

April 2025

MONTHLY TITLE INFORMATION



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AI Sheets – April 2025 Titles

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9789463722155	Religion, Secularism, and Love as a Political Discourse in Modern China
9789463725668	Affect in Fandom
9789463728560	Resilience as Heritage in Asia
9789463723879	Thefts of Relics in Italy
9789463725576	Shaping Film Festivals In a Changing World
9789463722483	The Cityscapes of Taipei, Hong Kong, and Singapore during the Cold War
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9789048565849	Faces of Liberation
9789048568369	From Alabama to Margraten

Arc Humanities Press

9781802702491	Pre-Christian Baltic Religion and Belief
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9789087284602	Slavery and The Dutch State
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Central European University Press (available to order from 1st March 2025)

9789633867877	Opium in the Balkans
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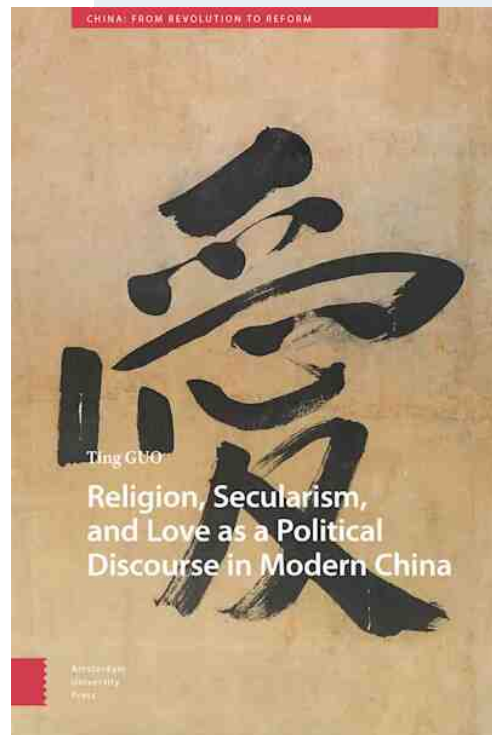
Ting Guo

Religion, Secularism, and Love as a Political Discourse in Modern China

What is the meaning of love in modern Chinese politics? Why has *ai* (love) been a crucial political discourse for secular nationalism for generations of political leaders as a powerful instrument to the present day? This book offers the first systematic examination of the ways in which the notion of love has been introduced, adapted, and engineered as a political discourse for the building and rebuilding of a secular modern nation, all the while appropriating Confucianism, Christianity, popular religion, ghost stories, political religion, and their religious affects. The insights of this exploration expand not only the discussion of the role of emotions in the project of Chinese modernity, but also the study of affective governance and religious nationalisms around the world today.

BIOGRAPHY

Ting GUO is Assistant Professor of Cultural and Religious Studies, Chinese University of Hong Kong and book reviewer editor for the *Journal of the American Academy of Religion*. She co-hosts a podcast called .. in-betweeness (@shichapodcat).



China: From Revolution to Reform
February 2025
206 pages, 6 Illustrations, black & white
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Love, modern China, postsecularism, political discourse, Hong Kong

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Chapter Five: Happy Father's Day, John: Between Filial Piety and Political Duty in Post-Handover Hong Kong

Conclusion: Transforming the Political Discourse of Love

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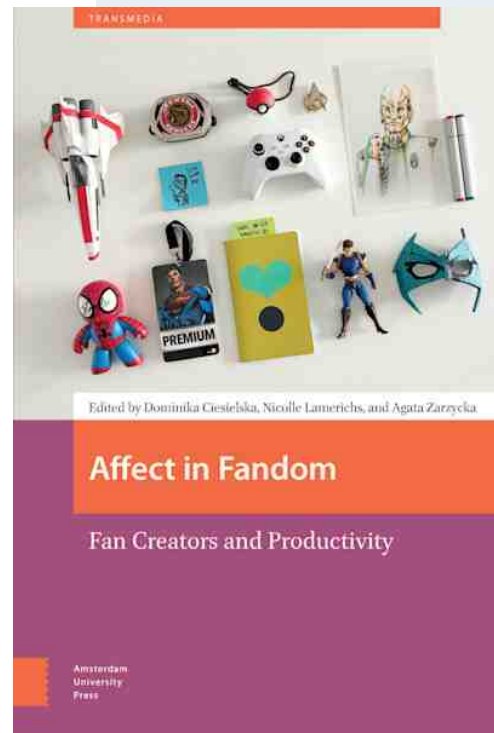
Edited by Dominica Ciesielska, Nicolle Lamerichs and Agata Zarzycka

Affect in Fandom

Fan Creators and Productivity

This book provides a timely discussion of the creative practices in fandom and media culture. Within their participatory cultures, fans produce a wealth of content, data and materials. They write fan fiction, curate wikis and design costumes. This international collection offers a diverse exploration of contemporary fan practices through different cases, such as *Yuri!!! On ICE*, *Harry Potter* and *Mass Effect*.

This book reveals how expression, emotion and agency are central to fan activity. Fans are highly adept at transmedia, as well as the critical use of different media and platforms. Fandom can apply to wider concepts within new media, the humanities and design, as the authors in this collection show. They also rely on different approaches, ranging from textual analysis to different forms of ethnography. Overall, *Affect in Fandom* offers a deliberately diverse exploration of exactly what contemporary fans create and curate, and how.



Transmedia
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BIOGRAPHY

PhD student at Jagiellonian University in Kraków, Poland where she teaches a course on fanfiction. Her academic interests lie within fan culture, and her research focuses on fanfiction and fannish affect. She is the author of papers on queering fanfiction, fan writing as a myth-making practice and retelling of space.

Dr. Nicolle Lamerichs is senior lecturer at Creative Business, HU University of Applied Sciences, Utrecht. Lamerichs holds a PhD in media studies from Maastricht University (2014). In her book *Productive Fandom* (2018), she explores intermediality, affect and creativity in fan cultures. She has published on fandom, media culture and cosplay.

Dr. Litt. Agata Zarzycka is Assistant Professor at the University of Wroc.aw. Her interests include game studies, biopolitics and identity. She has published two monographs: *Socialized Fiction: Role-Playing Games as a Multidimensional Space of Interaction between Literary Theory and Practice* (2009) and *A Goth Reflection: Self-Fashioning and Popular Culture* (2019).

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Edited by Michael Herzfeld and Rita Padawangi

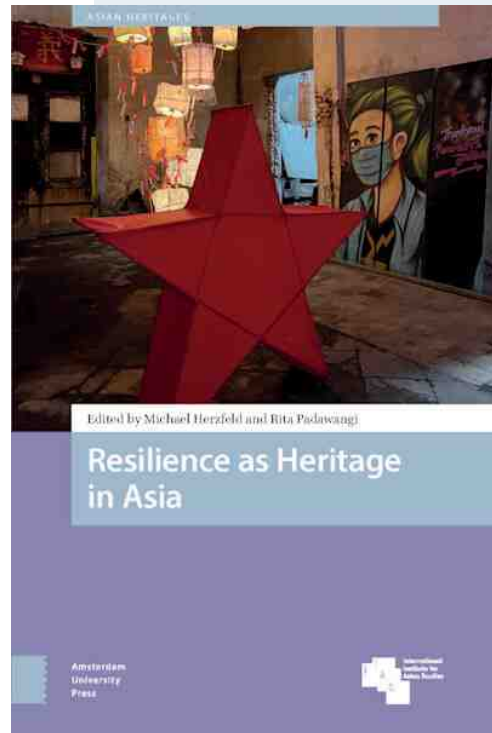
Resilience as Heritage in Asia

This volume analyzes forms of collective resilience through manifestations of strength-in-fragility in selected communities in Asia (Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand). Persistent resistance to communal erasure taking place through repressive policies and commercialized, multinational urban development insensitive to local communities and values often presents an uphill battle. Some of these collective efforts to survive through everyday actions, encounters, and constant struggles have successful outcomes, while others are ephemeral at best. The authors argue that persisting vernacular spaces located between resistance and co-optation are themselves a form of local cultural heritage in the rapidly urbanizing region. Recognizing these nonconformist forms of resilience as heritage acknowledges the creativity involved in challenging social and political inequalities. Supporting the cultural autonomy of local communities by acknowledging resilience as heritage contributes to social justice in the region.

BIOGRAPHY

Michael Herzfeld holds Emeritus positions at Harvard and Leiden Universities. His twelve books include *Siege of the Spirits: Community and Polity in Bangkok* (2016) and *Subversive Archaism: Troubling Traditionalists and the Politics of National Heritage* (2021). His current research addresses heritage politics, crypto-colonialism, and artisans' practices of competition and cooperation.

Rita Padawangi is Associate Professor (Sociology) at Singapore University of Social Sciences. Her research is on social movements, community engagement, and environmental justice. Rita coordinates the Southeast Asia Neighbourhoods Network (SEANNET), a collaborative urban research and education initiative. She recently published *Urban Development in Southeast Asia* (Cambridge University Press, 2022).



Asian Heritages

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- Chapter 4: “Like the Story of the Camel and His Master!”: A Melakan Village between Vernacular Heritage and Urban Transformation - Pierpaolo De Giosa
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- Chapter 6: The Liberation of Individual Cultural Vernacularity: Emancipating Citizens’ Subjectivity through Art - Motohiro Koizumi
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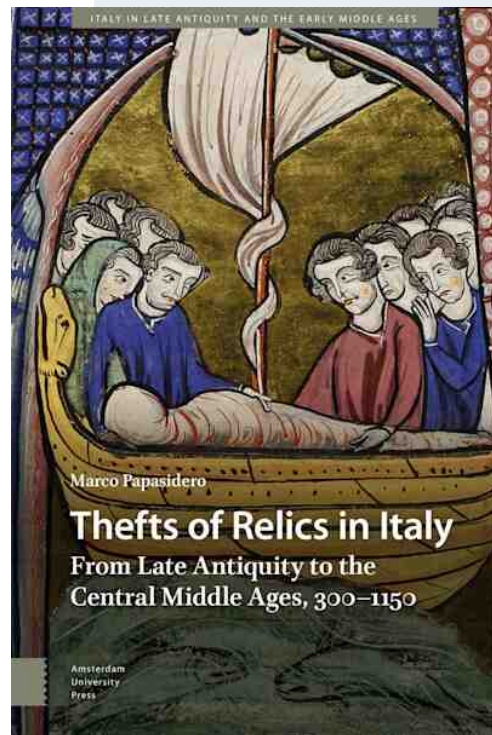
Thefts of Relics in Italy

From Late Antiquity to the Central Middle Ages, 300–1150

With the birth of the cult of the saints, their relics became valuables whose possession would guarantee prestige, protection, and spiritual benefits to a town, church, or monastery. For this reason—at first with the aim of preserving the bodies of newly-executed martyrs from destruction and later of increasing the power of a particular faction or community—the relics began to be stolen, with numerous cases documented throughout Europe. At the same time, a rich hagiographic literature flourished to describe the contexts in which the thefts occurred and to demonstrate their authenticity. Justifications, legitimations, ordeals, and supernatural interventions are dotted throughout the stories of hagiographers over the centuries. This book seeks to reconstruct the cultural history of the theft of relics in the specific context of Italy, from Late Antiquity to the Central Middle Ages, availing itself of an interdisciplinary perspective.

BIOGRAPHY

Marco Papisidero is Assistant Professor in History of Christianity and Churches at the University of Palermo, Italy. From 2019 to 2023, he was a Post-doctoral Fellow at the University of Turin, as part of the ERC StG project NeMoSanctI. He has also been Research Fellow at the Edward Worth Library in Dublin and at the Irish Cultural Centre in Paris, and Visiting Professor at the University of Southern Denmark in Odense.



Italy in Late Antiquity and the Early Middle Ages
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7. Dreams, Rituals, and Spaces

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Map of the thefts of relics

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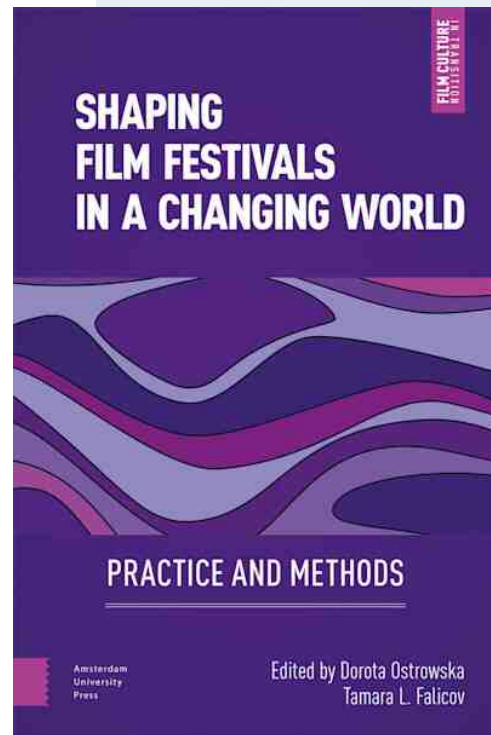
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Edited by Dorota Ostrowska and Tamara Falicov

Shaping Film Festivals In a Changing World

Practice and Methods

This volume is a collective attempt on the part of a community of academics, film festival curators, and archivists to come to terms with practical and intellectual challenges of the pandemic and post-pandemic realities affecting cultures of film festivals. The collection draws contours of critical inquiry orienting current film festival research and practice to explore new directions in archiving and decolonizing practices and big data analysis in the post-Covid-19 context and beyond. The four-part study gathers the voices of academics and practitioners who engage in a dialogue to articulate critical areas for both study and practice of film festivals, and identifies conceptual tools to address them: “Archival Turn,” “Decolonizing Film Festival Studies,” “Post-Covid-19 and Film Festival Studies” and “Data Visualization and Film Festival Research and Practice.”



Film Culture in Transition
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BIOGRAPHY

Dorota Ostrowska is a senior lecturer in film and modern media at Birkbeck, University of London. She has written extensively about Polish and French film and TV histories, and film festival cultures. She is the author of *Reading the French new wave: critics, writers and art cinema in France* (2008), *European Cinemas in the Television Age* (co-edited with G. Roberts, 2007), *Popular cinemas in Central and Eastern Europe: film cultures and histories* (co-edited with F. Pitassio and Z. Varga, 2017). She is working on a monograph on the cultural history of international film festivals with special focus on questions of space, programming and spectatorial experience.

Tamara L. Falicov is the inaugural dean of the UMKC School of Humanities and Social Sciences and author of *Latin American Film Industries and The Cinematic Tango: Contemporary Argentine Film*. Her research interests range from Latin American film festival research to assisting medical researchers in understanding language and culture in the treatment of Latinx patients and families.

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Edited by Tze-ki Hon and Ying-kit Chan
**The Cityscapes of Taipei,
Hong Kong, and Singapore
during the Cold War**

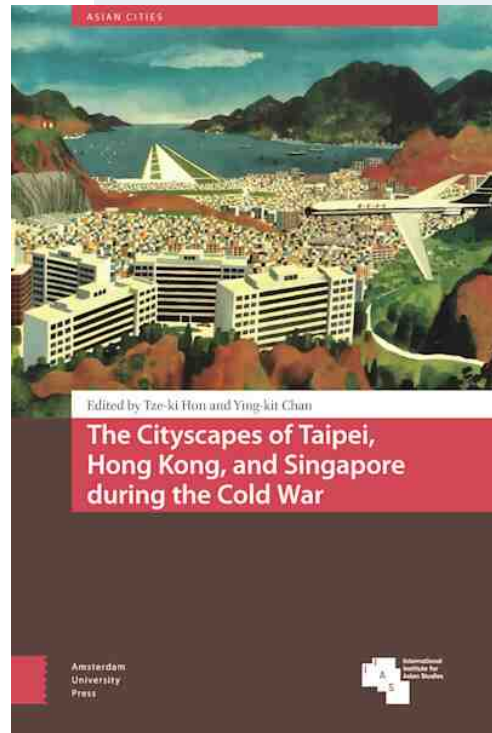
This volume presents a comparative analysis of three key cities—Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taipei—during the Cold War. Strategically positioned within international trade networks, these cities also served as critical nodes for both regional conflicts and cooperation. The comparison primarily focuses on their urban landscapes, drawing on the memories embedded in their collective memoryscapes, the imagery presented in their filmscapes, and the perceptions of their inhabitants, as reflected in fiction and films that portrayed urban life and the experiences of ordinary people.

The Cityscape of Hong Kong, Singapore, and Taipei during the Cold War explores both the shared characteristics of these cities as frontiers in the bipolar global system (divided between Communism and the Free World) and their distinctive features as unique spaces shaped by their own meanings and opportunities.

BIOGRAPHY

Tze-ki Hon is Professor Emeritus at the State University of New York at Geneseo. His research interests include the philosophy of the Book of Changes, 20th century Chinese socio-political changes, New Confucianism in contemporary China, and Cold War Hong Kong.

Ying-kit Chan is Assistant Professor of Chinese Studies at the National University of Singapore. His books include *Southeast Asia in China: Historical Entanglements and Contemporary Engagements*, *Contesting Chineseness: Ethnicity, Identity, and Nation in China and Southeast Asia*, and *Alternative Representations of the Past: The Politics of History in Modern China*.



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KEYWORDS
Cityscape, Cold War, collective memory, cultural production, East Asia, Southeast Asia

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Remco Raben and Peter Romijn

Translated by Gioia Marini

Tales of Violence

Dutch Management of Information in the Indonesian War of Independence, 1945-1949

Although it has long been known that the Indonesian War of Independence was far more violent than generally assumed by the Dutch public, for a long time the tendency to downplay, ignore, or justify the scale and nature of this violence dominated. *Tales of Violence* examines how politicians and administrators in both the Netherlands and Indonesia have dealt with this large-scale violence and poses painful questions.

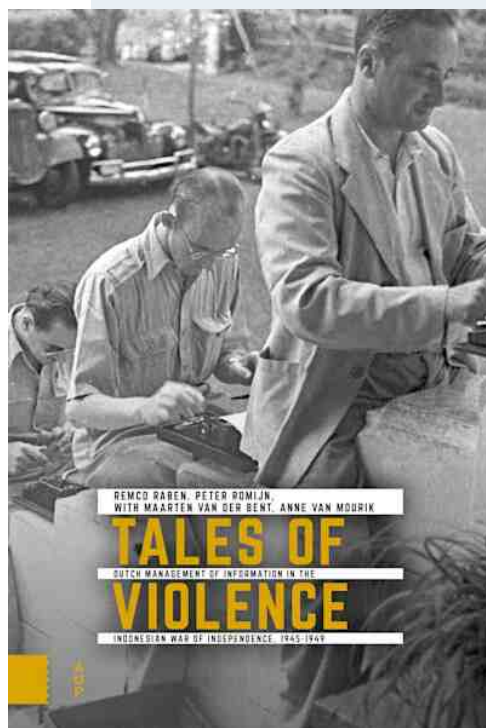
How were the violence of war and the numerous excesses between 1945-1949 discussed, concealed, passed on, manipulated, and used politically? What did Dutch, colonial, and Indonesian politicians and administrators know about the nature of the actions of their own and enemy troops?

Why did investigations into specific scandals grind to a halt or were their outcomes hidden from the public? What did those in charge do with their knowledge and how did communications influence public support for warfare? The authors argue that the way the war in Indonesia has long been viewed has its origins partly in the language and manipulation of information during the conflict.

BIOGRAPHY

Remco Raben teaches global, (post)colonial and Asian history at Utrecht University and is a Professor at the University of Amsterdam, where he holds an endowed chair in colonial and postcolonial literature and cultural history.

Peter Romijn is a historian, Head of Research at NIOD, and part-time Professor of Twentieth-Century History at the University of Amsterdam.



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Rémy Limpach

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Stumbling in the Dark

The Battle for Intelligence in the Indonesian War of Independence, 1945-1949

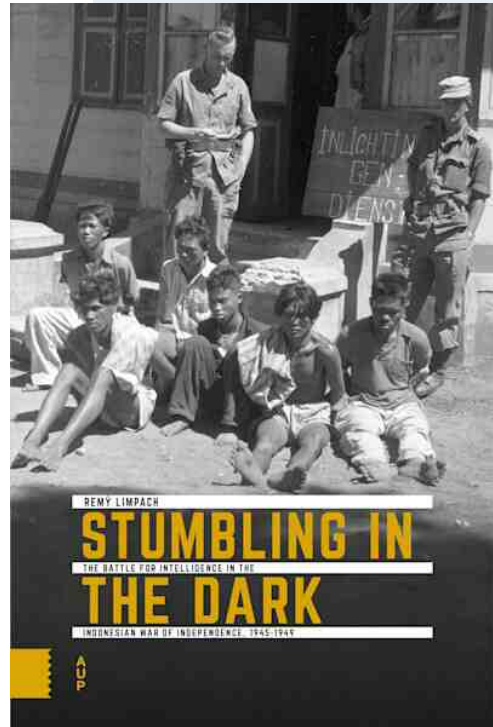
In guerrilla warfare such as the Indonesian War of Independence, intelligence is critical for achieving military success. No wonder, then, that the Netherlands and the Republic of Indonesia waged a grim intelligence war from 1945-1949 by means of espionage, infiltration and other – often extremely violent – methods, including the interrogation of prisoners. In addition, both Dutch and Indonesians set up – with varying degrees of success – an extensive alarm system to warn their own troops of attacks in advance.

Until recently, little was known about the complex Dutch-Indonesian intelligence struggle and its impact on the population. This book offers an analysis of this aspect of the war, focusing on the actions of the Dutch military intelligence services. An important question is to what extent the Dutch intelligence services used torture and abuse. *Stumbling in the Dark* thus provides new insights into the nature and extent of the extreme use of force by the Dutch armed forces in the Indonesian War of Independence.

BIOGRAPHY

Rémy Limpach is a senior researcher at the Netherlands Institute of Military History (NIMH). He previously published the book *De brandende kampongs van generaal Spoor* [*The burning kampongs of General Spoor*] (2016) and is specialized in twentieth-century Dutch colonial military history.

Rob de Wijk is the Director of the Hague Centre for Strategic Studies (HCSS) and Professor of International Relations and Security at the Campus the Hague of Leiden University. He was previously a Professor in the field of International Relations at the Royal Netherlands Military Academy and Head of the Defense Concepts Department at the Dutch Ministry of Defense.



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The Stockholm Bloodbath of 1520

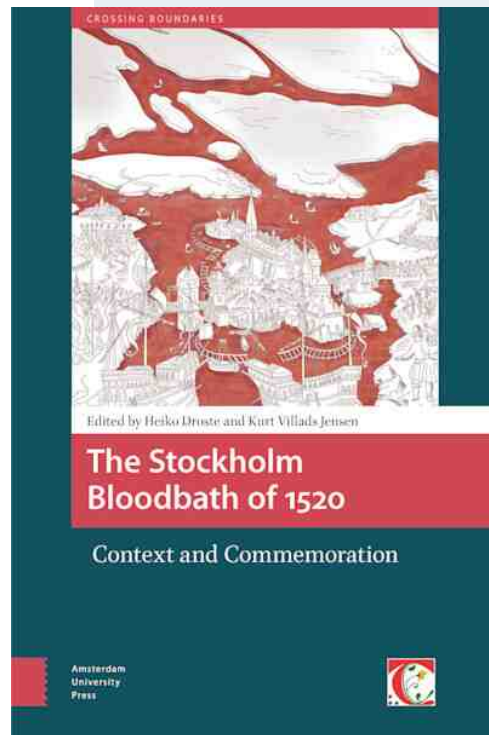
Context and Commemoration

The Stockholm Bloodbath on November 7–9, 1520, during which Kristian II had more than 100 persons executed on charges of heresy, is a turning point in the history of the Northern kingdoms. This bloodbath eventually led to Kristian II's lifelong incarceration, the rise of the Swedish Vasa dynasty, and the end of the Kalmar Union. It has commonly been perceived both as part of Swedish-Danish conflict and also as part of a Swedish civil war. In this volume, fifteen researchers offer new insights both into the events themselves and also, most significantly, into their background and aftermath, which stretch far beyond Stockholm and the year 1520.

BIOGRAPHY

HEIKO DROSTE (b. 1963; Ph.D. 1994, Hamburg University) is Professor of Urban History at Stockholm University and head of the Institute for Urban History. He specializes in the late medieval and early modern history of the Baltic Sea Region, with a focus on cities, communication, diplomacy, the postal system and the historiography of cities. His latest publications concern the Baroque news market and include *The Business of News* (Leiden: Brill, 2021), as well as the *Baroque Historian's Confession: Reflections on the Baroque Economy* (Lund: Lärdomshistoriska samfundet, 2021).

KURT VILLADS JENSEN (b. 1957; Ph.D. 1992, Copenhagen University; D.Phil. 2011, University of Southern Denmark) is Professor of Medieval History and director of the Centre for Medieval Studies at Stockholm University. He has worked with cultural and religious encounters in medieval Latin Europe, as well as with military history and crusading, comparing the Baltic Sea Region and the Iberian Peninsula. He is now studying the relationship between changes in Latin sacramental theology and the implications for the concept of sacred warfare c. 1050–1300.



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**Protagonists of Urban Order
from the Middle Ages to the
Present**

Actions, Ideas, Concepts

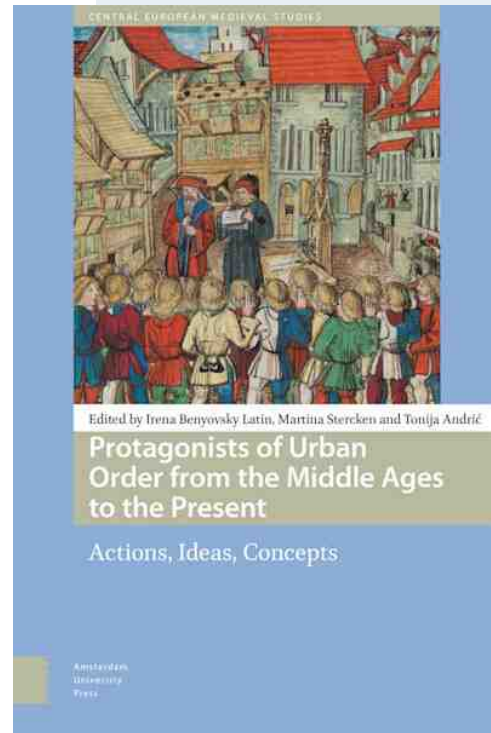
European cities and towns are considered places with a particular order established by their inhabitants. This volume centres on the authorities, groups, and individuals who formed the rules for common life in urban communities. It considers the protagonists of urban order between the Middle Ages and modernity: those who were responsible for the common welfare, those who produced change, and those who caused disorder. The authors focus on the practices that shaped the order of urban communities and in particular on situations in which this order was transformed both socially and spatially. By looking at urban order through this lens, the volume sheds light on the complex interplay of interests that can bring about change.

BIOGRAPHY

Irena Benyovsky Latin is Scholarly Advisor at the Croatian Institute of History and general secretary of International Commission for History of Towns. She researches medieval urban history of Dalmatian Cities. The most important books: *Knjige op.inskih nekretnina i najmova Dubrovnika* (13.-18. st.) (2007), *Srednjovjekovni Trogir. Prostor i dru.tvo* (2009).

Tonija Andrić, is an Associate Professor at the Department for History at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at University of Split, Croatia.

Martina Stercken is a Professor of medieval history at University of Zürich. Her research interests include urban history, history of power and medieval cartography. Recent books: *Kommunale Selbstinszenierung. Städtische Konstellationen zwischen Mittelalter und Neuzeit* (2018), *Stadtentwicklung im vormodernen Europa* (2021).



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Edited by Marijke Malsch and Janine Janssen

Human Trafficking and Sexual Exploitation around the World

Law, Ideology, and the Experiences of Sex Workers and Clients

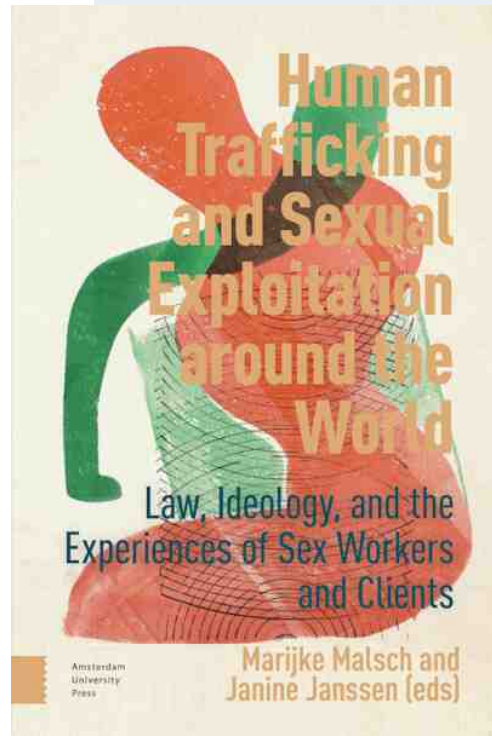
Sex work is often called the oldest profession in the world. It manifests itself in a plethora of forms. A move to private locations is now taking place: contacts are established via the Internet and meetings take place at appointed places. This makes it more difficult to monitor forced work, and exploitation therefore risks remaining undetected.

This book presents empirical findings regarding exploitation in various countries, considering sex workers, traffickers and clients, and the fight against human trafficking. Countries differ vastly in their legislative approaches, ranging from highly repressive to very liberal. This volume asks whether the ongoing process of making and changing laws is sufficiently effective in fighting human trafficking. Other interventions could obtain better outcomes, such as promoting more independence among women and helping trafficked individuals to get out. Less ideology and more attention to the facts of exploitation and sex work might help to achieve these aims.

BIOGRAPHY

Marijke Malsch is a professor of Empirical Legal studies, Open Universiteit Netherlands, and fellow at the Netherlands Institute for the Study of Crime and Law Enforcement (NSCR).

Janine Janssen is a professor of Legal Anthropology at Open Universiteit Netherlands, professor of Violence in Relations of Dependency at Avans University of Applied Sciences and at the Police Academy.



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Wen-Hsuan Tsai

The Inner Court of Communist China

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This book discusses the mishu (staff member, secretary) system and the operation of the Chinese Communist Party between 1921 and 2022, focusing on the system's impact on high-level politics and decision-making during four key periods. Starting with the Revolutionary War (1921–1945), it moves to the founding of the People's Republic of China and the beginning of the Cultural Revolution (1950–1966), the period of the Cultural Revolution (1966–1976), and finally the period of reform and opening up, bringing the history to the present day (1976–2022). This is the first systematic analysis of the mishu system, offering new insights on the history of the CCP and modern China.



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BIOGRAPHY

Wen-Hsuan Tsai is a Research Fellow at the Institute of Political Science, Academia Sinica (Taiwan). His main research is on Chinese political development, and authoritarian regimes. Tsai has published many articles in *The China Journal*, *The China Quarterly*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, and other journals in English and Chinese. In addition to publishing this book with Amsterdam University Press, he also has another monograph entitled *A Tight Grip: State Power and Control in Modern China* (Vancouver: University of British Columbia Press, 2024).

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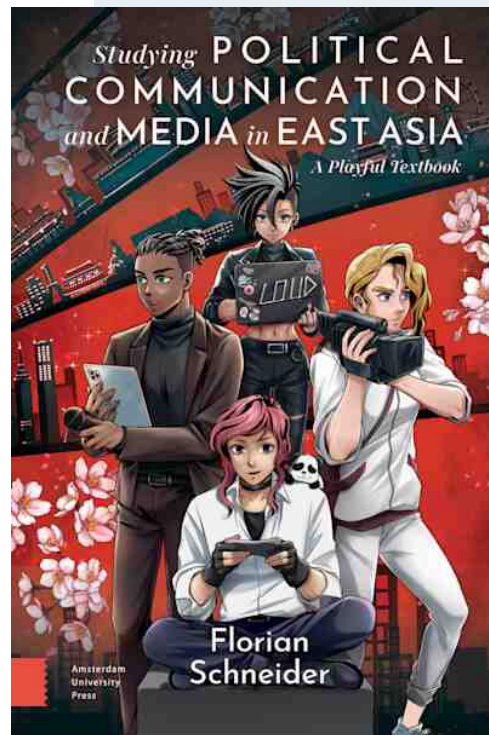
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BIOGRAPHY

Florian Schneider is Chair Professor of Modern China at the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies. He is managing editor of *Asiascape: Digital Asia* and author of numerous books and articles on political communication and media in China.



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Takeda Kiyoko

Translated by Vanessa Ward

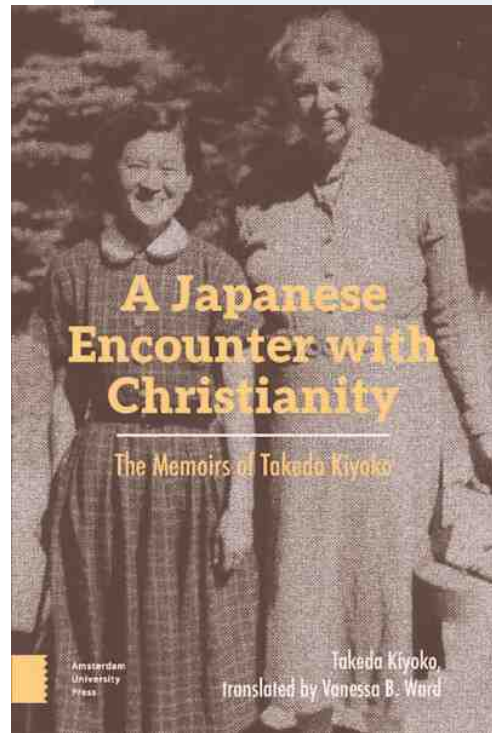
A Japanese Encounter with Christianity

The Memoirs of Takeda Kiyoko

Meet Takeda Kiyoko (1917–2018), a remarkable woman, whose life-course defies the stereotypes of Japanese women in modern Japan. Told in her own words, these memoirs focus on “encounters”—the individuals whom she met in her travels to Asia, the United States and Europe, and through her involvement in organisations such as the YWCA and World Student Christian Federation (WSCF), and the progressive Japanese thinkers that came up in her research (the encounter between Christianity and Japanese thinkers of the modern period (from 1867)). Takeda introduces us to her mother, whose thoughts on women’s higher education and marriage were ahead of her times, and to her encounter with Christianity at the Christian girls’ school she attended after Japanese high school. Her intellectual world expanded with her involvement with Christian organisations such as the YWCA, and the WSCF, and when she went to the USA as an exchange student.

BIOGRAPHY

Currently an independent researcher, Vanessa B. Ward taught Japanese history at the University of Otago between 2007–2017. Her publications include: ‘A Christian Challenge: Ch. Takeda Kiyoko and Feminist Thought in Modern Japan’, *Women’s History Review* 21: 2 (2012), pp. 281–299.



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Japanese Christian women, pre-WWII women’s education, overseas experience

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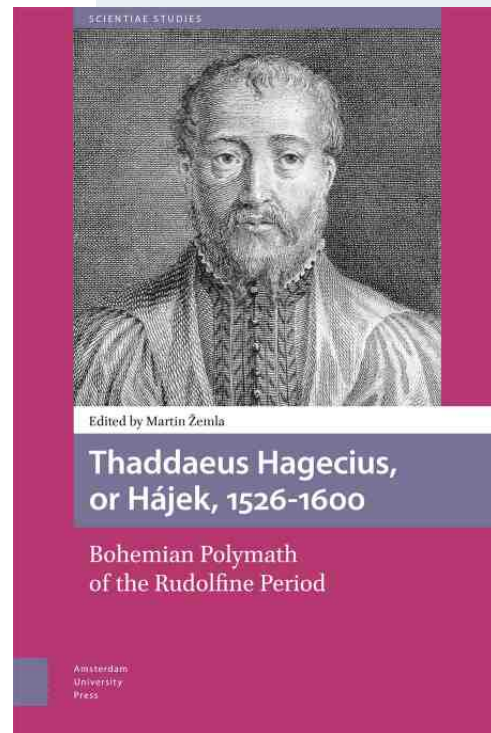
Thaddaeus Hagecius, or Hájek, 1526-1600

Bohemian Polymath of the Rudolfine Period

Tadeas Hajek of Hajek (1526–1600), Latinized as Thaddaeus Hagecius ab Hagek/Hayek, was a key figure in early scientific debates not only in his native Bohemia. A versatile scholar and polymath, he was prolific in medicine, botany, mathematics and astronomy. Modern interpreters tended to point out his astronomical interpretations to emphasize his greatest achievements and his “modernity.” However, Hajek also drew extensively on traditional arts such as alchemy, astrology and metoposcopy. In this volume, the contributors study various aspects of Hayek’s thought to present a less tendentious intellectual portrait of him in the context of his times. Even from this more adequate perspective, he remains an important figure in the dialectical process of transmitting ideas whose influence extended far beyond the Czech lands.

BIOGRAPHY

Mgr. Ing. Martin Zemla, PhD, research fellow at the Centre for Renaissance Texts, Palacky University, Olomouc, and head of the publishing department OIKOYMENH at the Institute of Philosophy, Prague. He has been working on German Mysticism, Renaissance Platonism and Paracelsianism.



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Faces of Liberation

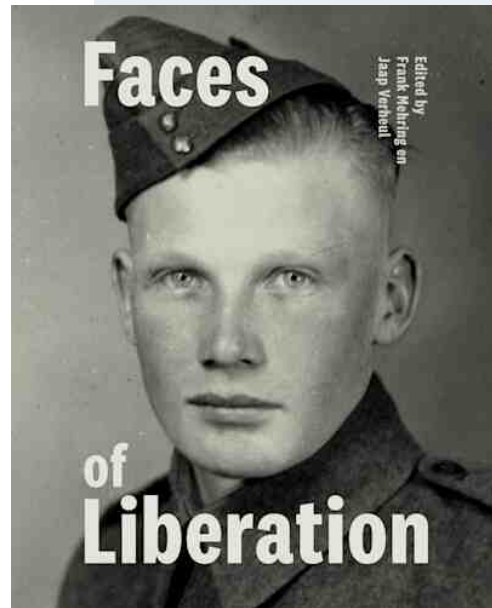
The Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek is the burial place of 2,618 soldiers from Canada and the British Commonwealth. Most died during the liberation of the Netherlands and the decisive Rhineland Offensive at the end of World War II. This book brings their individual stories to life and offers a moving tribute to the young men who fought for freedom, democracy and peace. With the names of all the fallen and the 1,012 missing on the Memorial Wall, this is a valuable unique reference work that permanently honours their sacrifices.

The book tells the history of the cemetery through a transatlantic lens with a special focus on the efforts of Dutch volunteers and local heritage institutions to keep the collective memory alive. Through rich illustrations, this book shows how the Canadian War Cemetery in Groesbeek has become a living tribute to the ties between the Netherlands and Canada.

BIOGRAPHY

Prof. Frank Mehring, Radboud University Nijmegen, has published extensively on Liberation Songs and performed concerts in collaboration with school choirs using music as a key to learn about the past across different nations. He has produced documentary programs on liberation songs for the Canadian Tulips Festival. They are part of the commemoration ceremonies and available online: <https://tulipfestival.ca/songs-of-liberation/>

Jaap Verheul is Associate Professor of Cultural History at Utrecht University and Professor of Transatlantic Relations at Radboud University Nijmegen.



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Second World War; Canadian liberation of the Netherlands; History of the Groesbeek Canadian War Cemetery; memorial for Canadian soldiers

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4. Remembering with stories and images: The Faces to Graves Initiative (Alice van Bekkum and Saskia Peters)

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6. The Canadian Liberation of the Netherlands in Dutch Cultural Memory (Frank Mehring and Jaap Verheul)

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Mieke Kirkels

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From Alabama to Margraten

The Story of War Veteran Jefferson Wiggins in the Segregated US Army during World War II

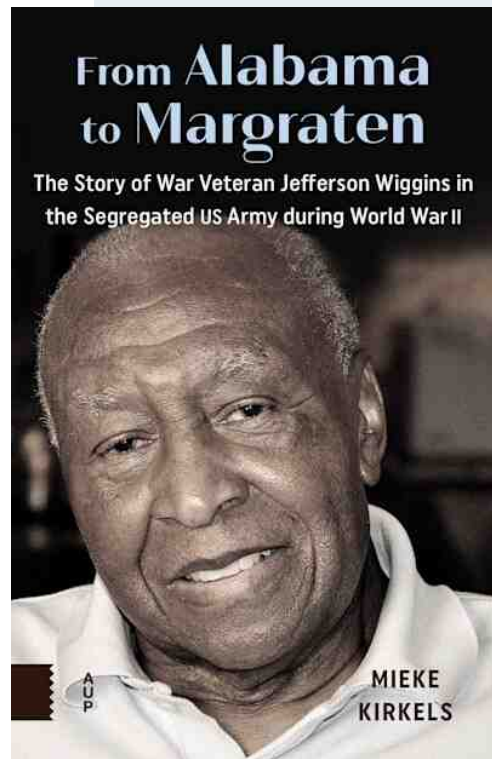
When he returned to the Netherlands in 2009, decades after World War II, Jefferson Wiggins realized that no one he met knew about the segregated US Army during the war, nor did they know about the contribution of Black American soldiers to the liberation of the Netherlands. They were not mentioned anywhere in Dutch history books or in archives. Together with oral historian Mieke Kirkels, Wiggins sat down to record his memories. Wiggins passed away in 2013, and his widow, Janice Wiggins-Paterson, continued the project in his memory. With newly discovered archival material, and richly illustrated, this book gives a lively account of an undocumented story of WWII, Black American, and Dutch military history.

BIOGRAPHY

Mieke Kirkels is an oral historian and the author of several acclaimed books on oral history and Dutch war history. She is also an Officer in the Order of Orange Nassau.

"While history is often a clash of great powers that spreads worldwide, it is equally a struggle of individuals caught in the maelstrom of time. The life story of Jefferson Wiggins, captured here in an engaging and insightful manner, clearly portrays how an African American soldier faces the completely unanticipated consequences of his military recruitment, resulting in hardship at a military cemetery on the other side of the Atlantic."

prof. dr. Kees Ribbens, Erasmus University Rotterdam



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Black American history, oral history, segregation, Dutch memorial culture, gravediggers, biography

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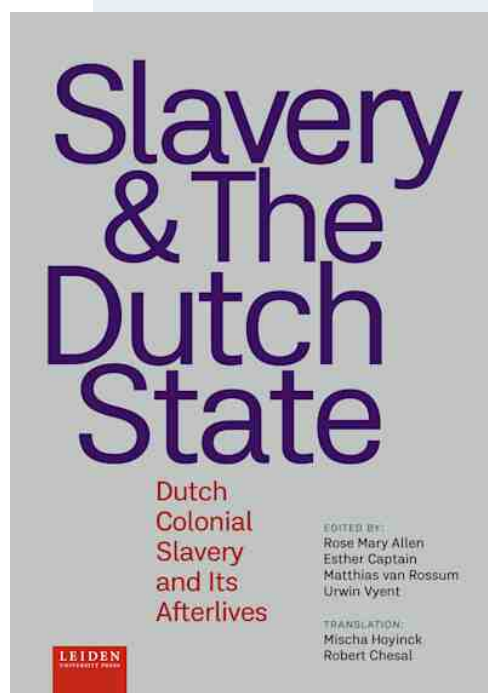


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Slavery and The Dutch State

Dutch Colonial Slavery and Its Afterlives

It is the paradox at the heart of the Dutch Republic: how could a state emerge from resistance to political slavery and subjugation by a foreign power, only to become a colonial empire that promoted slavery all over the world? *Slavery and the Dutch State* shows how the modern Dutch state and its predecessors were complicit in colonial slavery. It describes the roles of various actors, such as enslaved people, administrators and merchants in the Netherlands and the colonized societies. More than thirty authors discuss the afterlives of slavery, the systematic nature of slavery in the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, the worldwide scope of slavery, and the various individuals, groups and organizations that had interests in slavery and colonialism starting in the sixteenth century. With chapters covering topics such as the Dutch Reformed Church's role in slavery, how the history of slavery is taught in schools, and the involvement of the Dutch parliament and royal family in colonial slavery, *Slavery and the Dutch State* is one of the main publications to appear between July 1, 2023 and July 1, 2024, the year when the Netherlands collectively commemorated the legacy of slavery.



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BIOGRAPHY

Rose Mary Allen (1950) is an anthropologist and extraordinary professor of Culture, Community and History at the University of Curaçao. In April 2024, Professor Allen became the first Thinker in Residence at the Faculty of Philosophy, Theology and Religious Studies, Radboud University, Nijmegen.

Esther Captain (1969) is a historian and senior researcher at the Royal Netherlands Institute of Southeast Asian and Caribbean Studies (KITLV) in Leiden. She is a member of the committee overseeing independent research into the role of the House of Orange-Nassau in Dutch colonial history and an author/editor on this research team. She is specialized in late colonial Indonesia, the Indonesian revolution, and postcolonial Netherlands in relation to the Dutch Caribbean islands, Indonesia and Suriname.

Matthias van Rossum (1984) is a historian and senior researcher at the International Institute of Social History (IISG) in Amsterdam. He focuses on the history of slavery in Asia and its links to the Atlantic slave trade.

Urwin Vyent (1958) is the director of the National Institute for the Study of Dutch Slavery and its Legacy (NiNsee). In addition to his work for NiNsee, he is part of the team planning and developing the National Slavery Museum in Amsterdam.

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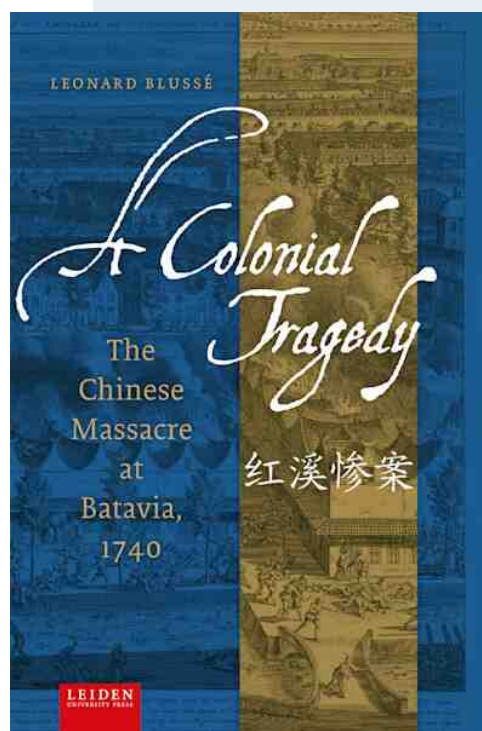
A Colonial Tragedy

The Chinese Massacre at Batavia, 1740

"In October 1740, a tragedy unfolded in Batavia, the Asian headquarters of the Dutch East India Company on the island of Java. Faced with a spontaneous Chinese peasant uprising, Batavia's vengeful inhabitants carried out a bloody massacre of their fellow Chinese within the city walls. The murderers marched from house to house, looting and pillaging, not even sparing the hospitals and prisons. How could such a slaughter take place in the prosperous Queen of the East? Drawing on a wealth of Dutch and Chinese sources, Leonard Blussé reconstructs the colonial development of Batavia and its environs, and the crucial Chinese contribution to it. After more than a hundred years of successful cooperation, this spectacular colonial project was lost to a toxic mix of ecological decline, epidemics, runaway Chinese immigration and high-level personal conflicts within the colonial administration, with the Chinese paying the ultimate price. Never before has so much attention to detail revealed what preceded the massacre and how this tragedy was eventually swept under the carpet of colonial history."

BIOGRAPHY

Leonard Blussé (1946) held the chair in the History of Asian-European Relations at the University of Leiden. His best-known publications in English include *Strange Company*, (KITLV press, 1986), *Bitter Bonds* (Markus Wiener, 2002), *Visible Cities* (Harvard UP, 2008), and *the Chinese Annals of Batavia* (Brill, 2018).



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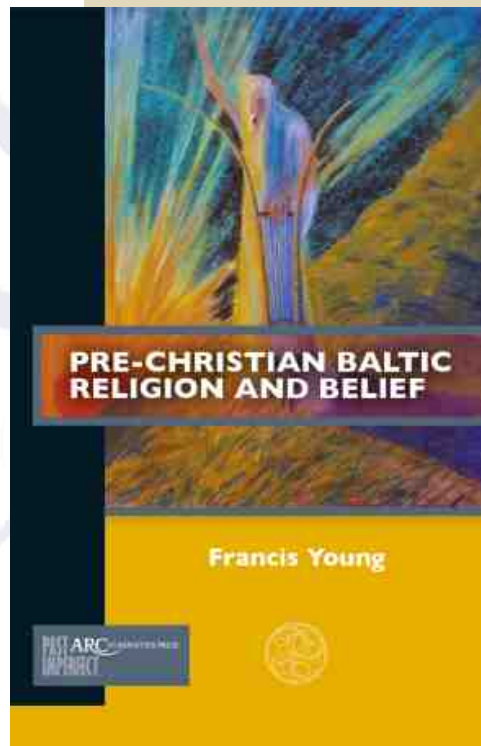
Francis Young

Pre-Christian Baltic Religion and Belief

The Baltic peoples of Prussia, Lithuania, and Latvia were among the last in Europe to be Christianized. In spite of their survival (in some cases) as late as the eighteenth century, the pre-Christian religions of the Baltic are little known beyond the Baltic states. Baltic religions have often been interpreted through the lens of modern reconstructions of mythology based on nineteenth-century folklore collections. This book, by contrast, draws on historical sources contemporaneous with or close in time to the practice of pre-Christian cults. These include the writings of chroniclers and early ethnographers, documents produced by authorities concerned about the continuation of pre-Christian practices, and the evidence of archaeology. Focusing on the deities, sacred places, and sacred rites of the Balts, this book is the first dedicated introduction in English to the religious world of some of Europe's last pagan peoples.

BIOGRAPHY

Francis Young is Senior Research Associate at the University of Portsmouth and the author or editor of twenty-two books, including *Pagans in the Early Modern Baltic* (2022) and *Poetry and Nation-Building in the Grand Duchy of Lithuania* (2024).



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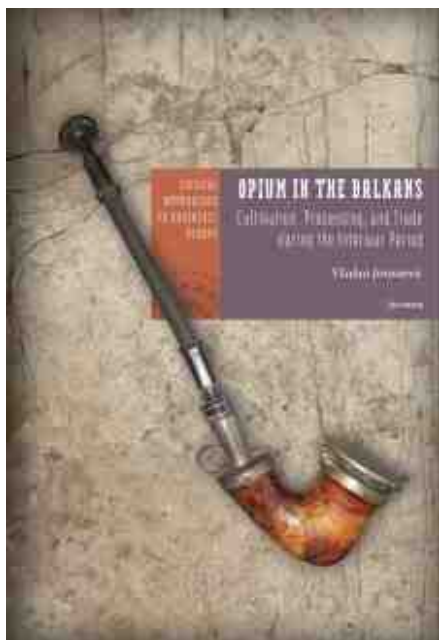
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Opium in the Balkans

Vladan Jovanović



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Macedonian raw opium was a highly sought-after pharmaceutical raw material. This book focuses on its cultivation and production, and the trafficking of opium-based narcotics. Vladan Jovanović offers fresh insight into a neglected and marginalized subject, tracing and contextualizing both the licit and the illicit processing and trade of opium alkaloids from the Western Balkans through Turkey, and on to the rest of the world between the two World Wars.

His approach is to explore the subject both from the top down, involving the League of Nations and politicians and diplomats, as well as from the bottom up, through the analysis of the activities of smugglers, police, and ordinary people who participated in the production and distribution of opium. The author describes the process of relocating the illegal processing industry from Turkey and Bulgaria to Yugoslavia. He insightfully shows the implicit continuity of relations between the former Ottoman Empire and the newly constituted Yugoslav state in the form of bilateral political agreements.

He pays special attention to the illegal activities within the legal pharmaceutical industry and also exposes the role of criminal networks, which he situates in the appropriate political and social context. The exploration of this sensitive historical subject extends to other Balkan countries, along with Turkey, Western Europe, and the United States.

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About the author

Vladan Jovanović is a Principal Research Fellow at the Institute for Recent History of Serbia in Belgrade. His primary research focuses on the integration of the formerly Ottoman territories of Macedonia and Kosovo into Serbia and Yugoslavia. He is the Editor-in-Chief of *Tokovi istorije/Currents of History*, an academic journal.

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Moritz Gottlieb Saphir András Koerner

The writer and journalist Moritz Gottlieb Saphir (1795–1858) was born to an Orthodox Jewish family in a Hungarian village and studied in a yeshiva but spent his professional life in the cities of Germany and Austria. He was one of the most popular authors and cultural figures in Central and Western Europe in the 19th century, which can be also seen from the fact that Alexandre Dumas, Sr. published a collection of his writings in French complete with a long essay expressing his admiration for Saphir. Together with his friends Heinrich Heine and Ludwig Börne, Saphir was the first Jewish author to achieve international fame. Like them, he converted to the Lutheran faith, but he never denied his Jewish origins and wrote appreciatively of Jewish food traditions.

His literary and journalistic innovations included publishing the first modern newspapers in Berlin, Munich and Vienna, developing a new style of humorous writing, introducing the journalistic genre of the feuilleton to Austria, authoring the first extended prose poem in the German language and writing the first study of vernacular Ashkenazi Jewish cuisine, as well as the first review of a Jewish cookbook and restaurant. Although due to censorship he had to largely eschew political subjects, he courageously fought for press freedom and against anti-Jewish prejudice. Although perhaps not a great writer, he was an important and intriguing figure of European cultural history who certainly doesn't deserve the neglect his work has suffered since the early 20th century.

András Koerner's book is the first modern monograph of him, which in addition to a detailed presentation of his eventful, interesting life and an examination of his personality, identity and work also includes the first-ever extensive annotated anthology of him in English.

About the author

András Koerner was born in 1940 in Budapest. After receiving his degree in architecture he worked for several years as an architect. In 1967, he moved to the United States, where he continued the same career. Since his retirement, he dedicates his time mostly to writing and organizing exhibitions. He is author of the award-winning *Jewish Cuisine in Hungary* (CEU Press 2019).

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Working in Music on the Semi-Periphery

Emília Barna

While music as labor feeds into the capitalist cultural industries, this book proves that in this sector informality greatly permeates and governs power relations and the allocations of resources. The significant level of informal involvement of the household in the creative and reproductive processes is also explored. It is particularly in the semiperipheral context that the relationship between home-based work and paid work is unbalanced: Emília Barna's field data are from Hungary and range from 2018 to 2021. The same context also implies considerable involvement of the state and its subsidies, as well as the important role of gatekeepers' political capital.

This book embraces the widest possible range of workers in the music industry. It deals with all music genres from high-flying to commercial and observes various workers in the production chain beyond musicians. Niche segments of the sector, such as YouTube-based commercial hip hop, are given special treatment. Using a variety of empirical research methods, the study examines the trends as workers are pushed towards digital entrepreneurship and platform work, on the one hand, and live performance, on the other. The focus on domestic work and informality offers a feminist analysis of work in music. This approach sheds light on gendered divisions of labor and forms of (self-)exploitation that usually remain invisible. The book proposes a new model of cultural autonomy that takes account of the semiperipheral relationship of music industry workers and institutions to both the market and the state.

About the author

Emília Barna, PhD is Associate Professor at the Department of Sociology and Communication, Budapest University of Technology and Economics. She is a sociologist and popular music scholar, whose main research areas include the music industries and digitalization, popular music and gender, cultural labor, and popular music and politics.

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