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9789463729505 Douglass & Chung, *The Hard State, Soft City of Singapore*

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9781641890533 Campagnolo, *Book Conservation and Digitization*

9781641893770 Powell, *Gender, Reading, and Truth in the Twelfth Century*
With Singapore serving as the subject of exploration, the volume explores the purview of imaginative representations of the city. Alongside the physical structures and associated practices that make up our lived environment, and the conceptualised space engineered into material form by bureaucrats, experts and commercial interests, a perceptual layer of space is conjured out of people's everyday life experiences. While such imaginative projections may not be as tangible as its functional designations, they are nonetheless equally vital and palpable. The richness of its inhabitants’ memories, aspirations and meaningful interpretations challenges the reduction of Singapore as a Generic City. Taking the imaginative field as the point of departure, the forms and modes of intellectual and creative articulations of Singapore's urban condition probe the resilience of cities, and the people who reside in them, through the images they convey or evoke as a means for collective expressions of human agency in placemaking.
## TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Introduction: The Master Narrative and the Lived City—Half a Century of Imagining Singapore**  
Simone Shu-Yeng Chung and Mike Douglass

### Part I (De)-Constructing Master Narratives of the City

1. **Singapore Songlines Revisited: The World Class Complex and the Multiple Deaths of Context**  
   Mark R. Frost
2. **On the Banning of a Film: Tan Pin Pin's To Singapore, with Love**  
   Olivia Khoo
3. **The City State of Singapore's Territorial and Social Management Dilemmas: Reminiscing about Classical Athens**  
   Rodolphe De Koninck

### Part II The Arts as Prisms of the Urban Imaginative

4. **The Address of Art and the Scale of Other Places**  
   Weng Choy Lee
5. **Forming Cityscapes: Small Interventions and Appropriations in the City**  
   Gideon Kong and Jamie Yeo
6. **The Sinophone as Lyrical Aesthetics Redefined: In the Case of Contemporary Singapore Chinese Language Poetics**  
   Chow Teck Seng
7. **Noisy People, Noisy Places: Trouble and Meaning in Singapore**  
   Steve Ferzacca

### Part III The City Possible in Action

8. **Place Management/Making: The Policy and Practice of Arts-Centred Spatial Interventions in Singapore**  
   Hoe Su Fern
9. **Conviviality in Clementi: The Flowering of a Local Social Housing Community**  
   Goh Wei Leong
10. **Mediating Community in Bukit Brown**  
    Natalie Pang and Liew Kai Khiun
11. **Collaborative Imaginaries: Social Experiments, Free Schools and Counterpublics in Singapore**  
    Huiying Ng
12. **The Invisible Electorate: Political Campaign Participation as the Production of an Alternative National Space**  
    Emily Chua Hui Ching

**Conclusion - Simone Shu-Yeng Chung and Mike Douglass**

**Index**
Jurjen A. Zeilstra

Visser 't Hooft, 1900-1985

Living for the Unity of the Church

God’s diplomat, the pope of the ecumenical movement, but also an acerbic theologian and a difficult person: this is how journalists characterised Willem Adolf Visser ’t Hooft (1900-1985). He was one of the best-known Dutch theologians outside the Netherlands and he left his mark on the world church. Even at an early age he made profound efforts in support of international ecumenical youth and student organisations (Dutch Student Christian Movement, YMCA and World Student Christian Federation). He led the World Council of Churches during its formative stages (from 1938), and after its formal establishment in 1948 became its first general secretary, serving until 1966. To Visser ’t Hooft, the unity of the church was both an article of faith and of a pragmatic organisation of church influence in a disunited world.

Jurjen Zeilstra (1961) is a historian and theologian. The biography served as a dissertation in the humanities at the Amsterdam Free University in order to receive the degree of Ph.D. in 2018. Earlier, in 1995, Zeilstra earned the degree of Th.D. with his thesis European Unity in Ecumenical Thinking, 1937-1948, in the Theological Faculty at Utrecht University. His current job is as a Protestant minister in Hilversum.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction: The Importance and Limitations of a Biography
1 Subject and Background
2 Existing Biographies
3 Method

1 The World Opens Up, 1900-1924
2 The School of International Encounter: Working with Youth and Students, 1924-1939
3 Church Unity in Wartime, 1939-1945
4 From ‘Spiritual Contact’ to Political Involvement: The Swiss Road, 1942-1944
5 Towards a World Council of Churches: Reconciliation and Restoration, 1945-1948
6 General Secretary of the World Council of Churches, 1948-1966
7 The Cold War, the Unity of the Church and Eastern Orthodoxy, 1948-1966
9 Obsolete Institutionalism? The Twilight Years, 1966-1985
10 In the Mirror of Rembrandt and the Perspectives of Others

Taking Stock: An Assessment of a Life Lived for the Unity of the Church

Sources and Literature Consulted
1 Archives and Unpublished Primary Sources
2 Oral Sources
3 Digital Sources
4 Published and Unpublished Works by W.A. Visser ’t Hooft
5 Published Sources and Secondary Literature
6 Newspapers and Magazines
A - Persons Quoted
B - Other References

Index
Bernhard Rieder

Engines of Order

A Mechanology of Algorithmic Techniques

Software has become a key component of contemporary life and algorithmic techniques that rank, classify, or recommend anything that fits into digital form are everywhere. This book approaches the field of information ordering conceptually as well as historically. Building on the philosophy of Gilbert Simondon and the cultural techniques tradition, it first examines the constructive and cumulative character of software and shows how software-making constantly draws on large reservoirs of existing knowledge and techniques. It then reconstructs the historical trajectories of a series of algorithmic techniques that have indeed become the building blocks for contemporary practices of ordering. Developed in opposition to centuries of library tradition, coordinate indexing, text processing, machine learning, and network algorithms instantiate dynamic, perspectivist, and interested forms of arranging information, ideas, or people. Embedded in technical infrastructures and economic logics, these techniques have become engines of order that transform the spaces they act upon.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements  
Credits  
Introduction  

## Part I  
1. Engines of Order  
2. Rethinking Software  
3. Software-Making and Algorithmic Techniques  

## Part II  
4. From Universal Classification to a Postcoordinated Universe  
5. From Frequencies to Vectors  
6. Interested Learning  
7. Calculating Networks: from Sociometry to PageRank  

**Conclusion:** Toward Technical Culture  

Index
Edited by Gregory Bracken

Contemporary Practices of Citizenship in Asia and the West

Care of the Self

This collection of essays examines urban communities and societies in Asia and the West to shed much-needed light on issues that have emerged as the world experiences its new urban turn. An urbanized world should be an improving place, one that is better to live in, one where humans can flourish. This book examines contemporary practices of care of the self in cities in Asia and the West, including challenges to citizenship and even the right to the city itself. Written by a range of academics from different backgrounds (from architecture and urbanism, anthropology, social science, psychology, gender studies, history, and philosophy) their trans- and multidisciplinary approaches shed valuable light on what are sometimes quite old problems, leading to fresh perspectives and new ways of dealing with them. One thing that unites all of these papers is their people-centred approach, because, after all, a city is its people.

Dr. Gregory Bracken is Assistant Professor of Spatial Planning and Strategy at the Urbanism Department of the Faculty of Architecture and the Built Environment, Technical University of Delft, the Netherlands.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations  
List of Tables  
Acknowledgements  

Introduction, Gregory Bracken  

1. The Western World as Utopia? Thames Town, Songjiang and New Chinese Residential Habits  
   Martin Minost  

2. How Does Space Have Meaning? A Multifocal Approach to Korean *Jimjilbang* (찜질방)  
   Vera Marie Hälbig  

   Two *Gicheon* (氣天) DVDs  
   Victoria Ten  

4. The Relationship between Architecture and Ritual in the Hindu Crematorium  
   Srivalli Pradeepthi Ikkurthy  

5. New Bodies in Cities: Contested Technologies of the Self in Urban India  
   Rachana Johri  

6. The Other City: Alternative Infrastructures of Care for the Underclass in Japan  
   Jieun Kim  

7. Family, Everyday Life, and the Making-up of Society: A Case Study in Yokohama's Chinatown  
   Wong Yee Lam Elim  

8. Mental Health Scenario of Asian Americans: Social and Environmental Determinants of their Well-being and Service Utilization  
   Susheelabai R.Srinivasa and Sudershan Pasupuleti  

9. ‘Care of the Self’ and Discipline in Smart Cities: Sensors in Singapore  
   Joost Alleblas and Steven Dorrestijn  

Afterword: The Right to the City, Gregory Bracken  

Index
Alberto Campagnolo

Book Conservation and Digitization

The Challenge of Dialogue and Collaboration

The successful transmediation of books and documents through digitization requires the synergetic partnership of many professional figures, that have what may sometimes appear as contrasting goals at heart. On one side, there are those who look after the physical objects and strive to preserve them for future generations, and on the other those involved in the digitization of the objects, the information that they contain, and the management of the digital data. These complementary activities are generally considered as separate and when the current literature addresses both fields, it does so strictly within technical reports and guidelines, concentrating on procedures and optimal workflow, standards, and technical metadata. In particular, more often than not, conservation is presented as ancillary to digitization, with the role of the conservator restricted to the preparation of items for scanning, with no input into the digital product, leading to misunderstanding and clashes of interests.

Surveying a variety of projects and approaches to the challenging conservation-digitization balance and fostering a dialogue amongst practitioners, this book aims at demonstrating that a dialogue between apparently contrasting fields not only is possible, but it is in fact desirable and fruitful. Only through the synergetic collaboration of all people involved in the digitization process, conservators included, can cultural digital objects that represent more fully the original objects and their materiality be generated, encouraging and enabling new research and widening the horizons of scholarship.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Introduction

Part One: Books as Objects and Their Digitization
Chapter 1: Understanding the Artifactual Value of Books
Chapter 2: Conservation and Digitization: A Difficult Balance?

Part Two Conservation and Digitization in Practice
Chapter 3: Conservation towards Large-Scale Digitization at the Vatican Library, Ángela Núñez Gaitán, Head of Conservation, Vatican Apostolic Library
Chapter 4: Large-Scale Digitization at The National Archives, Catt Baum, formerly Senior Conservation Manager—Digitization Services, The National Archives
Chapter 6: The Digitization of Medieval Western Manuscripts at the Wellcome Library, Stefania Signorello, Conservator, Wellcome Library
Chapter 7: Caring for the Object during Digitization of Written Heritage: The Strategy of the Herzog August Library Wolfenbüttel, Almuth Corbach, Head of Collection Care and Conservation, Herzog August Bibliothek
Chapter 8: The Great Parchment Book Project, Caroline De Stefani, Conservation Studio Manager, and Philippa Smith, Head of Collections, London Metropolitan Archives
Chapter 9: The Development of the Language of Bindings Thesaurus, Athanasios Velios and Nicholas Pickwoad, Directors, Ligatus Research Centre, University of the Arts London
Chapter 11: Multispectral Imaging for Special Collection Materials, Michael B. Toth, President and Chief Technology Officer, R. B. Toth Associates

Part Three: Conservators and Digitization Experts in Dialogue
Chapter 12: The Digitization of Manuscripts from the Point of View of a Book Conservator, Abigail B. Quandt, Head of Book and Paper Conservation, the Walters Art Museum
Chapter 14: Coda: Concluding Thoughts on Digital Surrogates

Bibliography
Morgan Powell

Gender, Reading, and Truth in the Twelfth Century

The Woman in the Mirror

The twelfth century witnessed the birth of modern Western European literary tradition: major narrative works appeared in both French and in German, founding a literary culture independent of the Latin tradition of the Church and Roman Antiquity. But what gave rise to the sudden interest in and legitimization of literature in these “vulgar tongues”? Until now, the answer has centred on the somewhat nebulous role of new female vernacular readers. Powell argues that a different appraisal of the same evidence offers a window onto something more momentous: not “women readers” but instead a reading act conceived of as female lies behind the polysemic identification of women as the audience of new media in the twelfth century. This woman is at the centre of a reconception of Christian knowing, a veritable revolution in the mediation of knowledge and truth. By following this figure through detailed readings of key early works, Powell unveils a surprise, a new poetics of the body meant to embrace the capacities of new audiences and viewers of medieval literature and visual art.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

**Introduction**

**Part One: Reading as sponsa et mater**  
**Chapter One:** Mutations of the Reading Woman  
**Chapter Two:** Reading as Mary Did  
**Chapter Three:** Constructing the Woman’s Mirror  
**Chapter Four:** Seeking the Reader/Viewer of the St. Albans Psalter

**Part Two: Reading the Widowed Bride**  
**Chapter Five:** Quae est ista, quae ascendit? (Cant. 3:6); Rethinking the Woman Reader in Early Old French Literature  
**Chapter Six:** Ego dilecto meo et dilectus meus mihi (Cant. 6:2); Mary's Reading and the Epiphany of Empathy  
**Chapter Seven:** A New Poetics for aventure; The Exposition of Wolfram von Eschenbach’s Parzival  
**Chapter Eight:** The Heart, the Wound, and the Word—Sacred and Profane

**Conclusion**

**Appendix:** The Prologue to Parzival  
**List of Works Cited**