Monthly Title Information
AI Sheets - January 2021
AUP Marketing; Lucia Dove (l.dove@aup.nl)
22/10/2020

Amsterdam University Press

9789463723725  Racial Difference and the Colonial Wars of 19th Century Southeast Asia
9789463725200  Women at the Early Modern Swedish Court
9789463727853  Global Perspectives on China’s Belt and Road Initiative
9789462989894  Abstraction in Medieval Art
9789463729321  Challenging Women’s Agency and Activism in Early Modernity

Arc Humanities Press

9781942401735  Animism, Materiality, and Museums
9781641894043  Situating the Andean Colonial Experience
9781641894104  Coloniality and the Rise of Liberation Thinking during the Sixteenth Century
Edited by Farish A. Noor and Peter Carey

Racial Difference and the Colonial Wars of 19th Century Southeast Asia

The colonisation of Southeast Asia was a long and often violent process where numerous military campaigns were waged by the colonial powers across the region. The notion of racial difference was crucial in many of these wars, as native Southeast Asian societies were often framed in negative terms as 'savage' and 'backward' communities that needed to be subdued and 'civilised'. This collection of critical essays focuses on the colonial construction of race and looks at how the colonial wars in 19th century Southeast Asia were rationalised via recourse to theories of racial difference, making race a factor in the wars of Empire. Looking at the colonial wars in Java, Borneo, Indochina, Philippines and other parts of Southeast Asia, the essays examine the manner in which the idea of racial difference was weaponised by the colonising powers and how forms of local resistance often worked through such colonial structures of identity politics.

BIOGRAPHY
Dr. Farish A. Noor is Associate Professor at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies and the School of History, Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, Nanyang Technological University NTU Singapore.
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Fabian Persson
Women at the Early Modern Swedish Court
*Power, Risk, and Opportunity*

What was it possible for a woman to achieve at an early modern court? By analysing the experiences of a wide range of women at the court of Sweden, this book demonstrates the opportunities open to women who served at, and interacted with, the court; the complexities of women’s agency in a court society; and, ultimately, the precariousness of power. In doing so, it provides an institutional context to women’s lives at court, charting the full extent of the rewards that they might obtain, alongside the social and institutional constrictions that they faced. Its longue durée approach, moreover, clarifies how certain periods, such as that of the queens regnant, brought new possibilities. Based on an extensive array of Swedish and international primary sources, including correspondence, financial records and diplomatic reports, it also takes into account the materialities used to create hierarchies and ceremonies, such as physical structures and spaces within the court. Comprehensive in its scope, the book is divided into three parts, which focus respectively on outsiders at court, insiders, and members of the royal family.

**BIOGRAPHY**
Fabian Persson is Lecturer in History at Linnaeus University in Sweden and since 2017 a Visiting Scholar at University of Oxford. His main expertise lies in the history of the early modern court but he has also written on patronage, corruption, élites, aristocratic marriage and duelling.

**Gendering the Late Medieval and Early Modern World**
January 2021
328 pages, 25 b/w illustrations
Hardback
156 x 234 mm
€109.00 / £99.00 / $136.00
€108.99 / £98.99 / $135.99

ISBN 9789463725200
e-ISBN 9789048543533
BISAC HIS037040 / HIS037090 / SOC028000
BIC HBJD / HBLH / HBTB

**KEYWORDS**
Women, Power, Status, Risk, Opportunity

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Global Perspectives on China’s Belt and Road Initiative

Asserting Agency through Regional Connectivity

2013 saw the launch of the largest, most influential investment initiative in recent memory: China’s Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This globe-spanning strategy has reshaped local economies and regional networks, and it has become a contested subject for scholars and practitioners alike. How should we make sense of the complex interactions that the BRI has enabled? Understanding these processes requires truly global perspectives alongside careful attention to the role that local actors play in giving shape to individual BRI projects. The contributions in this volume provide both ‘big picture’ assessments of China’s role in regional and global interactions and detailed case studies that home in on the role agency plays in BRI dynamics. Written by leading area studies scholars with diverse disciplinary expertise, this book reveals how Chinese efforts to recalibrate the world are taken up, challenged, revamped, and reworked in diverse contexts around the world.

BIOGRAPHY

Florian Schneider, PhD, Sheffield University, is Senior University Lecturer in the Politics of Modern China at the Leiden University Institute for Area Studies. He is managing editor of Asiascape: Digital Asia, director of the Leiden Asia Centre, and the author of three books: Staging China: the Politics of Mass Spectacle (Leiden University Press, 2019), China's Digital Nationalism (Oxford University Press, 2018), and Visual Political Communication in Popular Chinese Television Series (Brill, 2013, recipient of the 2014 EastAsiaNet book prize).

To pre-order this book visit www.aup.nl

January 2021
304 pages, 8 b/w illustrations
Hardback
156 x 234 mm
€105.00 / £96.00 / $124.00
Open Access

ISBN 9789463727853
e-ISBN 9789048553952
BISAC POL011000 / POL023000 / POL054000
BIC 1FPC / JPS / KCP

KEYWORDS

China; Belt and Road Initiative; BRI; Agency; Connectivity

Distribution Rest of World via NBN International | www.distribution.nbni.co.uk
Distribution North America via Baker & Taylor Publisher Services | www.btpubservices.com

Amsterdam University Press
Nieuwe Prinsengracht 89
1018 VR Amsterdam
T +31 (0)20 420 00 50
info@aup.nl
marketing@aup.nl

www.aup.nl
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Edited by Elina Gertsman

Abstraction in Medieval Art

Beyond the Ornament

Abstraction haunts medieval art, both withdrawing figuration and suggesting elusive presence. How does it make or destroy meaning in the process? Does it suggest the failure of figuration, the faltering of iconography? Does medieval abstraction function because it is imperfect, incomplete, and uncorrected—and therefore cognitively, visually demanding? Is it, conversely, precisely about perfection? To what extent is the abstract predicated on theorization of the unrepresentable and imperceptible? Does medieval abstraction pit aesthetics against metaphysics, or does it enrich it, or frame it, or both? Essays in this collection explore these and other questions that coalesce around three broad themes: medieval abstraction as the untethering of image from what it purports to represent, abstraction as a vehicle for signification, and abstraction as a form of figuration. Contributors approach the concept of medieval abstraction from a multitude of perspectives—formal, semiotic, iconographic, material, phenomenological, epistemological.

BIOGRAPHY

Elina Gertsman is Professor of Medieval Art and Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan Professor in Catholic Studies II at Case Western Reserve University. She is the author of The Dance of Death in the Middle Ages: Image, Text, Performance (2010) and Worlds Within: Opening the Medieval Shrine Madonna (2015); co-author of The Middle Ages in 50 Objects (2018); and editor of several volumes on performance, emotion, liminality, and animated objects. Among her forthcoming books is The Absent Image: Lacunae in Medieval Books (2021).

January 2021
420 pages, 36 colour, 66 b/w illustrations
Hardback
170 x 240 mm
€119.00 / £108.00 / $140.00
€118.99 / £107.99 / $139.99

ISBN 9789462989894
e-iSBN 9789048542673
BISAC ARC005030 / ART008000 / HIS037010
BIC ACK / ACN

KEYWORDS

Abstract, medieval, art, ornament, meaning
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Edited by Merry Wiesner-Hanks

Challenging Women's Agency and Activism in Early Modernity

Examining women's agency in the past has taken on new urgency in the current moment of resurgent patriarchy, Women’s Marches, and the global #MeToo movement. The essays in this collection consider women's agency in the Renaissance and early modern period, an era that also saw both increasing patriarchal constraints and new forms of women’s actions and activism. They address a capacious set of questions about how women, from their teenage years through older adulthood, asserted agency through social practices, speech acts, legal disputes, writing, viewing and exchanging images, travel, and community building. Despite family and social pressures, the actions of girls and women could shape their lives and challenge male-dominated institutions. This volume includes thirteen essays by scholars from many disciplines, which analyze people, texts, objects, and images from many different parts of Europe, as well as things and people that crossed the Atlantic and the Pacific.

BIOGRAPHY

Merry E. Wiesner-Hanks is Distinguished Professor of History Emerita at the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. She is the long-time Senior Editor of The Sixteenth Century Journal, and the author or editor of more than 30 books that have appeared in English, German, French, Italian, Spanish, Portuguese, Greek, Chinese, Turkish, and Korean.

Gendering the Late Medieval and Early Modern World
January 2021
320 pages, 22 b/w illustrations
Hardback
156 x 234 mm
€109.00 / £99.00 / $136.00
€108.99 / £98.99 / $135.99
ISBN 9789463729321
e-ISBN 9789048550937
BISAC HIS037020 / HIS058000 / SOC028000
BIC HBJD / HBLH / JFSJ1

KEYWORDS
Women’s agency, early modern, women’s writing, material culture, gender

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Glenn Peers

Animism, Materiality, and Museums

How Do Byzantine Things Feel?

Byzantine art is normally explained as devotional, historical, highly intellectualized, but this book argues for an experiential necessity for a fuller, deeper, more ethical approach to this art. Written in response to an exhibition the author curated at The Menil Collection in 2013, these essays challenge us to search for novel ways to explore and interrogate the art of this distant culture. They marshal diverse disciplines—modern art, environmental theory, anthropology—to argue that Byzantine culture formed a special kind of Christian animism. While completely foreign to our world, that animism still holds important lessons for approaches to our own relations to the world. Mutual probings of subject and art, of past and present, arise in these essays—some new and some previously published—and new explanations therefore open up that will interest historians of art, museum professionals, and anyone interested in how art makes and remakes the world.

BIOGRAPHY

Glenn Peers is professor in the Department of the History of Art and Art History at the University of Texas at Austin. He curated “Byzantine Things in the World” at The Menil Collection (Houston, TX) in 2013.

Collection Development, Cultural Heritage, and Digital Humanities
January 2021
305 pages, 30 b/w, 12 line-art illustrations
Hardback
156 x 234 mm
€99.00 / £90.00 / $120.00
Open Access

ISBN 978 19 4240 173 5
e-ISBN 978 19 4240 174 2
BISAC ART015070 / BUS100000
BIC 3F / ACK/ GM

KEYWORDS
Byzantine; exhibition; animism; art; christian animism; museum experience; visitor experience
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Denise Y. Arnold

Situating the Andean Colonial Experience

Ayllu Tales of History and Hagiography in the Time of the Spanish

Re-situating Andean colonial history from the perspective of the local historians of ayllu Qaqachaka, in highland Bolivia, this book draws on regional oral history combined with local and public written archives. Rejecting the binary models in vogue in colonial and postcolonial studies (indigenous/non-indigenous, Andean/Western, conquered/conquering), it explores the complex intercalation of legal pluralism and local history in the negotiations around Spanish demands, resulting in the so-called "Andean pact." The Qaqachaka’s point of reference is the preceding Inka occupation, so in fulfilling Spanish demands they seek cultural continuity with this recent past. Spanish colonial administration, applies its roots in Roman-Germanic and Islamic law to many practices in the newly-conquered territories. Two major cycles of ayllu tales trace local responses to these colonial demands, in the practices for establishing settlements, and the feeding and dressing of the Catholic saints inside the new church, with their forebears in the Inka mummies.

BIOGRAPHY
Denise Y. Arnold is an Anglo-Bolivian anthropologist and expert in Andean ethnography, who divides her time writing and teaching between London and La Paz.
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Thomas Ward

Coloniality and the Rise of Liberation Thinking during the Sixteenth Century

This book delves into the inadequately explored, liberative side of Humanism during the late Renaissance. While some long-sixteenth-century thinking anticipates twentieth-century Liberation Theology, a more appropriate description is simply "liberation thinking," which embraces its diverse, timeless, and sometimes nontheological aspects.

Two moments frame the treatment of American colonialism’s physical and mental pathways and the liberative response to them, known as liberation thinking. These are St. Thomas More’s *Utopia*, published in 1516, and Felipe Guaman Poma de Ayala’s thousand-page *Nueva crónica y buen gobierno*, completed one hundred years later. These works and others by Erasmus and Bartolomé de las Casas trace the development of the idea of human liberation in the face of degrading chattel and encomienda slavery as well as the peonage that gave rise to the hacienda system in the Americas. Catholic humanists such as More, Erasmus, Las Casas, and Guaman Poma developed arguments, theories, and even theology that attempted to deconstruct those subordinating structures.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Thomas Ward is Professor of Spanish at Loyola University Maryland. He is a corresponding member of the Academia Peruana de la Lengua and the Instituto Ricardo Palma.
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