of Political Science at the Royal Military College of Canada in Kingston

Governance

Youth without Representation

THE ABSENCE OF YOUNG ADULTS IN PARLIAMENTS, CABINETS, AND CANDIDACIES



Daniel Stockemer and Aksel Sundström

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December 2022

6 x 9 | 216 pages | 32 tables, 27 figures

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05517-3 | \$24.95



Peace, Preference, and Property

Return Migration after Violent Conflict

Growing numbers of people are displaced by war and violent conflict. In Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Myanmar, Syria, and elsewhere violence pushes civilian populations from their homes and sometimes from their countries, making them refugees. In previous decades, millions of refugees and displaced people returned to their place of origin after conflict or were resettled in countries in the Global North. Now displacements last longer, the number of people returning home is lower, and opportunities for resettlement are shrinking. More and more people spend decades in refugee camps or displaced within their own countries, raising their children away from their home communities and cultures. In this context, international policies encourage return to place of origin.

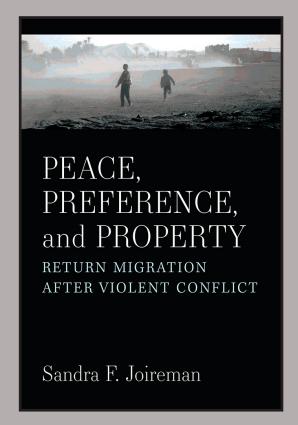
Using case studies and first-person accounts from interviews and fieldwork in post-conflict settings such as Uganda, Liberia, and Kosovo, Sandra F. Joireman highlights the divergence between these policies and the preferences of conflict-displaced people. Rather than looking from the top down, at the rights that people have in international and domestic law, the perspective of this text is from the ground up—examining individual and household choices after conflict. Some refugees want to go home, some do not want to return, some want to return to their countries of origin but live in a different place, and others are repatriated against their will when they have no other options. *Peace, Preference, and Property* suggests alternative policies that would provide greater choice for displaced people in terms of property restitution and solutions to displacement.

Sandra F. Joireman is Weinstein Chair of International Studies and Professor of Political Science at the University of Richmond.

"So far, few books have paid attention to the historical patterns of displacement, legal solutions, and IDP/refugee attitudes. Joireman successfully breaks the pattern of single-case studies in this area by providing an array of comparative empirical evidence and first-hand policy experience to demonstrate the misalignment of international law and preferences of victims of displacement. An excellent contribution to the field, re-orienting our understandings of durable solutions to displacement."

-Neophytos Loizides, University of Kent

Law | Human Rights | African Studies



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November 2022

6 x 9 | 200 pages | 3 charts, 4 maps, 5 tables

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-03910-4 | \$39.95



The Politics of Bad Governance in Contemporary Russia

In this book, Vladimir Gel'man considers bad governance as a distinctive politico-economic order that is based on a set of formal and informal rules, norms, and practices quite different from those of good governance. Some countries are governed badly intentionally because the political leaders of these countries establish and maintain rules, norms, and practices that serve their own self-interests. Gel'man considers bad governance as a primarily agency-driven rather than structure-induced phenomenon.

He addresses the issue of causes and mechanisms of bad governance in Russia and beyond from a different scholarly optics, which is based on a more general rationale of state-building, political regime dynamics, and policy-making. He argues that although these days, bad governance is almost universally perceived as an anomaly, at least in developed countries, in fact human history is largely a history of ineffective and corrupt governments, while the rule of law and decent state regulatory quality are relatively recent matters of modern history, when they emerged as side effects of state-building. Indeed, the picture is quite the opposite: bad governance is the norm, while good governance is an exception. The problem is that most rulers, especially if their time horizons are short and the external constraints on their behavior are not especially binding, tend to govern their domains in a predatory way because of the prevalence of short-term over long-term incentives. Contemporary Russia may be considered as a prime example of this phenomenon. Using an analysis of case studies of political and policy changes in Russia after the Soviet collapse, Gel'man discusses the logic of building and maintenance of politico-economic order of bad governance in Russia and paths of its possible transformation in a theoretical and comparative perspective.

Vladimir Gel'man is Professor at the European University at St. Petersburg and University of Helsinki.

Governance Political Economy

The Politics of Bad Governance in Contemporary Russia

Vladimir Gel'man



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November 2022

6 x 9 | 240 pages | 9 figures, 4 tables

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05562-3 | \$29.95



Creating Chaos Online

Disinformation and Subverted Post-Publics

With the prevalence of disinformation geared to instill doubt rather than clarity, *Creating Chaos Online* unmasks disinformation when it attempts to pass as deliberation in the public sphere and distorts the democratic processes. Asta Zelenkauskaite finds that repeated tropes justifying Russian trolling were found to circulate across not only all analyzed media platforms' comments but also across two analyzed sociopolitical contexts suggesting the orchestrated efforts behind messaging. Through a dystopian vision of publics that are expected to navigate in the sea of uncertain both authentic and orchestrated content, pushed by human and nonhuman actors, *Creating Chaos Online* offers a concept of post-publics. Post-publics is reflected within the continuum of treatment of public, counter public, and anti-public. This book argues that affect-instilled arguments used in public deliberation in times of uncertainty, along with whataboutism constitute a playbook for chaos online.

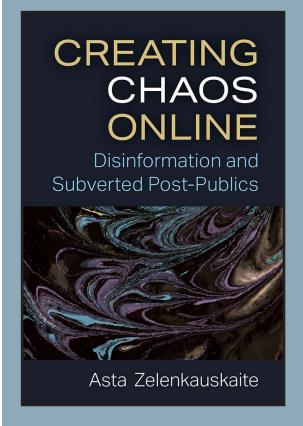
Asta Zelenkauskaite is Associate Professor of Communication at Drexel University.

"This is a comprehensive analysis of Russian trolling and disinformation. Zelenkauskaitè explains the aims, scope, strategy, tactics, rhetoric, policies, and mechanics of Russian trolling in the most exhaustive, comprehensive, and empirically-rooted treatment of this subject that I have seen."

-Janis Chakars, Neumann University

"This book skillfully walks the thin line between falling through the rabbit hole of 'dark participation' sites, and zooming out to unpack and analyze it; taming the chaos for us, while letting us have a taste of it at the same time."

-Carmel Vaisman, Tel Aviv University



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September 2022

6 x 9 | 320 pages | 3 tables

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05552-4 | \$34.95

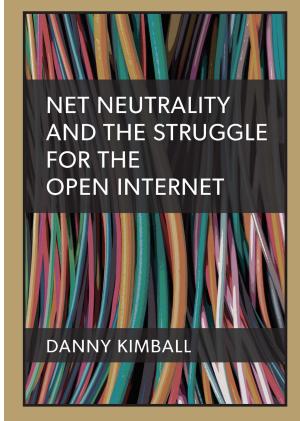
Political Science Media Studies



Net Neutrality and the Struggle for the Open Internet

"Net neutrality," a dry but crucial standard of openness in network access, began as a technical principle informing obscure policy debates but became the flashpoint for an all-out political battle for the future of communications and culture. *Net Neutrality and the Struggle for* the Open Internet is a critical cultural history of net neutrality that reveals how this intentionally "boring" world of internet infrastructure and regulation hides a fascinating and pivotal sphere of power, with lessons for communication and media scholars, activists, and anyone interested in technology and politics. While previous studies and academic discussions of net neutrality have been dominated by legal, economic, and technical perspectives, Net Neutrality and the Struggle for the Open Internet offers a humanities-based critical theoretical approach to net neutrality, telling the story of how activists and millions of everyday people, online and in the streets, were able to challenge the power of the phone and cable corporations that historically dominated communications policy-making to advance equality and justice in media and technology.

Danny Kimball is Associate Professor of Communication and Media Studies at Goucher College.



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August 2022

6 x 9 | 292 pages | 4 illustrations

Paperback 978-0-472-03859-6 | \$29.95

Media Studies

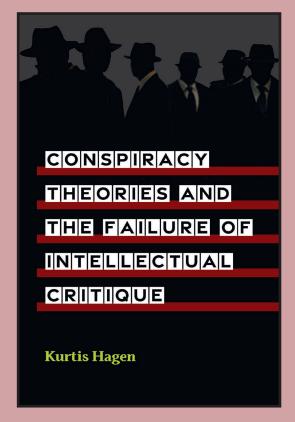


Conspiracy Theories and the Failure of Intellectual Critique

Conspiracy Theories and the Failure of Intellectual Critique argues that conspiracy theories, including those that conflict with official accounts and suggest that prominent people in Western democracies have engaged in appalling behavior, should be taken seriously and judged on their merits and problems on a case-by-case basis. It builds on the philosophical work on this topic that has developed over the past quarter century, challenging some of it, but affirming the emerging consensus: each conspiracy theory ought to be judged on its particular merits and faults.

The philosophical consensus contrasts starkly with what one finds in the social science literature. Kurtis Hagen argues that significant aspects of that literature, especially the psychological study of conspiracy theorists, has turned out to be flawed and misleading. Those flaws are not randomly directed; rather, they consistently serve to disparage conspiracy theorists unfairly. This suggests that there may be a bias against conspiracy theorists in the academy, skewing "scientific" results. *Conspiracy Theories and the Failure of Intellectual Critique* argues that social scientists who study conspiracy theories and/or conspiracy theorists would do well to better absorb the implications of the philosophical literature.

Kurtis Hagen is an independent scholar and former Associate Professor of Philosophy at SUNY Plattsburgh.



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6 x 9 | 352 pages

HARDCOVER 978-0-472-13310-9 | \$90

Philosophy American History



FALL 2022 RIGHTS HIGHLIGHTS

Marginal People in Deviant Places

Ethnography, Difference, and the Challenge to Scientific Racism

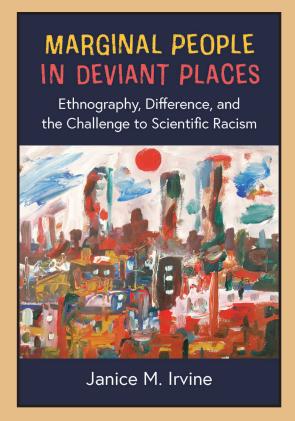
Marginal People in Deviant Places revisits early- to mid-twentieth-century ethnographic studies, arguing that their focus on marginal subcultures—ranging from American hobos, to men who have sex with other men in St. Louis bathrooms, to hippies, to taxi dancers in Chicago, to elderly Jews in Venice, California—helped produce new ways of thinking about social difference more broadly in the United States. Irvine demonstrates how the social scientists who told the stories of these marginalized groups represented an early challenge to then-dominant narratives of scientific racism, prefiguring the academic fields of gender, ethnic, sexuality, and queer studies in key ways. In recounting the social histories of certain American outsiders, Irvine identifies an American paradox by which social differences are both despised and desired, and she describes the rise of an outsider capitalism that integrates difference into American society by marketing it.

Janice M. Irvine is Professor of Sociology at the University of Massachusetts.

- "Marginal People in Deviant Places is a wonderful, smart, and multidimensional cultural history of the twentieth century through the eyes of marginalized populations, and a thorough consideration of the contributions of scholars of deviance, which makes a powerful argument for the value of social scientific rather than biological understandings of deviance."
- —Arlene Stein, Rutgers University
- "The book makes a compelling argument, tells a fascinating and multilayered story, and is beautifully written. The diverse subjects of the ethnographies will be of interest to specialists in a wide range of fields, including urban studies, the history and sociology of medicine, queer studies, sexuality studies, youth studies, and African American studies."

 —Andrea Friedman, Washington University in St. Louis

American Studies Sociology Gender Studies



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July 2022

6 x 9 | 348 pages | 26 illustrations

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05538-8 | \$39.95



Architectures of Hope

Infrastructural Citizenship and Class Mobility in Brazil's **Public Housing**

Architectures of Hope examines how communal idealism, electoral politics, and low-income consumer markets made first-time homeownership a reality for millions of low-income Brazilians over the last ten years.

Drawing on a five-year-long ethnography among city planners, architects, street-level bureaucrats, politicians, market and bank representatives, community leaders, and past, present, and future beneficiaries, Moisés Kopper tells the story of how a group of grassroots housing activists rose from oblivion to build a model community. He explores the strategies set forth by housing activists as they waited and hoped for—and eventually secured—homeownership through Minha Casa Minha Vida's publicprivate infrastructure. By showing how these efforts coalesced in Porto Alegre—Brazil's once progressive hotspot—he interrogates the value systems and novel arrangements of power and market that underlie the country's post-neoliberal project of modern and inclusive development.

By chronicling the making and remaking of material hope in the aftermath of Minha Casa Minha Vida, *Architectures of Hope* reopens the future as a powerful venue for ethnographic inquiry and urban development.

Moisés Kopper is a Postdoctoral Researcher at the Laboratoire d'Anthropologie des Mondes Contemporains.

Architectures of Hope Infrastructural Citizenship and Class Mobility in Brazil's **Public Housing** Moisés Kopper For rights information: The University of Chicago Press Lucina Schell, International Rights Manager 1427 E. 6oth Street Chicago, IL, 60637 (773)702-7741 lschell@uchicago.edu November 2022 6 x 9 | 344 pages | 2 tables, 3 graphs, 46 figures PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05564-7 | \$39.95

Latin American Studies **Class Studies Political Science** Anthropology



The Repoliticization of the Welfare State

The Repoliticization of the Welfare State grapples with the evolving nature of political conflict over social spending after the Great Recession. While the severity of the economic crisis encouraged strong social spending responses to protect millions of individuals, governments have faced growing pressure to reduce budgets and make deep cuts to the welfare state. Whereas conservative parties have embraced fiscal discipline and welfare state cuts, left-wing parties have turned away from austerity in favor of higher social spending. These political differences represent a return of traditional left-right beliefs over social spending and economic governance.

This book is one of the first to systematically compare welfare state politics before and after the Great Recession arguing that a new and lasting post-crisis dynamic has emerged where political parties once again matter for social spending. At the heart of this repoliticization are intense ideological debates over market regulation, social inequality, redistribution, and the role of the state. The book analyzes social spending dynamics for 28 countries before and after the crisis. It also includes in-depth country case studies representing five distinct welfare state types: Germany, the United Kingdom, Sweden, Spain, and the Czech Republic.

Ian P. McManus is Assistant Professor of Political Science, Emerson College.

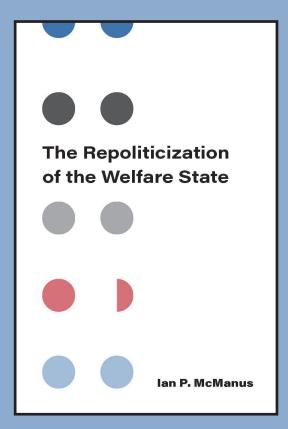
"This book provides a comparative overview of the responses to the global financial crisis and the political dynamics at work in different European welfare states. It makes a strong case for the argument that politics matter (again)."

—Elke Heins, University of Edinburgh

"This book makes a simple but powerful argument: Partisan conflict about the welfare state is back. To support his case, Ian P. McManus not only brings in a wealth of qualitative and quantitative evidence, but also links the European Union and national level politics in a convincing narrative of post-financial crisis politics."

—Peter Starke, University of Southern Denmark

Political Science International Economics



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6 x 9 | 234 pages | 8 charts, 1 table

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05532-6 | \$29.95



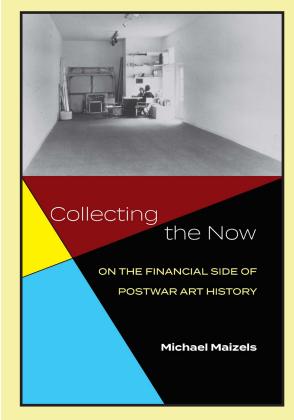
Collecting the Now

On the Financial Side of Postwar Art History

Collecting the Now offers a new, in-depth look at the economic forces and institutional actors that have shaped the outlines of postwar art history, with a particular focus on American art, 1960-1990. Working through four case studies, Michael Maizels illuminates how a set of dealers and patrons conditioned the iconic developments of this period: the profusions of pop art, the quixotic impossibility of land art, the dissemination of new media, and the speculation-fueled neoexpressionist painting of the 1980s.

This book addresses a question of pivotal importance to a swath of art history that has already received substantial scholarly investigation. We now have a clear, nuanced understanding of why certain evolutions took place: why pop artists exploded the delimited parameters of aesthetic modernism, why land artists further strove against the object form itself, and why artists returned to (neo-) traditional painting in the 1980s. But remarkably elided by extant scholarship has been the question of how. How did conditions coalesce around pop so that its artists entered into museum collections, and scholarly analyses, at pace unprecedented in the prior history of art? How, when seeking to transcend the delimited gallery object, were land artists able to create monumental (and by extension, monumentally expensive), interventions in the extreme wilds of the Western deserts? And how did the esoteric objects of media art come eventually to scholarly attention in the sustained absence of academic interest or a private market? The answers to these questions lie in an exploration of the financial conditions and funding mechanisms through which these works were created, advertised, distributed, and preserved.

Michael Maizels is an Affiliate with metaLAB@Harvard.



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August 2022

6 x 9 | 212 pages | 13 halftones

HARDCOVER 978-0-472-13309-3 | \$70

Art Business



From the Valley of Bronze Camels

A Primer, Some Lectures, & A Boondoggle on Poetry A volume in the Poets on Poetry series

Jane Miller loves poetry. In these provocative and deeply insightful essays, she unpacks the work of giants like Adrienne Rich, Paul Celan, Marina Tsevetaeya, Osip Mandelstam, and Garcia Lorca alongside painters such as Caravaggio and Paul Klee, as well as ancient Chinese music and techniques of the contemporary poem. Miller explores the use of the question mark in the history of poetry and its function as a revelation of poetic voice. She considers the positive and negative aspects of surrealism on the contemporary poem, its anti-feminist origins in France, its contemporary usage, and the benefits of Super-Real images. Miller examines how identity politics might affect the imagination. She describes ancient Chinese musical instruments to show how their sounds resonate off/in American poems and on the aural integrity of the lyric poem. She interrogates the political implications of language and the degeneration and regeneration of words. Finally, in an essay about what she dares not say about poetry, she comes out against forms of surrealism, narrative, jargon, rhetoric, irony, and appropriation. This masterful work can be read as advice to a young writer, but it also invites us into the mind of a writer who has developed her craft through the course of a lifetime of writing, reading, and exploring the world, showing not only the ideas that influenced her—feminist, lesbian, and international works—but also how Miller has, in turn, influenced ideas.

Jane Miller is a poet and essayist. She lives in Tucson, Arizona, with artist Valyntina Grenier.

FROM
THE VALLEY
OF BRONZE
CAMELS

A Primer, Some Lectures,
& A Boondoggle on Poetry

Jane Miller

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July 2022

5.375 x 8 | 160 pages

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05542-5 | \$29.95

Poetry and Poetry Criticism Literary Studies Cultural Studies



Thirty-two New Takes on Taiwan Cinema

32 New Takes on Taiwan Cinema covers thirty-two films from Taiwan, addressing a flowering of new talent, moving from art film to genre pictures, and nonfiction. Beyond the conventional framework of privileging "New and Post-New Cinema," or prominence of auteurs or single films, this volume is a comprehensive, judicious take on Taiwan cinema that fills gaps in the literature, offers a renewed historiography, and introduces new creative force and voices of Taiwan's moving image culture to produce a leading and accessible work on Taiwan film and culture.

Film-by-film is conceived as the main carrier of moving picture imagery for a majority of viewers, across the world. The curation offers an array of formal, historical, genre, sexual, social, and political frames, which provide a rich brew of contexts. This surfeit of meanings is carried by individual films, one by one, which breaks down abstractions into narrative bites and outsized emotions.

Emilie Yueh-yu Yeh is Lam Wong Yiu Wah Chair Professor and Dean of Faculty of Arts at Lingnan University.

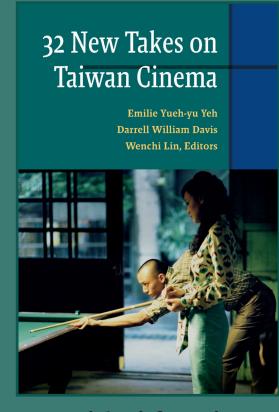
Darrell William Davis is Honorary Professor in the Visual Studies Department at Lingnan University.

Wenchi Lin is Professor of English and Dean of Arts at National Central University, Taiwan.

"Thirty-two New Takes on Taiwan Cinema is a truly mammoth assembly of thought-provoking chapters written by some of the world's leading experts on the subject. This book covers a broad range of auteurs, genres, styles, and themes to reflect the diversity of Taiwan's cinematic output. It also seeks to expand the canon of critically lauded works by legendary filmmakers so that heretofore overlooked or misunderstood films, including those by up-and-coming artists working outside the industry, receive the attention that they deserve."

-David Scott Diffrient, Colorado State University

Asian Studies Media Studies



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6 x 9 | 536 pages | 40 illustrations

PAPERBACK 978-0-472-05546-3 | \$49.95

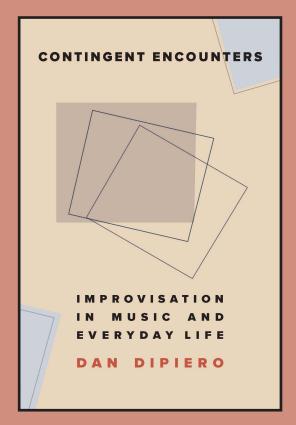


Contingent Encounters

Improvisation in Music and Everyday Life

Contingent Encounters offers a sustained comparative study of improvisation as it appears between music and everyday life. Drawing on work in musicology, cultural studies, and critical improvisation studies, as well as his own performing experience, Dan DiPiero argues that comparing improvisation across domains calls into question how improvisation is typically recognized. By comparing the music of Eric Dolphy, Norwegian free improvisers, Mr. K, and the Ingrid Laubrock/Kris Davis duo with improvised activities in everyday life (such as walking, baking, working, and listening), DiPiero concludes that improvisation appears as a function of any encounter between subjects, objects, and environments. Bringing contingency into conversation with the utopian strain of critical improvisation studies, DiPiero shows how particular social investments cause improvisation to be associated with relative freedom, risk-taking, and unpredictability in both scholarship and public discourse. Taking seriously the claim that improvisation is the same thing as living, Contingent Encounters overturns longstanding assumptions about the aesthetic and political implications of this notoriously slippery term.

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