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Michael Edward Stewart

Masculinity, Identity, and Power Politics in the Age of Justinian

A Study of Procopius

A generation of historians has been captivated by the notorious views on gender found in the mid-sixth century Secret History by the Byzantine historian Procopius of Caesarea. Yet the notable but subtler ways in which gender coloured Procopius’ most significant work, the Wars, have received far less attention. This monograph examines how gender shaped the presentation of not only key personalities such as the seminal power-couples Theodora/Justinian and Antonina/Belisarius, but also the Persians, Vandals, Goths, Eastern Romans, and Italoromans, in both the Wars and the Secret History. By analysing the purpose and rationale behind Procopius’ gendered depictions and ethnicizing worldview, this investigation unpicks his knotty agenda. Despite Procopius’s reliance on classical antecedents, the gendered discourse that undergirds both texts under investigation must be understood within the broader context of contemporary political debates at a time when control of Italy and North Africa from Constantinople was contested.
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Bryan Cussen

Pope Paul III and the Cultural Politics of Reform

1534-1549

When Paul III was elected in 1534, hopes arose across Christendom that this pope would at last reform and reunite the Church. During his fifteen-year reign, though, Paul’s engagement with reform was complex and contentious. A work of cultural history, this book explores how cultural narratives of honour and tradition, including how honour played out in politics, significantly constrained Pope Paul and his chosen reformers in framing strategies for change. Indeed, the reformers’ programme would have undermined the culture of honour and weakened Rome’s capacity to ward off current threats of invasion. The study makes a provocative case that Paul called the Council of Trent to contain reform rather than promote it. Nevertheless, Paul and the Council did sow seeds of reform that eventually became central to the Counter-Reformation. This book thus sheds new light on a pope whose relationship to reform has long been regarded as an enigma.

Bryan Cussen is a Research Associate in the Centre for Medieval and Renaissance Studies at Monash University.

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Edited by Susanne Ø. Sæther and Synne Tollerud Bull

Screen Space Reconfigured

*Screen Space Reconfigured* is the first edited volume that critically and theoretically examines the many novel renderings of space brought to us by 21st century screens. Exploring key cases such as post-perspectival space, 3D, vertical framing, haptics, and layering, this volume takes stock of emerging forms of screen space and spatialities as they move from the margins to the centre of contemporary media practice.

Recent years have seen a marked scholarly interest in spatial dimensions and conceptions of moving image culture, with some theorists claiming that a ‘spatial turn’ has taken place in media studies and screen practices alike. Yet this is the first book-length study dedicated to on-screen spatiality as such.

Spanning mainstream cinema, experimental film, video art, mobile screens, and stadium entertainment, the volume includes contributions from such acclaimed authors as Giuliana Bruno and Tom Gunning as well as a younger generation of scholars.

Susanne Østby Sæther, a scholar and curator of contemporary camera-based art, is currently Curator of Photography and New Media Art at Henie Onstad Art Center, Norway.

Synne Tollerud Bull is a visual artist working with Dragan Miletic as Bull.Miletic. Since 2000, they have exhibited internationally and their work has been included in numerous private and public collections.

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Body, Capital, and Screens

Visual Media and the Healthy Self in the 20th Century

*Body, Capital and Screens* brings together new research from leading scholars from Europe and North America working at the intersection of film and media studies and social and cultural history of the body. The volume focuses on visual media in the twentieth century in Europe and the U.S. that informed and educated people about life and health as well as practices improving them. Through a series of in-depth case studies, the contributors to this volume investigate the relationships between film/television, private and public actors of the health sector and economic developments. The book explores the performative and interactive power of these visual media on individual health understandings, perceptions and practices. Visual Media and the Healthy Self in the 20th Century aims to better understand how bodily health has evolved as a form of capital throughout the century.
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Edited by Carol Ludwig, Linda Walton, and Yi-Wen Wang

The Heritage Turn in China
The Reinvention, Dissemination and Consumption of Heritage

This edited volume focuses on heritage discourse and practice in China today as it has evolved from the ‘heritage turn’ that can be dated to the 1990s. Using a variety of disciplinary approaches to regionally and topically diverse case studies, the contributors to this volume show how particular versions of the past are selected, (re)invented, disseminated and consumed for contemporary purposes. These studies explore how the Chinese state utilises heritage not only for tourism, entertainment, educational and commercial purposes, but also as part of broader political strategies on both the national and international stage. Together, they argue that the Chinese state employs modes of heritage governance to construct new modernities while strengthening collective national identity in support of both its political legitimacy and its claim to status as an international superpower. The authors also consider ways in which state management of heritage is contested by some stakeholders whose embrace of heritage has a different purpose and meaning.

Dr. Carol Ludwig is Lecturer in Planning (Civic Design) at Liverpool University, UK.

Professor Emerita Linda Walton established the Institute for Asian Studies at Portland State University, served as its director for three years, and was chair of the History Department for six years.

Dr. Yiwen Wang is Lecturer in Urban Planning and Design, Department of Urban Planning & Design, at the Xi’an Jiatong-Liverpool University in China.

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Edited by Jaap Verheul

The Cultural Life of James Bond

Specters of 007

The release of No Time To Die in 2020 heralds the arrival of the twenty-fifth installment in the James Bond film series. Since the release of Dr. No in 1962, the cinematic James Bond has expedited the transformation of Ian Fleming's literary creation into an icon of western popular culture that has captivated audiences across the globe by transcending barriers of ideology, nation, empire, gender, race, ethnicity, and generation. The Cultural Life of James Bond: Specters of 007 untangles the seemingly perpetual allure of the Bond phenomenon by looking at the non-canonical texts and contexts that encompass the cultural life of James Bond. Chronicling the evolution of the British secret agent over half a century of political, social, and cultural permutations, the fifteen chapters examine the Bond-brand beyond the film series and across media platforms while understanding these ancillary texts and contexts as sites of negotiation with the Eon franchise.

Jaap Verheul is a PhD Candidate in Cinema Studies at New York University.

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J. Vanessa Lyon

Figuring Faith and Female Power in the Art of Rubens

This book argues that the Baroque painter, propagandist, and diplomat, Peter Paul Rubens, was not only aware of rapidly shifting religious and cultural attitudes toward women, but actively engaged in shaping them. Today, Rubens’s paintings continue to be used—and abused—to prescribe and proscribe certain forms of femininity. Repositioning some of the artist’s best-known works within seventeenth-century Catholic theology and female court culture provides a feminist corrective to a body of art historical scholarship in which studies of gender and religion are often mutually exclusive. Moving chronologically through Rubens’s lengthy career, the author shows that, in relation to the powerful women in his life, Rubens figured the female form as a transhistorical carrier of meaning whose devotional and rhetorical efficacy was heightened rather than diminished by notions of female difference and particularity.
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Edited by Ngok Ma and Edmund W. Cheng

The Umbrella Movement
Civil Resistance and Contentious Space in Hong Kong, Revised Edition

This volume examines the most spectacular struggle for democracy in post-handover Hong Kong. Bringing together scholars with different disciplinary focuses and comparative perspectives from mainland China, Taiwan and Macau, one common thread that stitches the chapters is the use of first-hand data collected through onsite fieldwork. This study unearths how trajectories can create favourable conditions for the spontaneous civil resistance despite the absence of political opportunities and surveys the dynamics through which the protestors, the regime and the wider public responses differently to the prolonged contentious space. The Umbrella Movement: Civil Resistance and Contentious Space in Hong Kong offers an informed analysis of the political future of Hong Kong and its relations with the authoritarian sovereignty as well as sheds light on the methodological challenges and promises in studying modern-day protests.

This new edition includes a preface on Hong Kong’s ‘summer of dissent’ in 2019, arguing that the movement’s dynamics and resilience cannot be detached from the learning curve of the protestors and the hidden networks developed after the Umbrella Movement.

"Approaching the character and causes of the protests from various analytic perspectives and diverse methods, the authors shed new and provocative light on the Umbrella Movement, Hong Kong’s most important instance of popular civil resistance after 1997. This book will fascinate and inform anyone interested in popular social movements, not to mention the painful dilemmas of contemporary Hong Kong."

Larry Diamond, Stanford University

"This exceptionally vivid, theoretically sophisticated volume provides a deep dive into the historical precedents, causes, evolution and ultimate demise of the 79-day Umbrella Movement that paralyzed Hong Kong in 2014. The contributors adopt a stunning variety of methods, data, on-the-spot observations, and disciplinary approaches to address important issues of contentious politics, social movements and hybrid regimes."

Thomas B. Gold, University of California, Berkeley

Ngok Ma is Associate Professor at the Department of Government and Public Administration, Chinese University of Hong Kong.

Edmund W. Cheng is Associate Professor at the Department of Public Policy, City University of Hong Kong.

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Lan Anh Hoang

Vietnamese Migrants in Russia

*Mobility in Times of Uncertainty*

Drawing on ethnographic research conducted at Moscow's wholesale markets from 2013 to 2016, this book provides original insights into how uncertainty shapes social practice, identity and belonging in the context of irregular migration from Vietnam to Russia. The uncertainties examined here are not just social, economic, and political, but also psychological and moral. The study speaks to various debates in migration and mobility studies - particularly those focused on brokerage networks, the political economy of sexuality, and social belonging - deepening our knowledge of how the core social values and cultural logics that underpin Vietnamese personhood are challenged and reconstituted by the ethos of the market economy. This book sheds important light on processes of mobility and social change in post-socialist societies that continue to grapple with yawning chasms between old and new ways of life, the local and the global, policy and practice, and obsolete governance techniques and rapidly changing socio-economic realities.

Lan Anh Hoang is Senior Lecturer in Development Studies in the School of Social and Political Sciences, the University of Melbourne, Australia.

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Edited by David Chiavacci, Simona Grano, and Julia Obinger

Civil Society and the State in Democratic East Asia

Between Entanglement and Contention in Post High Growth

This volume focuses on the new and diversifying interactions between civil society and the state in contemporary East Asia by including cases of entanglement and contention in the three fully consolidated democracies in the area: Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. The book argues that all three countries have reached a new era of post high-growth and mature democracy, leading to new social anxieties and increasing normative diversity, which have direct repercussions on the relationship between the state and civil society. It introduces a comparative perspective in identifying and discussing similarities and differences in East Asia based on in-depth case studies in the fields of environmental issues, national identities as well as neoliberalism and social inclusion that go beyond the classic dichotomy of state vs "liberal" civil society.
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Ronny Spaans

Dangerous Drugs

The Self-Presentation of the Merchant-Poet
Joannes Six van Chandelier (1620-1695)

In the 17th century, the Dutch Republic was the centre of the world trade in exotic drugs and spices. They were sought after both as medicines, and as luxury objects for the bourgeois class, giving rise to a medical and moral anxiety in the Republic.

This ambivalent view on exotic drugs is the theme of the poetry of Joannes Six van Chandelier (1620-1695). Six, who himself ran the drug shop ‘The Gilded Unicorn’ in Amsterdam, addresses a number of exotic medicines in his poems, such as musk, incense, the miracle drug theriac, Egyptian mumia, and even the blood of Charles I of England.

In Dangerous Drugs, these texts are studied for the first time. The study shows how Six, through a process of self-presentation as a sober and restrained merchant, but also as a penitent sinner, thirsting for God’s grace, links early modern drug abuse to different desires, such as lust, avarice, pride and curiosity. The book shows also how an early modern debate on exotic drugs contributed to an important shift in early modern natural science, from a drug lore based on mythical and fabulous concepts, to a botany based on observation and systematic examination.

Dr. Ronny Spaans is Associate Professor in Nordic Literature at Nord University. He also teaches Dutch at the University of Oslo.
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Did ordinary Italians have a ‘Renaissance’? This book presents the first in-depth exploration of how artisans and small local traders experienced the material and cultural Renaissance. Drawing on a rich blend of sixteenth century visual and archival evidence, it examines how individuals and families at artisanal levels (such as shoemakers, barbers, bakers and innkeepers) lived and worked, managed their household economies and consumption, socialised in their homes, and engaged with the arts and the markets for luxury goods. It demonstrates that although the economic and social status of local craftsmen and traders was relatively low, their material possessions show how these men and women who rarely make it into the history books were fully engaged with contemporary culture, cultural customs and the urban way of life.
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Edited by Alessandra Violi, Barbara Grespi, Andrea Pinotti and Pietro Conte

Bodies of Stone in the Media, Visual Culture and the Arts

If mediatization has surprisingly revealed the secret life of inert matter and the ‘face of things’, the flipside of this has been the petrification of living organisms, an invasion of stone bodies in a state of suspended animation. Within a contemporary imaginary pervaded by new forms of animism, the paradigm of death looms large in many areas of artistic experimentation, pushing the modern body towards mineral modes of being which revive ancient myths of flesh-made-stone and the issue of the monument. Scholars in media, visual culture and the arts propose studies of bodies of stone, from actors simulating statues to the transmutation of the filmic body into a fossil; from the real treatment of the cadaver as a mineral living object to the rediscovery of materials such as wax; from the quest for a “thermal” equivalence between stone and flesh to the transformation of the biomedical body into a living monument.

Alessandra Violi is Full Professor of English Literature and Culture at the University of Bergamo. Barbara Grespi is Associate Professor at the University of Bergamo where she teaches Cinema and visual culture. Andrea Pinotti is Professor in Aesthetics in the Department of Philosophy “Piero Martinetti”, State University of Milan. Pietro Conte is a Tenure-Track Assistant Professor of Aesthetics at Ca’ Foscari University of Venice.

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