May 2025

MONTHLY TITLE INFORMATION

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Edited by Deanne Williams Performing Girls and Women

Medieval to Early Modern and Beyond

This book charts the broad cultural impact of the medieval and early modern female performer: how she engages with her historical origins in classical drama, works within contemporary cultural and professional networks, and sets the terms for female performance in subsequent historical periods. Moving beyond the archival evidence that establishes that medieval and early modern women and girls performed, it explores how their performances resonated across national boundaries and historical periods, revealing wide patterns of influence and inspiration. This collection of original essays brings together well-established authorities with new and emerging scholars, offering innovative and ground-breaking discussions of medieval dramatic cultures, the Shakespearean stage, professional actresses in Spain and Italy, the performance of music and dance, artistic representations of the female performer, and twentieth- and twenty-first-century adaptations. Ranging from tenth-century Germany to twenty-firstcentury London, the chapters in this volume offer a new set of paradigms for understanding and interpreting women and girls on stage.

BIOGRAPHY

Deanne Williams is Professor of English and Theater Studies at York University. She is the author of *The French Fetish from Chaucer to Shakespeare* (Cambridge, 2004), *Shakespeare and the Performance of Girlhood* (Palgrave, 2014), and *Girl Culture in the Middle Ages and Renaissance* (Bloomsbury, 2023).



Gendering the Late Medieval and Early Modern World May 2025 336 pages, 34 Illustrations, black & white Hardback 156.0 x 234.0 mm €141.00 / £128.00 / \$156.00

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Edited by Michael Hill and Jennifer Milam Death, Disease and Mystical Experience in Early Modern Art

Fear of death and disease preoccupied the European consciousness throughout the early modern era, becoming most acute at times of plague and epidemics. In these times of heightened anxieties, images of saints and protectors served to reassure the faithful of their religious protection against infection. Modes of visual engagement and devotional subject matter were coupled in new ways to reinforce the emotive impact of art works and to reaffirm the perceived reality of the afterlife. In this context, a visual language of mystical devotion, which overcame the limits of the body and even eroticised its suffering, could serve the needs of the desolate and the pained. In this series of essays focused on spiritual sensibilities in Renaissance art and its legacies, authors present original ideas about the themes of death, disease, and mystical experience, based primarily on the study of objects and their documented historical contexts. Methodologically wide-ranging in approach, the resulting volume provides novel insights into the interplay between suffering and art making in the Western world.



Visual and Material Culture, 1300-1700 May 2025 472 pages, 54 Illustrations, black & white, 20 Illustrations, colour Hardback 170.0 x 240.0 mm €159.00 / £145.00 / \$177.00

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BIOGRAPHY

Michael Hill is Head of Art History and Theory at the National Art School in Sydney. His research focuses on the art and architecture of the Italian Baroque, Australian sculpture, and art historiography. Michael has also written with Peter Kohane a number of articles of the idea of decorum in architectural theory.

Jennifer Milam is Professor of Art History and Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Excellence) at the University of Newcastle in Australia. Her research focuses on art, architecture, and garden design during the eighteenth century. Her publications include *A Cultural History of Plants in the Age of Enlightenment* (Bloomsbury, 2022), *Making Ideas Visible in the Eighteenth Century* (University of Delaware Press, 2022), *Beyond Chinoiserie: Artistic Exchanges Between China and the West during the Late Qing Dynasty* (Brill, 2018), *Historical Dictionary of Rococo Art* (Scarecrow Press, 2011), *Fragonard's Playful Paintings. Visual Games in Rococo Art* (University of Manchester Press, 2007), and *Women, Art and The Politics of Identity in Eighteenth-Century Europe* (Ashgate Press, 2003).



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Jiani He

Ruling the Mongols of Manchuria

Language, Literacy, and Power in Late Qing Borderlands

At the turn of the twentieth century, the Jirim League witnessed a linguistic wrestle between Manchu, Mongol, Chinese, Japanese, and Russian powers. The Qing Empire envisioned a trilingual educational system, with the aim of improving the Jirim Mongols' ability to read Chinese, Manchu, and Mongolian. Through this policy, the Qing sought to transform loyal imperial subjects into modern patriotic nationals and incorporate them into an integrated and united China under a Manchu constitutional monarchy. The late Qing's linguistic practice for ruling the Mongols of Manchuria was an attempt to cope with the enduring legacies in Qing administration and people's everyday life, growing local ethnic tensions, cross-boundary connections, imperial rivalries, and the rise of new ideas concerning nation, modern state, and international relations in East Asia. This book challenges the notion of Chinese language reform as a story of linear progress towards national monolingualism, unfolds the power of multilingualism in Chinese nationalist discourse from a peripheral, non-Han Chinese perspective, and questions the extent to which national languages dominate the writing of history.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. HE Jiani is an assistant professor at Peking University, specializing in studies of borderlands and frontiers, the politics of language, and history of China's foreign relations in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries.



Ruling the Mongols of Manchuria

Language, Literacy, and Power in Late Qing Borderlands

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Asian History April 2025 364 pages, 2 Illustrations, black & white Hardback 156.0 x 234.0 mm €146.00 / £133.00 / \$161.00

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Edited by Stéphane Sadoux, Marie-Pierre Vincent, David Fée and Louise Dalingwater

Gentrification and the Media

Building and Propagating Discourses on Exclusive Urban Change

Gentrification is extensively discussed in the media, where coverage can describe changing neighbourhoods and analyse the causes and consequences of such change. The media are also arenas in which the voices of those who advocate or resist gentrification can be heard. How can this profusion of content be examined? What methods can be used to critically address the role of the media in constructing and propagating discourses on gentrification? Central to this book is the idea that new research should engage with the theoretical and methodological issues that emerge when media products are used as a corpus to study gentrification. This edited volume considers a range of means that are used to shape and publicize representations: contributions investigate printed and online newspapers, websites, blogs, television programmes and social media. It also aims to highlight the diversity of players who produce and disseminate media discourses on gentrification.



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BIOGRAPHY

Stéphane Sadoux is a town planner and an historian. He graduated from the Universities of Oxford, Newcastleupon-Tyne and Grenoble. He is a past Director of Unité de Recherche AE&CC at the Grenoble School of Architecture (ENSAG), Université Grenoble Alpes (UGA). He is currently leading UGA's Excellence in Architecture programme (LabEx).

Marie-Pierre Vincent is a senior lecturer of British studies at Paris 1–Panthéon Sorbonne and affiliated with the European Centre of Sociology and Political Science. Her thesis focused on anti-gentrification resistance in Hoxton/Shoreditch in London (2008–2019). Her work also relates to art and anti-gentrification activism, political discourse and gentrification, and socio-cultural diversity.

David Fée is professor of British Studies at the University of Sorbonne Nouvelle in Paris. He specializes in housing policy in the UK. He has co-edited several books including *Lessons from the British and French New Towns: Paradise Lost* (Emerald, 2021).

Louise Dalingwater is professor of British Studies at Sorbonne University, Paris. She specializes in the service sector, notably financial services and public services. Some of her work has looked at the spatial dimension of service industries such as financial service location.



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Edited by Jill Hilditch and Martina Revello Lami Ceramic Perspectives on Connectivity in the Ancient Mediterranean

The identification of ceramic imports within prehistoric and historic assemblages has long been the primary indicator for identifying connections between different sites and regions. Yet this has fostered a presence/absence diagnosis for contact between different communities. Approaches such as postcolonial perspectives and network analysis, which focus on the nature of the connections, are now beginning to offer more meaningful ways of considering past interactions. These approaches can bridge the traditional divide between "prehistoric" and "historic" and offer a valuable contribution to the wider study of past interactions in the ancient Mediterranean.

The geographical or topographical setting of an archaeological site is often acknowledged as an important factor in their significance or how well connected the community was within the cultural landscape. But to what extent do geographical categories such as "island," "coast," "mainland" or "hinterland" influence modern ideas on the dynamics of these ancient communities? This volume uses ceramic studies across multiple spatial and diachronic scales to provide new insights into the connectivity of ancient Mediterranean communities.

BIOGRAPHY

Jill Hilditch is an Associate Professor in Archaeology at the University of Amsterdam, specialising in the Bronze Age Aegean and ceramic studies.

Martina Revello Lami is an Assistant Professor in Material Culture Studies at the Faculty of Archaeology, Leiden University, specialising in pre-Roman Italy and ceramic studies.



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Leendert Miesen

Marin Mersenne and the Study of Harmony

From Sound to Music

Marin Mersenne and the Study of Harmony delves into the central role of music among the early modern sciences by focusing on the work of the French polymath Marin Mersenne (1588-1648). Although now regarded more as an art than a science, music was for many early modern scholars a universal science for studying the harmonies present in all beings. For Mersenne, music's ability to be quantified while being experienced aesthetically meant that it was the central science to approximate the sounding and inaudible harmonies present in the world and universe at large. Bringing together Mersenne's interests in the physics of sound and hearing, musical composition, instruments, curiosities, and music from outside Europe, this book shows why so many scholars were drawn to music and how music was at the center of the early modern debate on the foundations of knowledge.

BIOGRAPHY

Leendert van der Miesen is a musicologist and historian, with a focus on the connections between

music, science, and sound in the early modern period. He has held fellowships at the Collaborative Research Center 980 in Berlin, Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, and Bibliotheca Hertziana – Max Planck Institute for Art History.



Marin Mersenne and the Study of Harmony

From Sound to Music

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Edited by Stephanie Grace-Petinos, Leah Parker and Alicia Spencer-Hall Disability and Sanctity in the Middle Ages

This volume significantly expands current understandings of both disability and sanctity in the Middle Ages. Across the collection, heterogeneous constructions, and experiences, of disability and holiness are excavated. Analyses span the tenth to the fourteenth century, with discussion of holy men and holy women, Western Christian and Buddhist traditions, hagiographic texts, images, and artefacts. Each chapter underscores that disability and sanctity co-exist with a vast array of connotations, not just fully positive or fully negative, but also every inflection in between. The collection is a powerful rebuttal to the notion of the integral relationship of disabilitymedieval and otherwise-with sin, stigma, and shame. So doing, it recentres medieval disability history as a lived history that merits exploration and celebration. In this way, the volume serves to reclaim sanctity in disability histories as a means to affirm the possibility of radical disability futures.



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BIOGRAPHY

Stephanie Grace-Petinos is Assistant Editor of the Film and Media list at Bloomsbury Academic Publishing. She received her PhD in 2016 from the City University of New York Graduate Center and is the former Outreach Chair for the Hagiography Society. Her research interests include medieval hagiography, medieval spirituality, disability, dismemberment, and materiality.

Leah Pope Parker is Assistant Professor of English and English Undergraduate Coordinator at the University of Southern Mississippi. Parker's research explores disability and religion in medieval English literature and has been published in the *Journal of English and Germanic Philology and Early Middle English*. Her monograph, *Light of the Everlasting Life: Disability and Crip Eschatology in Old English Literature*, is forthcoming in 2025 from University of Michigan Press.

Alicia Spencer-Hall is an Honorary Senior Research Fellow at University College London. Their research interests include: medieval hagiography, disability, gender, digital culture, and film and media studies. Her first monograph, *Medieval Saints and Modern Screens: Divine Visions as Cinematic Experience* was published by Amsterdam University Press in 2018, and is now available Open Access. *Trans and Genderqueer Subjects in Medieval Hagiography*, a collection co-edited with Blake Gutt, was published in 2021. Shortlisted for the Transgender Non-Fiction award at the 34th Lambda Literary Awards, the volume is now also available Open Access. Their second monograph, *Medieval Twitter*, was published by Arc Humanities Press in 2024.



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Edited by Chris Berry, Luke Robinson, Sabrina Qiong Yu and Lydia Wu Chinese Independent Cinema

Past, Present, and a Questionable Future

Independent cinema in China is not only made outside the commercial system but also without being submitted for censorship. We know that for several decades it has been the crucible out of which China's most exciting new films have flowed. The essays in this volume interrogate what else we think we know. Did it really start with Wu Wenguang and Bumming in Beijing in 1990, or can its roots be traced back much earlier? What are its aesthetics? And its ethics, including of gender and class? Where do audiences watch these films in China and how do they circulate? And, since the 2017 Film Law defined uncensored films as illegal, is independent Chinese cinema still alive? What does it mean today? And does it have a future? The essays in this anthology-many by exciting new scholarsexplore these urgent questions.



Chinese Independent Cinema

Past, Present, and a Questionable Future

Amsterdan University

> Critical Asian Cinemas April 2025 302 pages, 20 Illustrations, black & white, 1 Illustrations, colour Hardback 156.0 x 234.0 mm €134.00 / £122.00 / \$154.00

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BIOGRAPHY

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Sabrina Qiong Yu is Professor of Film and Chinese Studies at Newcastle University, UK. Her research and publications focus on Chinese-language cinema, stardom and performance, gender and sexuality, and censorship. She leads the UK Research Council-funded project (2019–2024) on Chinese independent cinema and the establishment of the Chinese Independent Film Archive.

Lydia Wu is a Newcastle University Academic Track Fellow in Culture and Creative Arts. She leads a five-year research project titled *Decolonising Film Curation: Asian Cinemas as Method*, supported by Newcastle University. She is also the founder of the Association for Curators and Programmers of Asian Cinemas (ACPAC).



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In the context of modern global exchanges, an imagined and essentialised notion of 'East Asia' has served as both a source of inspiration and a catalyst for new connections, extending beyond the geographic boundaries of China, Japan, and Korea. This volume explores the global circulation of practices, technologies, and ideas identified as 'East Asian' in alternative therapies and spiritual practices since the 1970s. Case studies range from the incorporation of traditional Chinese medicine into Brazilian naturopathy to self-development seminars promoting Korean national identity. Rather than focusing on questions of authenticity, the book uniquely interrogates how and why the cultures of China, Japan, and Korea have been invoked over the last fifty years to promote specific therapeutic, spiritual, and political agendas worldwide.



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Luis Fernando Bernardi Junqueira is a D. Kim Foundation Postdoctoral Fellow at the Department of History and Philosophy of Science, University of Cambridge. He is a global historian of science, medicine, and religion in China, with extended interests in the histories of psychology and alternative medicine in modern East Asia and South America.

Avery Morrow is a PhD candidate in Religious Studies at Brown University. His research broadly covers new religious movements and occultism in Japan from 1868 through the present day. He is currently finishing a major research project on the integration of a popular faith healing movement into modern Shinto ideology.

Sangyun Han is a PhD candidate at the Graduate School of International Cultural Studies, Tohoku University. Her research focuses on the history of modern Japanese religion, especially the relationship between the 'Occult Boom' of the 1970s and Japanese esoteric Buddhism. She has recently published "Historicizing the (Oc)cultic Milieu: Mikky. in 1970s Japan" (Religious Studies in Japan volume 7, 2024).



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Edited by Kai Marchal and Ellie Hua Wang

Subjectivity and Selfhood in Chinese Philosophy

Phenomenological, Comparative and Historical Perspectives

Human beings have always been concerned with fundamental questions about their selves, including the deeply personal nature of human experience, the persistence of the self over time, the relation between mind and body, and the interdependence between self and community. The goal of this volume is to rethink these questions against the backdrop of Chinese philosophical traditions, covering the ideas of major thinkers from Classical to late imperial China, with a particular focus on the fact that human experience is necessarily characterized by the first-person perspective. The contributors to this volume employ different methods (historical, comparative, phenomenological), but they all aim at bringing the rich resources of Chinese philosophy to life in our global present.

BIOGRAPHY

Kai Marchal is an Associate professor in the Department of Philosophy at National Chengchi University in Taipei. His most recent publication is a monograph in German: *Im Spiegel der All-Einheit. Selbst- und Weltbezug im chinesischen Mittelalter* (Klostermann Publisher, 2024).

Ellie Hua Wang is an Associate Professor of Philosophy at National Chengchi University in Taiwan. She has published papers on early Confucianism and crosscultural studies in ethics, moral psychology, and metaethics. Her current work focuses on ritual and its role in ethical transformation.



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Anna Lim

Filipino Care Workers in Israel

Migration, Trans-local Livelihoods and Space

This book traces the construction of migrant space in Israel's urban periphery with a focus on the flat that Filipino care workers co-rent for their day-off and provides insight into the migrant lives and journeys in trans-local contexts. The author selects the flat not only as the central field site for fieldwork but also as an analytical lens for grasping the various social networks and the formation of new identities. Offering a repertoire of migrants' own narratives, she shows how the flat, as a microcosm of societal constellations of networks, provides opportunities for all sorts of new experiences. The groundbreaking ethnography contributes to migration scholarship by opening up avenues of analysis for space, community, and boundary-making in displacement and provides comprehensive insight into the dynamics of transnational labor migration. This provocative volume will be of key interest to scholars and students of migration studies, urban studies, and more broadly to anthropology and gender studies.

BIOGRAPHY

Anna Lim is a Senior Researcher of Institute of Social Sciences at Kangwon National University, South Korea. She is an anthropologist with interests in labor migration, space, and citizenship issues. She is currently conducting research on the labor migration between the Philippines and South Korea.



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BIOGRAPHY

Dr Joke Spaans, until 2021 associate professor for the history of Christianity at Utrecht University. Her main interest is the interface between religion and early modern society.

spiritual solace and everything in between.



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Edited by Justyna Jaguscik, Joanna Krenz and Andrea Riemenschnitter Lyrical Experiments in Sinophone Verse

Time, Space, Bodies, and Things

In China, every phase of modernization had its particular poetic forms and lyrical articulations. The 1919 May Fourth movement was the breeding ground for poetical experiments by authors inspired by new world literary trends. Under Mao Zedong, folk songs accompanied political campaigns such as the Great Leap Forward. Misty Poetry of the 1980s contributed to the humanistic discourse of the post-Mao reform era. The most recent stage in Chinese poetry resonates with entangled local and global concerns, such as technological innovation, environmental anxieties, socio-political transformations, and the return of nationalist sentiments and Cold War divisions. In search for creative responses to the crisis, poets frequently revisit the past while holding on to their poetic language of self-reflection and social critique. This volume identifies three foci in contemporary poetry discourses: formal crossovers, multiple realities, and liquid boundaries. These three themes are anything but mutually disjunctive and often intersect within texts from mainland China, Hong Kong and Taiwan discussed in the book.



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Andrea Riemenschnitter is professor em. of Modern Chinese Language and Literature, University of Zurich. Her most recent book is *Sinophone Utopias. Exploring Futures Beyond the China Dream* (2023, co-ed.). She has published in *Archiv Orientalni, AS, ICCC, Interventions, JMLC, MCLC, Monumenta Serica*, etc.



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Eva Meijer

Multispecies Dialogues

Doing Philosophy with Animals, Children, the Sea and Others

In Multispecies Dialogues Eva Meijer develops a new understanding of the concept 'dialogue', which includes embodied, material and spatial interaction. Meijer does not do this alone: each chapter of the book is devoted to a dialogue, or set of dialogues – with street dog Olli, a community of former lab mice, amphibian neighbours, the North Sea, and many other beings. Taking multispecies dialogues seriously is a way to do justice to more-than-human agency and to become more worldly in a time dominated by humans. Rethinking the model of the dialogue also opens up new ways of doing philosophy in multispecies world, which is urgently needed to address the ecological, political and philosophical problems of our time.

BIOGRAPHY

Eva Meijer is a philosopher, writer, and artist. They write novels, philosophical essays, academic texts, poems and columns, and their work has been translated into over twenty languages. Recurring themes are language, madness, nonhuman animals, and politics. Meijer works as a postdoctoral researcher at the University of Amsterdam (Netherlands), and is the co-chair of the Dutch Study Group for Animal Philosophy. They also write columns and essays for Dutch newspapers and are a member of the Multispecies Collective.



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ARCHUMANITIES PRESS

Helle Vogt Mia Korpiola Else Mundal Miriam Jensen Tveit **Gendered Punishments in Medieval Nordic Law, ca. 1100– 1300**

This book examines gendered punishments in medieval Nordic laws, ca. 1100–1300. By exploring legislation on violence, sorcery, sexual morality, and theft, it considers whether women were seen as independent legal subjects or as extensions of their families. It identifies various gendered punishments and discriminatory treatments. revealing regional differences and the influence of European legal ideologies. It also uncovers an emphasis on individual culpability for crimes, reflecting a shift from collective to individual responsibility and women's increasing property rights. This comparative analysis offers a nuanced view of medieval Nordic law, highlighting the complex relationship between gender, law, and society during this transformative period. It explains how criminal law was influenced by canon law and German town law and offers new insights into the legal history of the Nordic region.

BIOGRAPHY

Helle Vogt is Professor in Legal History at University of Copenhagen, Denmark.

Mia Korpiola (PhD 2004) is professor of legal history of the University of Turku, she has published extensively on Swedish-Finnish legal history.

Else Mundal is professor emerita in Old Norse philology at the University of Bergen, and she has published extensively on gender in medieval Norway and Iceland. In 2017, she was appointed a knight of the Icelandic Order of the Falcon.



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This book presents the first English translation of an important early work on the subject of disability and human suffering. Dating from about the sixth century AD, and previously unidentified or attributed to Ps.-Basil, the text was intended as a sermon of comfort for victims of leprosy. An incurable and socially marginalizing affliction known to all ancient cultures, this disease defined its victims as "unclean," as distinct from other sicknesses. A consolatory sermon, this treatise shares some features with the pre-Christian literary genre of consolation. The writer speaks to the lepers with words of comfort beyond their present suffering and reminds them of the glorious new body they will have in the resurrection. Synodinos shows that this treatise was the work of St. Radegunde of Poitiers, a monastic Frankish queen who lived a life of self-denial and whose significance deserves to be better understood.

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Siavash Rafiee Rad

Expeditions in Persia

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BIOGRAPHY

Siavash Rafiee Rad is a linguist. He completed his PhD in Linguistics at the University of Manchester in the UK. He is currently an assistant professor at the Leiden Institute for Area Studies. His main research interests include theoretical linguistics and Persian Studies. RANIAN STUDIES SERIES - 34

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Exploring Qajar Persia in two 19th-Century Diaries



Edited and translated with an introduction by SIAVASH RAFIEE RAD

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A few notes;

1. The travelogues and their scribes;

2. Sketches of Persia and its translation;

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In Southeast Europe there is a big disjunction between formal procedures and informal practices—and this gap is growing. When formal institutions fail, informal practices can solve problems. These practices can be viewed critically, as a space for favoritism and corruption, or favorably, as a space of creative problem-solving. In any case, informal practices consolidate the hold of unaccountable actors on power.

This book presents findings from a collaborative and multidisciplinary research project. During a three-year exercise, a group of forty researchers looked at the world of informal practices in nine countries of Southeast Europe. The main strength in their procedures is the reciprocal modification and cross-checking between interviews and media, and the assemblage of comparative quantitative data.

In the context of a mismatch between "the way the world is" and the world as described by law, the Balkans add a unique perspective due to a persistent deficit in state legitimacy and capacity. The underlying agenda is to bring Southeast Europe into line with European liberal democracy. The emerging evidence offers a critical assessment of "Europeanization" processes that produce only superficial changes and formal institutional resolutions. The book offers a rich analysis of the array of informal practices that people in the Balkans have resorted to in compensation for the poor implementation of formal reforms.

About the editors

Eric Gordy is Professor of Political and Cultural Sociology at UCL School of Slavonic and East European Studies.

Alena Ledeneva is Professor of Politics and Society at the University College London and a founder of the Global Informality Project (informality.com).

Predrag Cvetičanin is Associate Professor at the Faculty of Arts, University of Niš, Serbia. He is also the director of the independent research institute Centre for Empirical Studies of Southeast Europe.

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\$184.00 / €165.00 / £151.00 460 pages | 152 mm x 229 mm Subjects: Cultural history, 20th-century history Published: 31 May 2025 Series: Leipzig Studies on the History and Culture of East-Central Europe

Contesting CopyrightAugusta Dimou

The creative sector, including the cultural industry, is key for today's economy. Copyright has the capacity to fix the roles and tasks of the actors involved and determine the direction of cash flows within this sector. The study of the evolution of copyright helps understand and adjust the regulation and commercialization of creative labor.

Augusta Dimou provides a thoroughly researched, interdisciplinary and comparative study of the historical development of copyright regimes in three countries – Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, and Bulgaria. She examines the function and significance of copyright in the institutionalization, development, and regulation of modern culture in East Central Europe and the Balkans during the diverse political regimes of the modern era, and at the interface between the various nationalization and globalization processes of the 20th century. The bulk of the exposition deals with the first half of the twentieth century with a final chapter providing a summary history of copyright under communism.

The author presents the development of copyright in East Central Europe in the context of the European and global history of intellectual property and the creative industries. The study considers the expansion of copyright in the multiple contexts (social, economic political, cultural, technological, ideological, legal) that sustained its rise and development.

About the author

Augusta Dimou is Gerda Henkel Research Fellow and Visiting Fellow at the Department of Cultural Studies, Chair of Comparative European History and Culture at the University of Leipzig. She is a historian specializing in contemporary comparative European History with a regional focus on Southeast and East-Central Europe. She is currently completing her habilitation on the development of intellectual property rights and cultural politics in twentieth-century Eastern Europe.

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\$136.00 / €122.00 / £111.00 230 pages | 152 mm x 229 mm Published: 31 May 2025 Series: Memory, Heritage and Public History in Central and Eastern Europe

Czech Silesia Johana Wyss

Along with Bohemia and Moravia, Czech Silesia is the smallest of the three historical regions of the Czech Republic. The turbulent past has proven time and again to be problematic for its local communities and Czech society as a whole. The Czech Silesian identity has developed as a construction between the dominant German, Czech and partly Polish nationalisms.

In this historically informed ethnographic study, Johana Wyss examines how various social actors construct, contest and negotiate Silesian identity and collective memory. The author discusses the dynamics of collective memory and forgetting in the process of identity formation. Through years of empirical field research, the author was able to examine how both majoritarian and ostracized groups can challenge national sentiments and negotiate their difficult legacies in a time of ethnonationalist radicalization. By focusing on a border region that has been largely ignored in international scholarship, this study makes an important contribution to European anthropology, borderland, and memory studies.

Selling points

The classic dilemma of multiple and changing identities. An intriguing geographical area where the Czech-German-Polish heritage intertwines.

About the author

Johana Wyss is a social anthropologist and a researcher at the Institute of Ethnology of the Czech Academy of Sciences.

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Early Modern Overseas Careers

Edited by Igor Iwo Chabrowski and Natalia Królikowska-Jedlińska

In the early modern period, two European networks, the Society of Jesus and the Dutch East India Company (VOC) spanned the globe and contributed to its multifaceted globalization. This book focuses on the members of the former, Jesuit missionaries, and the employees of the Dutch trading firm originating from Central and Eastern Europe. The well-chosen case studies examine the group characteristics, career influences, and narratives of these Central Eastern Europeans. They explore the question of why subjects of Polish kings, Transylvanian princes, or Habsburg emperors dreamed of venturing overseas with the colonial merchants or aspired to work as missionaries in China and Japan.

The book examines the complexities of this early modern globalization: its scope, limits, importance, social, ethnic, and political ramifications. It researches how these networks reached out to the region of Central and Eastern Europe. The authors argue that the region was hardly considered peripheral from the perspective of Rome (and the Jesuits) or the Netherlands (and the colonial traders). They do, however, explore whether there were "glass ceilings," or limits of reach within the two networks for individuals from the Polish-Lithuanian Commonwealth or the Kingdom of Hungary.

About the editors

Igor Iwo Chabrowski is Assistant Professor at the Faculty of History, University of Warsaw and a Part-time Professor at the Department of History and Civilization of the European University Institute.

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