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spring 2027



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Cover photo by Tim Palmer.

spring

penn state university press



Humor and Irony in Italian American Culture

Fred L. Gardaphé

"Fred Gardaphé's *Humor and Irony in Italian American Culture* is a welcome addition to humor scholarship. Offering analyses of a wide range of Italian American texts—including film, music, television, and stand-up comedy—Gardaphé shines light on both an underexplored area of American ethnic humor and the important contributions of Italian Americans to popular culture in the United States."

—**DAVID GILLOTA**, author of *Dead Funny: The Humor of American Horror*

Humor and Irony in Italian American Culture reveals a rich but understudied comedic tradition: the ways US Americans of Italian descent have used humor to preserve their heritage, project their fears, and negotiate their relationship to mainstream American culture.

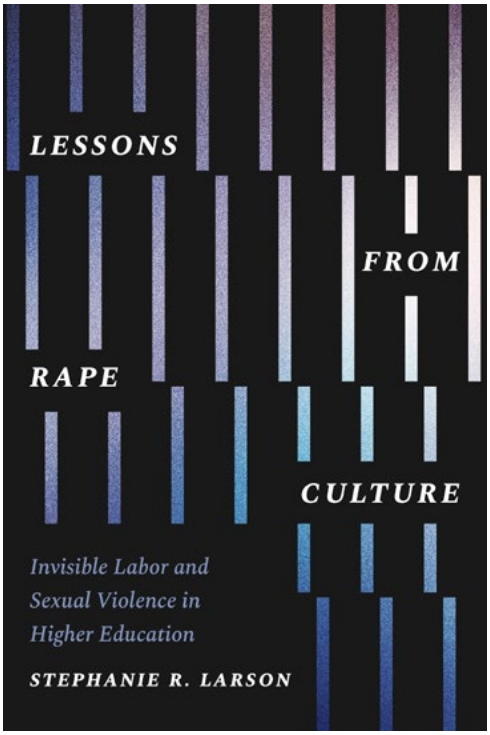
The book historicizes, documents, and interprets humor across literature, music, film, political cartoons, and stand-up comedy from the late nineteenth century to the present. It begins with the dreams and anxieties of Italian immigrants, examining how they were caricatured in the writings of Henry James, Nathaniel Hawthorne, and Mark Twain, among others, as well as in nineteenth- and early twentieth-century cartoons. It then turns to performers and writers such as Eduardo Migliaccio, George Panetta, and Augusto Lentricchia, who used humor to defend Italian immigrant identity against stereotype and assimilationist pressure. Subsequent chapters trace the development of humor and irony in the work of the children and grandchildren of immigrants, before considering the media renaissance that began in the 1990s, when Italian Americans increasingly shaped their own representations in mass culture.

Locating a tradition that is often more reactionary than revolutionary, based more in family than in institutions, and oriented more toward the mainstream than the margins, this book makes a significant contribution to humor studies, irony studies, and Italian American studies. It will be of particular interest to scholars and students in these fields, while remaining accessible to readers interested in comedy.

Fred L. Gardaphé is Distinguished Professor of English and Italian/American Studies at Queens College, CUNY and the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute.

January 2027
266 pages | 9 b&w illus. | 6×9 | HC: $124.99
Humor in America Series

Literary Studies | Film & TV Criticism | History



Lessons from Rape Culture

Invisible Labor and Sexual Violence in Higher Education

Stephanie R. Larson

In *Lessons from Rape Culture*, Stephanie R. Larson shows how, rather than transforming the conditions that enable sexual violence, universities often absorb and manage abuse, preserving institutional prestige while postponing justice.

Tracing the history of Title IX advocacy, campus controversies, and the everyday labor of faculty who receive student disclosures, Larson shows how universities teach their members what counts as evidence, whose credibility travels, and when dissent becomes "too much." She begins by uncovering how the rhetorical negotiations required to pass sex discrimination protections through patriarchal legislative structures narrowed what could be named as violence. She then examines defenses of accused "star" professors, student protest movements, and qualitative interviews with humanities faculty across ranks and institutions to uncover the hidden labor borne by those who support survivors. Throughout, she demonstrates how the costs of complaint are redistributed onto those already marginalized in the academy. The book concludes with a set of "soft rules for radical leaders" that propose concrete shifts in institutional policy, pedagogy, and culture.

Bridging theory, case study, and practical intervention, *Lessons from Rape Culture* makes a distinctive contribution to feminist rhetorical studies, critical university studies, and scholarship on campus sexual violence. It challenges readers to confront the rhetoric that shields power and to imagine forms of institutional life that move beyond symbolic progress toward structural accountability.

Stephanie R. Larson is the author of the award-winning *What It Feels Like: Visceral Rhetoric and the Politics of Rape Culture*, also available from Penn State University Press.

April 2027
164 pages | 6×9 | HC: $119.99 | PB: $34.99

Rhetoric | Gender Studies | Political Science | Philosophy

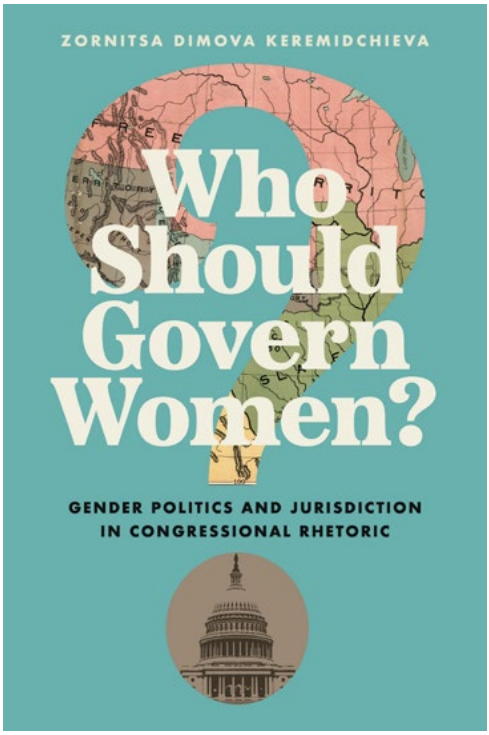
ALSO OF INTEREST

What It Feels Like
Visceral Rhetoric and the Politics of Rape Culture

Stephanie R. Larson

PB: $29.95





Who Should Govern Women?

Gender Politics and Jurisdiction in Congressional Rhetoric

Zornitsa Dimova Keremidchieva

"A fascinating history of the material changes in the ways women were represented in congressional proceedings; an ambitious reconsideration of the possibilities of a materialist rhetoric of desiring production; and a powerful analysis of the ways women were implicated in practices of jurisdiction, state-building, and changing remises of governance. Any one of these is well worth the effort. Taken together, *Who Should Govern Women?* is an impressive and important contribution to feminism, rhetoric, and cultural studies."

—**LAWRENCE GROSSBERG**, Emeritus Distinguished Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Who Should Govern Women? reconsiders feminism's fraught relationship with parliamentary democracy by centering the US Congress as a crucial site where women's political claims, their social experiences, and the gendered commitments of governance have long met, clashed, and reshaped one another.

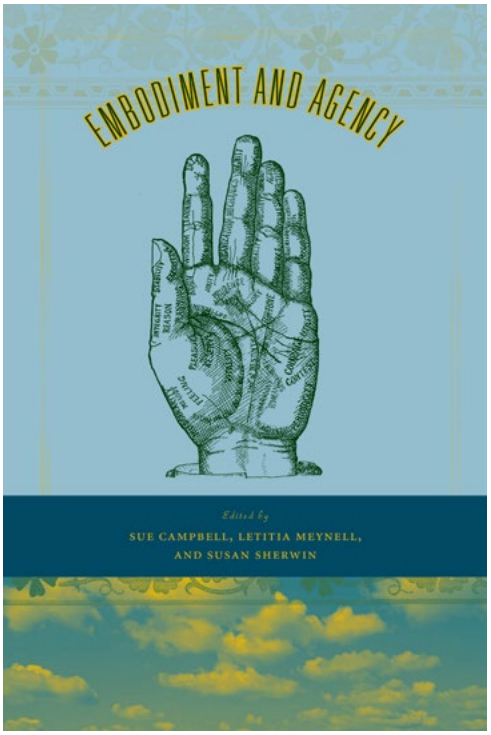
Informed by Gilles Deleuze's new materialist philosophy of change, the book offers a new perspective on the political significance of congressional rhetoric. Drawing on more than a century of congressional debates, legislative records, and women's advocacy—from the earliest assemblies, which sought to preserve strict gender boundaries, to the World War I era, when Congress began crafting policies explicitly focused on women—Zornitsa Dimova Keremidchieva shows how the interplay of gender, jurisdiction, and desire in congressional rhetoric helped assemble the changing institutional arrangements of the US political system and its global extensions.

By linking feminism, legislative politics, and state formation, this book offers a new account of congressional rhetoric and the material legacies and potentialities of women's appeals to the state. It will interest scholars and students of rhetoric, gender and feminist studies, political science, US history, and public policy, as well as readers seeking fresh perspectives on the legacies and futures of women, democracy, and empire.

Zornitsa Dimova Keremidchieva is Associate Professor in the Communication Studies Department at the University of Minnesota.

February 2027
236 pages | 6×9 | HC: $99.99
RSA Series in Transdisciplinary Rhetoric

Rhetoric | Gender Studies | Political Science | History



New in Paper

Embodiment and Agency

Edited by Sue Campbell, Letitia Meynell, and Susan Sherwin

"A challenging volume that takes the pulse of contemporary feminist agency studies, with all of the transformative, provocative, and critical virtues that the label implies."

—**KRISTIN RODIER**, *Dialogue: Canadian Philosophical Review / Revue canadienne de philosophie*

Themes of embodiment and agency have long been central to feminist philosophical thought and have increasingly led feminists to extend their theorizing to encompass a range of identities shaped by processes of gender, race, class, disability, and sexuality. The intersection of these themes, however, has often been limited to analyzing how specific modes of socialized embodiment can be impediments to agency or autonomy.

Embodiment and Agency is distinctive in bringing a remarkable range of theoretical perspectives and resources to the project in ways that stress possibilities as well as constraints. Contributors utilize phenomenology, psychoanalysis, care ethics, analytic philosophy, Hegelian critique, and postcolonial theory to examine embodiment and agency in contexts ranging from a child's struggle to find her own identity to global politics. The volume is integrated through its theme, through an introductory essay situating the contributions in relation to each other and to current feminist theory on agency, and through the structuring of the contents into two distinct sections.

Part I, "Becoming Embodied Subjects," explores how we become individually and collectively identified subjects through the possibilities for agency that arise from specific modes of embodiment. Part II, "Embodied Relations: Political Contexts," continues the theme of embodied agency in contemporary sociopolitical contexts. It challenges the reader to reconceptualize the links between embodiment and moral agency in ways adequate to political realities, personal relationships, and collective responsibilities.

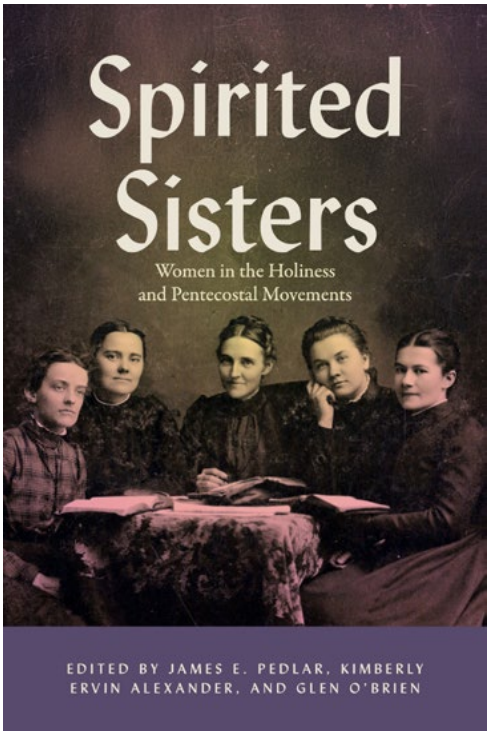
Sue Campbell is Professor of Philosophy and Women's Studies at Dalhousie University.

Letitia Meynell is Assistant Professor of Philosophy at Dalhousie University.

Susan Sherwin is Professor of Philosophy at Dalhousie University.

March 2027
288 pages | 3 b&w illus. | 6×9 | PB: $34.99

Gender Studies | Philosophy



Spirited Sisters

Women in the Holiness and Pentecostal Movements

Edited by James E. Pedlar, Kimberly Ervin Alexander, and Glen O'Brien

"This edited volume allows scholars to explore the histories of women from the Holiness and Pentecostal traditions, offering concise, comparative portraits that reveal shared themes and distinct contributions of women in ministry in the US and Canada. The collection deepens our understanding of women's roles across both movements."

—**ANDREA SHAN JOHNSON**, coeditor of *Oneness Pentecostalism: Race, Gender, and Culture*

Women have long stood at the heart of the Holiness and Pentecostal movements, even when their influence was only partially acknowledged. *Spirited Sisters* brings their stories into focus, tracing the ways women shaped these intertwined histories.

Through focused examination of varied contexts across the Anglosphere—the United States, Canada, Britain, and Australia—from the mid-nineteenth through mid-twentieth centuries, the book explores women's roles in Holiness and Pentecostal communities. It considers both prominent figures, such as Phoebe Palmer, Catherine Booth, and Aimee Semple McPherson, and women whose contributions have been overlooked or marginalized in official accounts. The chapters illuminate common patterns of liberation and limitation, from women's early freedom to exercise leadership to the barriers they continued to face and the ways institutional structures often reinforced patriarchal norms over time. The volume also shows how the interplay between informal networks and formal denominational structures is crucial to understanding Holiness and Pentecostal history.

In bringing these traditions into conversation, *Spirited Sisters* adds new detail and texture to the growing literature on women in Holiness and Pentecostal Christianity. It will interest scholars and students of these movements and of Christian history and women's history more broadly, as well as clergy and educated lay readers.

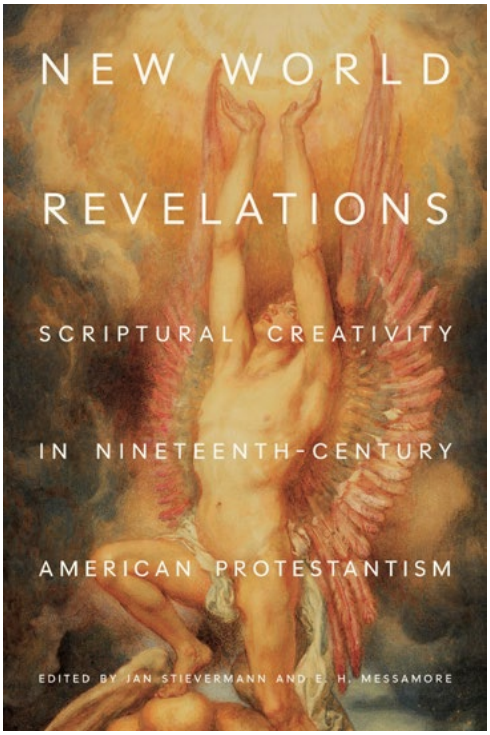
James E. Pedlar is Bastian Chair of Wesley Studies and Professor of Theology at Tyndale University in Toronto.

Kimberly Ervin Alexander teaches at the Ramp School of Ministry.

Glen O'Brien is Research Coordinator and Professor of History at Eva Burrows College, University of Divinity.

February 2027
228 pages | 6×9 | HC: $114.99
Studies in the Holiness and Pentecostal Movements Series

Religious Studies | Gender Studies | Sociology | History



New World Revelations

Scriptural Creativity in Nineteenth-Century American Protestantism

Edited by Jan Stievermann and E. H. Messamore

"The creation of the United States also birthed myriad new religious texts/scriptures, some of them well known, some of them comparatively obscure, and some that were not texts at all but physical objects. The wonderful concept of this book is to consider together in one anthology nineteenth-century scriptural production of all sorts. The result is a masterly volume that should delight readers."

—**PAUL HARVEY**, author of *Southern Religion in the World: Three Stories*

New revelations and alternative Bibles proliferated in nineteenth-century America, opening up spiritual worlds on a grand scale. The *Book of Mormon* is the best-known example, but it was only part of a much richer story of US scriptural production and engagement, which includes writings from a diverse array of American religious movements, the translation and reception of Asian religious texts, and literary works imbued with sacred meaning.

This collection of essays explores that broader story, bringing together comparative and theoretically informed analyses of newly created or "discovered" scriptures. In addition to examining revelations canonized by well-known Protestant denominations, contributions expand the conversation to consider scriptural writings ranging from Emily Dickinson's prophetic poetry and the apocryphal testimonies of German Inspirationists to Kiikaapoi syncretic scripture-making, the Holy Koran of the Moorish Science Temple of America, and Christian engagements with Sanskrit and Shinto sacred texts. Bringing these diverse nineteenth-century American revelations into conversation across disciplinary boundaries, the volume invites readers to complicate the very assumptions that undergird the terms "scripture" and "scripturalization" in the field.

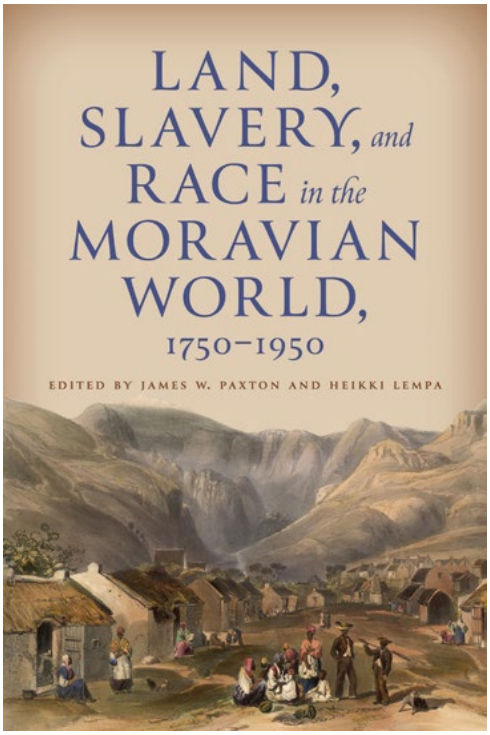
By bridging fields too often studied separately, this collection offers a fresh framework for understanding scripture, revelation, and religious innovation in the United States. It will interest scholars and students of American religion, religious history, literature, and new religious movements.

Jan Stievermann is Professor of the History of Christianity in the United States at Heidelberg University.

E. H. Messamore is Postdoctoral Researcher at the Heidelberg Center for American Studies.

March 2027
338 pages | 9 b&w illus. / 1 map | 6×9 | HC: $129.99
PB: $39.99

Religious Studies | History | Literary Studies



Land, Slavery, and Race in the Moravian World, 1750–1950

Edited by James W. Paxton and Heikki Lempa

"This volume marks a paradigm shift within Moravian studies. Its many chapters document the Moravian church's complicity in the dispossession and enslavement of the non-European people to whom its missionaries preached and among whom they lived and worked—and they model how the field of settler colonialism can transform our understanding of Moravian mission work over several centuries."

—**SCOTT PAUL GORDON**, editor of *The Letters of Mary Penry: A Single Moravian Woman in Early America*

By the nineteenth century, the Moravians had established outposts in Europe, the Americas, Africa, Asia, and Australia. This far-reaching expansion placed the Moravian Church at the forefront of emerging imperialism, enmeshed in the defining issues of Western empire—namely, land, slavery, and race.

The essays in this volume use the Moravians as a lens through which to examine how dispossession, enslavement, and race-making worked together to advance European domination. They investigate the relationships between missionary activity, land, slavery, and race in geographies ranging from Jamaica, Barbados, and the Ohio Country to settlements in South, East, and West Africa. The contributors attend to the agency of Indigenous and enslaved peoples, while challenging the idea that Moravian missions were exceptional in their treatment of these peoples. Instead, the contributions reveal how the pragmatism of Moravian missionaries and church leaders led to their complicity in the colonial project.

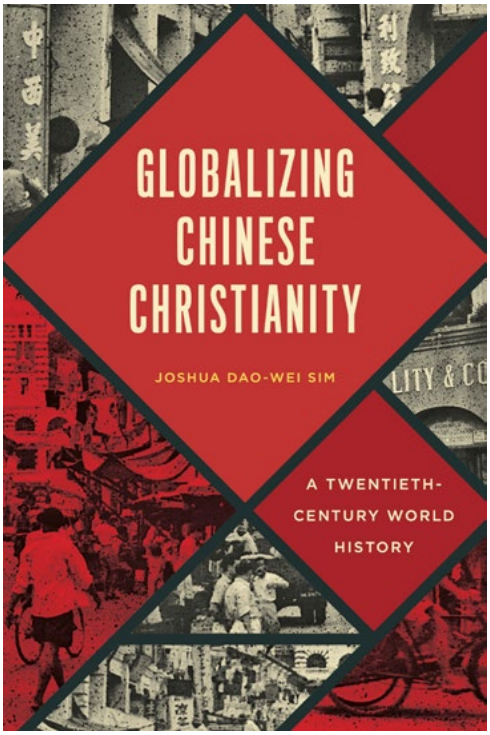
This collection makes a significant contribution to the study of Protestantism and imperialism, as well as to scholarship on slavery, Indigenous history, settler colonialism, and the construction of race. It will interest scholars of Moravian studies and Atlantic, American, Caribbean, and African history.

James W. Paxton is Associate Professor of History and Director of Indigenous Studies at Moravian University. He is the author of *Joseph Brant and His World: Eighteenth-Century Mohawk Warrior and Statesman*.

Heikki Lempa is Professor of History at Moravian University. His most recent book is *Spaces of Honor: Making German Civil Society, 1700–1914*.

April 2027
294 pages | 2 b&w illus. / 1 map | 6×9 | HC: $114.99
Pietist, Moravian, and Anabaptist Studies Series

Religious Studies | History | Critical Race Studies



Globalizing Chinese Christianity

A Twentieth-Century World History

Joshua Dao-Wei Sim

"With impressive archival depth and fresh conceptual framing, this book makes a major contribution to the history of World Christianity and the study of transnational mission."

—**TOBIAS BRANDNER**, author of *Christians in the City of Hong Kong: Chinese Christianity in Asia's World City*

"This work powerfully demonstrates how transnational Chinese Evangelical actors and networks actively strategized to build and mobilize a globally oriented faith."

—**ALEXANDER CHOW**, author of *Chinese Public Theology: Generational Shifts and Confucian Imagination in Chinese Christianity*

During the twentieth century, Chinese evangelical Christianity was transformed into a distinctly global phenomenon, and yet scholars have paid scant attention to the tradition's border-crossing mobility and globalizing impetus. Moving beyond China-centric narratives, this book examines how Chinese Protestants became an influential, interconnected force in modern global Christianity.

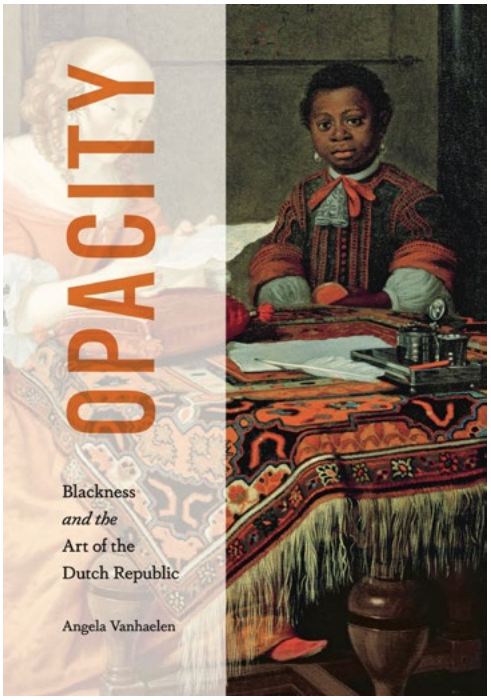
Drawing on extensive transnational archival research, Joshua Dao-Wei Sim tells the story of Chinese Christianity's globalization, examining how and why Chinese evangelical leaders became globally oriented in their outlooks and organizations from the 1920s to the 1980s. These figures, he shows, engaged coethnic and non-Chinese communities, especially across China and Southeast Asia, before extending to Europe and North America after 1949. They globalized the faith by appropriating and transforming strains of Euro-American evangelicalism into three distinct models—ethnic-based faith, separatist, and anti-communist—that they used to mobilize and unite conservative Chinese Protestants across the globe.

This ambitious book answers a growing demand in the field to attend to heterogeneity in the study of World Christianity. It serves as a fundamental resource for understanding the global nature of twentieth-century Christianity and its profound implications for religion in the twenty-first century.

Joshua Dao-Wei Sim is a Senior Research Fellow leading history and social science initiatives at the Human Potential Translational Research Programme, Yong Loo Lin School of Medicine, National University of Singapore.

March 2027
258 pages | 6 b&w illus. | 6×9 | HC: $114.99 | PB: $34.99
World Christianity Series

Religious Studies | History | Sociology



New in Paper

Opacity

Blackness and the Art of the Dutch Republic

Angela Vanhaelen

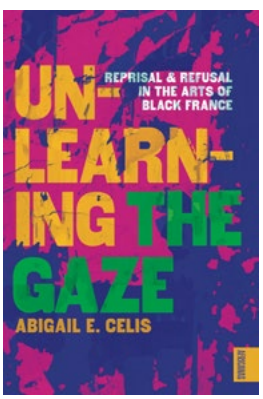
ALSO OF INTEREST

Unlearning the Gaze
Reprisal and Refusal in the Arts of Black France

Abigail E. Celis

AVAILABLE OPEN ACCESS

HC: $99.99 | PB: $34.99



As Dutch merchants became drivers of the transatlantic slavery business in the seventeenth century, Dutch art increasingly used Blackness to signal slavery and servitude. In this brilliant and pathbreaking work, Angela Vanhaelen proposes new ways of looking at Dutch paintings that do not equate Blackness with enslavement.

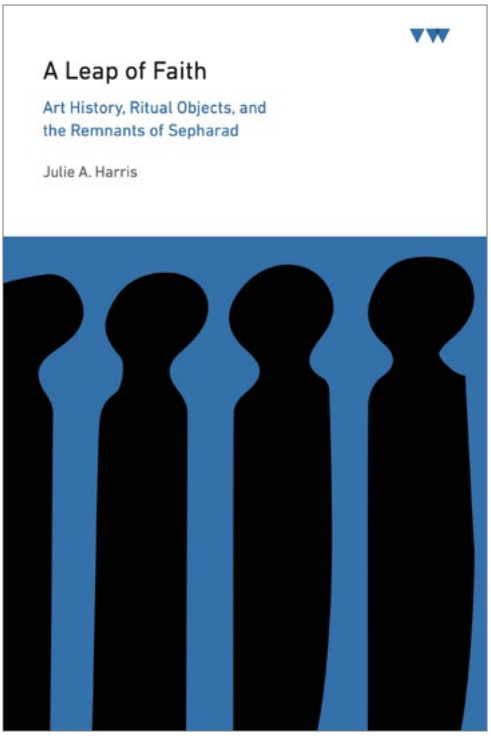
Vanhaelen reframes the conversation on Netherlandish art by placing seventeenth-century domestic scenes and portraits in dialogue with images of trading forts, markets, and plantations in West Africa and Brazil. She argues that Dutch paintings depicting enslaved Black Africans not only obscure information about the institution of slavery but fail to capture the resistance and dissent of people who did not conform to the anti-Black world created by Dutch art. *Opacity* leads readers to grapple with difficult and complex questions: How do we reconcile images of peace and prosperity with the horror of the slave trade? Can we interpret dehumanizing imagery in ways that consider the complexities of enslavement?

Refusing to view Dutch pictures on their own terms, *Opacity* recognizes the historical persistence of non-sovereign positions, anticolonial settlements, non-patriarchal homeplaces, and open-ended forms of religion and culture, as well as the possibilities of oppositional modes of world-making. This important, thought-provoking book will be essential reading for students and scholars of Black studies and early modern European art history as well as general readers looking for a fresh approach to Dutch art of the period.

Angela Vanhaelen is Professor of Art History at McGill University. She is the author of *The Moving Statues of Seventeenth-Century Amsterdam: Automata, Waxworks, Fountains, and Labyrinths*, and *The Wake of Iconoclasm: Painting the Church in the Dutch Republic*, both published by Penn State University Press.

February 2027
204 pages | 11 color / 39 b&w illus. | 7×10 | PB: $29.99
AFRICANAS Series

Africana Studies | Art History & Architecture | Critical Race Studies | Medieval & Early Modern Studies



A Leap of Faith

Art History, Ritual Objects, and the Remnants of Sepharad

Julie A. Harris

"In this book, Julie Harris trains her astute eye on a series of material objects that have been interpreted and displayed as remnants of Jewish life, culture, and religion in medieval Iberia. She reveals the art-historical and cultural fallacies that drive an ultimately false narrative about medieval Sephardic Jews and our contemporary relationship to them. It is refreshing to read such a clear and honest reevaluation."

—**ADAM S. COHEN**, coauthor of *Art and Architecture of the Middle Ages: Exploring a Connected World*

Based on deep archival, historical, and halakhic research, *A Leap of Faith* challenges decades of scholarly consensus to argue that few of the ritual objects published and displayed as representations of Jewish life in medieval Spain are actually "Jewish," and that while the legacy of Sepharad looms large in the imagination of academics and cultural institutions, the physical remnants of Jewish Iberia are, in fact, quite limited.

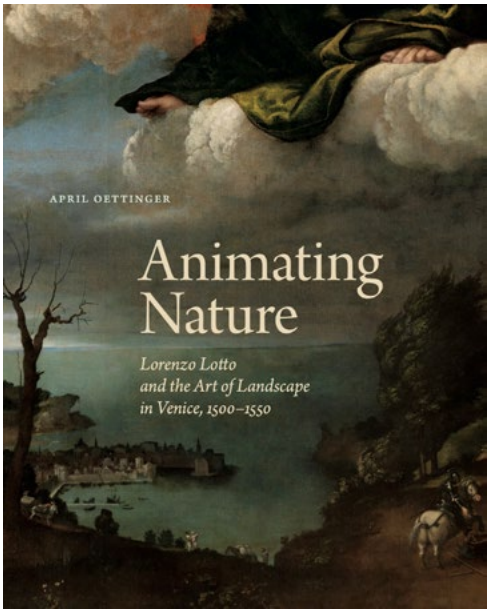
This book asks what happens when the desire to find surviving Sephardic material culture outweighs the evidence. Examining four objects featured in *Memoria de Sefarad*, a catalog produced amid renewed interest in Jewish Iberia spurred by the quincentenary of 1492, Julie A. Harris reveals the historiographic blind spots and methodological errors that led to their classification as Jewish ritual objects. Harris argues that analysis of Sephardic material culture must reckon with both academic interest and the burgeoning phenomenon of heritage tourism that, together, have produced a vision of the past influenced by wishful thinking. Verifying purported remnants of Sepharad, Harris argues, has become "a leap of faith."

A critical intervention in medieval Sephardic art and material culture, *A Leap of Faith* will interest scholars and students of medieval Iberia, Jewish history, art history, religious studies, museum and heritage studies, and Sephardic studies.

Julie A. Harris is an art historian and an independent scholar specializing in the art of medieval Iberia.

April 2027
162 pages | 24 b&w illus. | 5.5×8.5 | PB: $19.99
Copublished with The International Center of Medieval Art
ICMA Books | Viewpoints Series

Art History & Architecture | Medieval & Early Modern Studies | Jewish Studies



Animating Nature

Lorenzo Lotto and the Art of Landscape in Venice, 1500–1550

April Oettinger

"A brilliant analysis of Lorenzo Lotto, a visionary painter who made landscape and the phenomena of the natural world active protagonists along with the human figures in his poetic compositions. Oettinger writes as well as she sees—that is, insightfully and lucidly—and invites the reader to become a participant in an artistic encounter."

—**PATRICIA FORTINI BROWN**, author of *The Venetian Bride: Bloodlines and Blood Feuds in Venice and Its Empire*

In the age of Lorenzo Lotto, nature was understood as legible, expressive, and replete with divine significance. *Animating Nature* explores how the painting of nature embodied human faith, experience, and identity in Renaissance Venice.

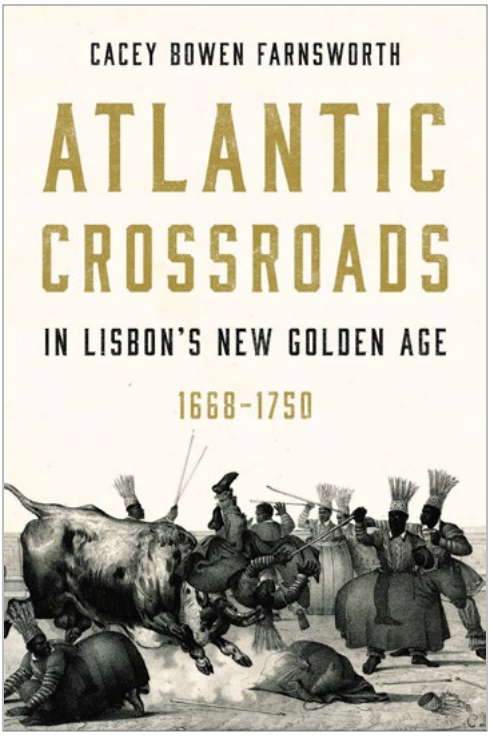
In this book, April Oettinger proposes a fresh understanding of what it meant to paint and describe landscape in the first half of the sixteenth century. She examines Lotto's experiments with the expressive and metaphorical character of the "Book of Nature" and the ways Venetian painters invoked the mercurial moods and metaphorical dimensions of arboreal, geological, aqueous, and atmospheric imagery to enrich devotional, portrait, and mythological subjects. Through close analysis of selected paintings by Lotto and his peers, alongside the work of contemporaneous poets and Renaissance theorists of painting, Oettinger shows how a lyrical vocabulary of temporal landscape imagery emerged and how the practice of painting nature shaped early modern theories of art.

Drawing on the art of Lotto and his peers, as well as literary and theoretical texts, *Animating Nature* expands our understanding of the multifaceted character of landscape and the languages of ornament in the early modern era. Situated at the crossroads of Venetian Renaissance painting, the history of ornament, and the environmental humanities, it will appeal to scholars and students of art history and literature, as well as general readers interested in landscape, memory, and the art of Lorenzo Lotto.

April Oettinger is Cushing Distinguished Professor of the Humanities and Professor of Art History at Goucher College.

February 2027
216 pages | 29 color / 58 b&w illus. | 8×10 | HC: $84.99

Art History & Architecture | Medieval & Early Modern Studies



New in Paper

Atlantic Crossroads in Lisbon's New Golden Age, 1668–1750

Cacey Bowen Farnsworth

"A remarkably comprehensive and vivid account of how the eighteenth-century political, economic, and social transformations, including the slave trade, imperial rivalry, and the Brazilian gold rush, shaped Lisbon into an exceptional and dynamic center of encounter and exchange."

—**KIRSTEN SCHULTZ**, author of *From Conquest to Colony: Empire, Wealth, and Difference in Eighteenth-Century Brazil*

Long dependent on the Asian spice trade, Portugal suffered serious setbacks during the period of political union with Spain (1580–1640), as the Dutch and others seized key regions and destroyed commercial monopolies. By 1668, the greatest hope for a renewed Portuguese empire lay to the west. This book examines the "Atlanticization" of Lisbon during the early modern era, investigating the social, economic, religious, and political evolution that took place in Portugal's capital during a period of upheaval and transformation in Europe and in the Atlantic world.

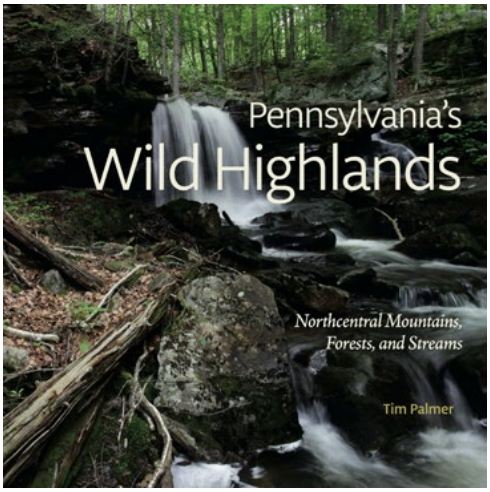
In this book, Cacey Bowen Farnsworth shows how, between 1668 and 1750, Lisbon became a crossroads where colonial developments intermingled with metropolitan and global influences to produce something novel among European port capitals. Drawing from extensive primary and secondary sources from Portugal, Brazil, England, France, and Spain, Farnsworth lays out how Lisbon's transformations were generated in commercial exchanges, especially the slave trade, as well as in the often-tense arrangements between the British and the Portuguese, and he shows how social, economic, cultural, and religious transformations made Lisbon a unique center of encounter.

Responding to valid criticisms of Atlantic history, Farnsworth's history of early modern Lisbon demonstrates that historians do not always have to defer to a global lens of analysis. It is sure to be of value to any researcher interested in early modern Iberia, commerce, and globalism.

Cacey Bowen Farnsworth is Assistant Professor of Iberian History and Family History at Brigham Young University.

March 2027
242 pages | 4 b&w illus./1 map | 6×9 | PB: $34.95
Iberian Encounter and Exchange, 475–1755 Series

Medieval & Early Modern Studies | History



Pennsylvania's Wild Highlands

Northcentral Mountains, Forests, and Streams

Tim Palmer

"Tim Palmer has created another classic in the natural history of Pennsylvania with his perceptive narrative and strikingly beautiful portrait of our Northcentral Highlands. This wild and incomparable hinterland of Penn's Woods deserves restoration, protection, and ecologically based stewardship that these pages so eloquently urge us to pursue."

—**PAUL WIEGMAN**, former Senior Naturalist, Western Pennsylvania Conservancy

Midway across the rugged Appalachian uplift that spans the width of the Keystone State, emerald forests are recovering from destruction incurred more than a century ago. Streams that were once victims of acid-mine poisoning once again flow crystal clear down from cloud-swept heights to the widening waters of the West Branch Susquehanna. Fully half of the Northcentral Highlands' expanse is publicly owned. Few regions anywhere offer such a green reserve that beckons us to explore its canyons, creeks, and woodlands—and to escape the hum and roar of the highways and cities beyond.

Drawing from his deep personal experience in the Highlands and from research probing both the area's tragic exploitation and more recent conservation success stories, Tim Palmer takes us on a journey of discovery to a place that is increasingly vital to the state and to the nation. Whether you call this region home or have yet to experience its spectacular terrain, the photographs and storytelling in *Pennsylvania's Wild Highlands* will help you appreciate its kaleidoscope of natural beauty.

Tim Palmer is the author of thirty-three books about rivers, forests, environmental issues, and adventure travel. He served for ten years as the environmental planner for Lycoming County, at the heart of the Northcentral Highlands. Since 1980, he has been an independent author and landscape photographer, winning numerous awards for his work.

April 2027
272 pages | 155 color illus. | 9×9 | HC: $29.99
Keystone Books Series

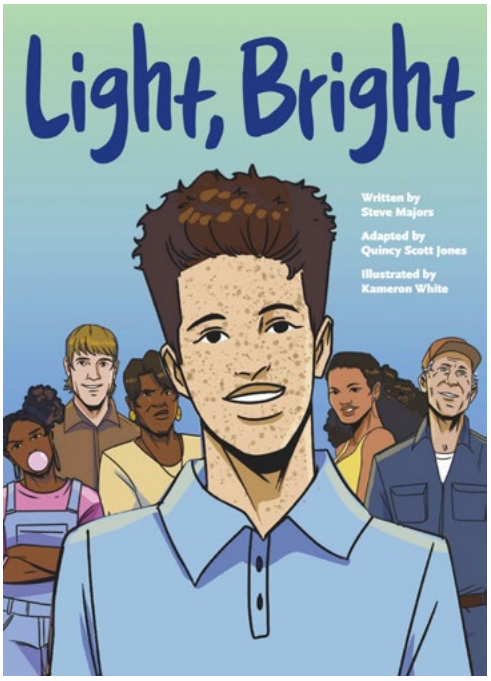
Nature | Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic

spring



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Light, Bright

Steve Majors
Adapted by Quincy Scott Jones
Illustrated by Kameron White

"*Light, Bright* is heavy with our legacy of racial pain, buoyant with the love of family and culture and community, and damned charming—it'll make you laugh just as much as it'll make you pause, reflect, mourn. It is abundant in its humanity."

—**MOSES OSE UTOMI**, author of *The Lies of the Ajungo*

Shipped away for the summer, Trey finally meets the parts of himself that he can't outrun.

Light, Bright is a heartfelt graphic novel about navigating family upheaval and identity. In this coming-of-age story, a mixed-race teen explores what it means to find himself when everything familiar is falling apart.

Fifteen-year-old Trey was looking forward to a summer of street hockey, fireworks, and hanging out with his friends—not his parents' separation or his exile to a rural town to live with a grandmother he barely knows. Cut off from home and unsure of where he belongs, Trey feels like he's losing everything. In this new place, surrounded by Black relatives who see him differently because of his light, bright skin, he is forced to confront questions he has long avoided about race, privilege, family, and his own identity. With the help of his outspoken cousin Tee and an intriguing new friend named Kareem, Trey begins to untangle painful truths, face prejudice head-on, and forge unexpected connections that make the unfamiliar start to feel like home.

Tender, funny, and deeply relatable, *Light, Bright* is a hopeful story about claiming your identity in a complicated world—and learning that who you are is something that you can choose.

Steve Majors is the author of *High Yella: A Modern Family Memoir* and *Man Made: In Search of Dads, Daddies, Father Figures, and Fatherhood*.

Quincy Scott Jones is the author of *The T-Bone Series* and *How to Kill Yourself Instead of Your Children*.

Kameron White is a comic artist, illustrator, and designer. His clients include DC Comics, PBS, the International African American Museum, and the City of Houston.

February 2027
168 pages | 6.5×9 | PB: $24.99

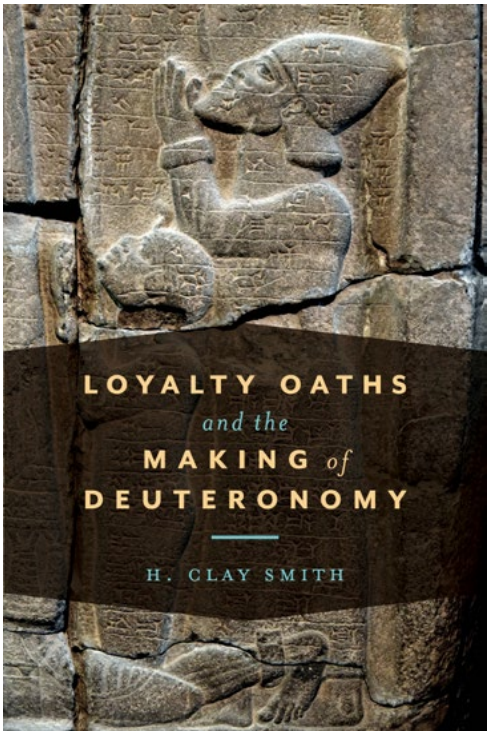
Graphic Studies

spring



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Loyalty Oaths and the Making of Deuteronomy

H. Clay Smith

"Smith has made a significant contribution to the study of Deuteronomy's instructional materials by combining in this investigation an exploration of intertextuality among the Pentateuchal materials with the comparanda of the first-millennium *adê* sources. The assertion that Deuteronomy's 'oath agreement' between Israel and Yahweh may serve as a hermeneutical key for its legal innovations is an interesting approach that demands the attention of a wide readership among scholars of the Old Testament."

—**BILL T. ARNOLD**, editor of *The Politics of Deuteronomy*

Loyalty Oaths and the Making of Deuteronomy reexamines the relationship between Assyrian *adê* texts and Deuteronomy, arguing that key legal reforms in Deuteronomy are grounded in these Assyrian loyalty-oath traditions. Centering on cult centralization, *hērem* warfare, and the elevation of the Levites, this book offers an innovative historical exegesis of Deuteronomy's legal vision with implications for longstanding debates in the field.

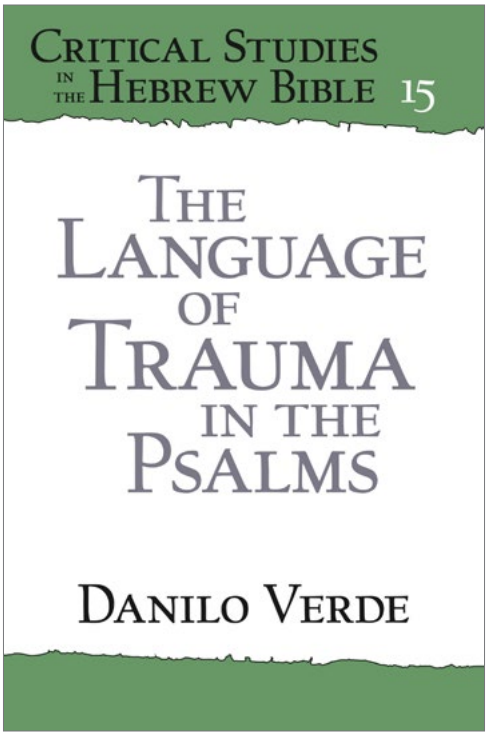
H. Clay Smith brings together two interpretive trajectories that have often developed separately: readings of Deuteronomy's stipulations in relation to local legal texts, such as the Covenant Code of Exodus, and the recognition of parallels between Assyrian *adê* texts and portions of Deuteronomy. Drawing on *adê* rituals, *adê* outcomes, and *adê* enforcement, Smith brings new comparative evidence to bear on Deuteronomic legal reasoning, arguing that Deuteronomy's authors adapted *adê* traditions to supply both an authoritative and conceptual basis for reform.

By advancing new conclusions about the meaning and purpose of these legal innovations, *Loyalty Oaths and the Making of Deuteronomy* offers an important contribution to Deuteronomy scholarship, biblical law, and ancient Near Eastern studies. It will interest scholars and students of the Hebrew Bible, Assyriology, comparative law, and related fields.

H. Clay Smith is Assistant Professor in the College of Bible and Ministry at Harding University.

February 2027
202 pages | 6×9 | HC: $99.99

Biblical Studies



New in Paper

The Language of Trauma in the Psalms

Danilo Verde

"Verde's study is an important contribution to trauma studies and the Bible. It will be of particular interest to scholars working on the lament psalms."

—**ERIC D. MCDONNELL JR.**, *Review of Biblical Literature*

Over the last few decades, the field of trauma studies has shed new light on biblical texts that deal with individual and collective catastrophe. In *The Language of Trauma in the Psalms*, Danilo Verde advances the conversation, moving beyond the emphasis on healing that prevails in most literary trauma studies.

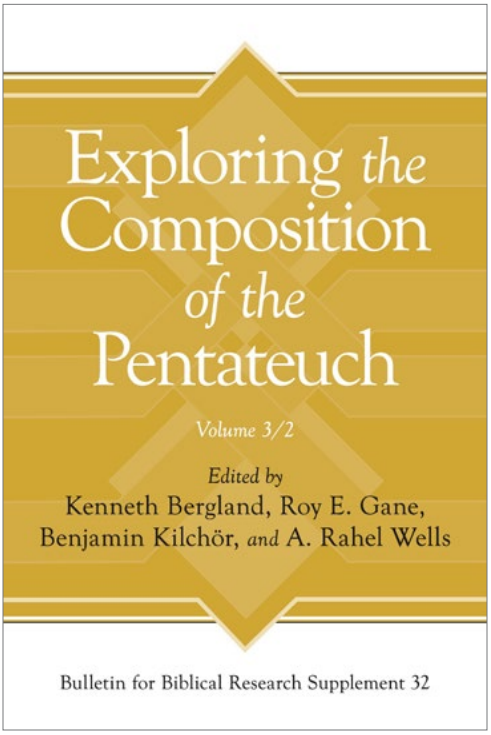
Using the lens of cognitive linguistics and combining insights from trauma studies and redaction criticism, Verde explores how trauma is expressed linguistically in the book of Psalms, how trauma-related language was rooted in ancient Israel's external realities, and how psalms helped define Yehud's cultural trauma in the Persian period (539–331 BCE). Rather than assuming the psalmists' personal experiences are reflected in these texts, Verde focuses on the linguistic strategies used to express trauma in the Psalms, especially references to the body and highly dramatic metaphors. Current analyses often approach trauma texts as tools intended to help sufferers heal. Verde contends that many group laments in the book of Psalms were transmitted not only to heal but also to wound the community, ensuring that the pain of a previous generation was not forgotten.

The Language of Trauma in the Psalms shifts our understanding of trauma in biblical texts and will appeal to literary scholars as well as those interested in ancient Israel.

Danilo Verde is Postdoctoral Researcher at the Faculty of Theology and Religious Studies, KU Leuven. He is the author of *Conquered Conquerors: Love and War in the Song of Songs* and coeditor of *Networks of Metaphors in the Hebrew Bible* and *Cultural Hegemony, Ideological Conflicts, and Power in Second Temple Judaism*.

April 2027
170 pages | 4 b&w illus. | 6×9 | PB: $29.99
Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible Series

Biblical Studies | Religious Studies



Exploring the Composition of the Pentateuch, Volume 3/2

Edited by Kenneth Bergland, Roy E. Gane, Benjamin Kilchör, and A. Rahel Wells

"A rich and thought-provoking collection of essays that moves Pentateuchal research beyond older source-critical paradigms toward a more text-centered and compositionally nuanced approach. The contributors interact deeply with current scholarship while advancing genuinely constructive new proposals."

—**JENS BRUUN KOFOED**, Fjellhaug International University College

This volume reexamines the composition of the Pentateuch by focusing on literary reuse to better understand the relationship between the Torah and the rest of the Hebrew Bible. Instead of beginning with inherited source divisions or hypothetical redactional sequences, it starts from the texts themselves and asks how shared language, motifs, and structures can identify cases of literary reuse and clarify the direction of dependence.

The essays develop methodological criteria for identifying reuse and evaluating competing claims about priority. Through detailed case studies, the contributors argue that many texts traditionally assumed to predate the Torah in fact reuse and presuppose it. Examples include the reuse of creation traditions in Exodus, covenant curses in the Prophets, discussions of cultic centralization in the Former Prophets, and wisdom literature that reflects Deuteronomic language and concepts. Across these studies, the contributors argue for disciplined, evidence-based analysis, while also recognizing the limits of the available evidence.

This volume shows how attention to literary reuse can challenge long-standing assumptions about the relative dating of biblical texts and advance more methodologically transparent and empirically grounded approaches to Pentateuch studies. It will be essential reading for scholars interested in biblical studies, the Torah, and the composition of the Hebrew Bible.

Kenneth Bergland is Assistant Professor at the Adventist International Institute of Advanced Studies, Philippines.

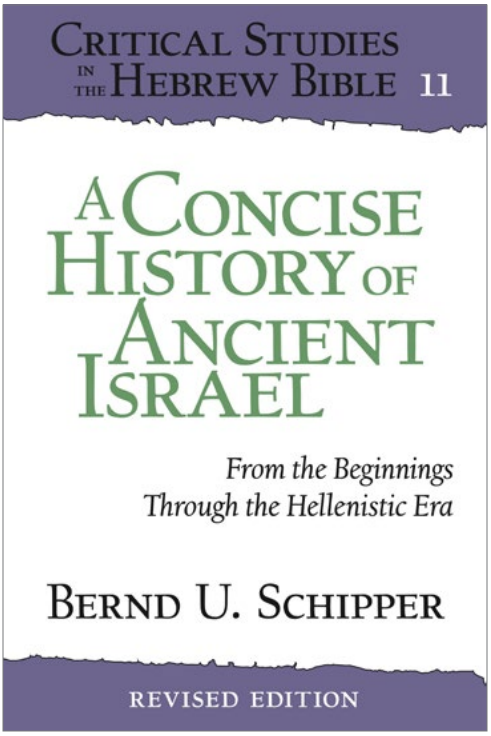
Roy E. Gane is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Languages at Andrews University.

Benjamin Kilchör is Professor of Old Testament at STH Basel.

A. Rahel Wells is Professor of Hebrew Bible at Andrews University.

March 2027
192 pages | 6×9 | HC: $89.99
Bulletin for Biblical Research Supplement Series

Biblical Studies | Ancient Near East



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A Concise History of Ancient Israel

From the Beginnings Through the Hellenistic Era

Bernd U. Schipper

"An incredibly useful work that can function as a primer for more in-depth discussions of Israel and Judah's history."

—**DAVID SCHREINER**, *Review of Biblical Literature*

The history of biblical Israel, as it is told in the Hebrew Bible, differs substantially from the history of ancient Israel as it can be reconstructed using ancient Near Eastern texts and archaeological evidence. In *A Concise History of Ancient Israel*, Bernd U. Schipper uses this evidence to present a critical revision of the history of Israel and Judah from the late second millennium BCE to the beginning of the Roman period.

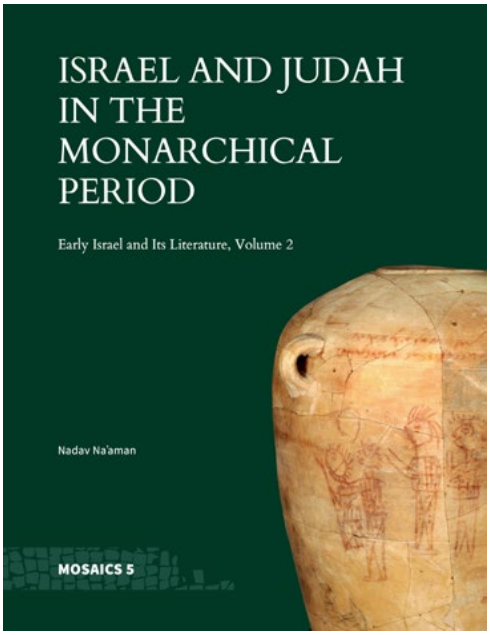
Considering archaeological material as well as biblical and extrabiblical texts, Schipper argues that the history of "Israel" in the preexilic period took place mostly in the hinterland of the Levant and should be understood in the context of the Neo-Assyrian expansion. He demonstrates that events in the exilic and postexilic periods also played out differently than the biblical books of Ezra and Nehemiah recount. In contrast to previous scholarship, which focused heavily on Israel's origins and the monarchic period, Schipper's history gives equal attention to the Persian and early Hellenistic periods, providing confirmation that a wide variety of forms of YHWH religion existed in the Persian period and persisted into the Hellenistic age.

Now revised and updated with a new preface, this accessibly written and affordably priced edition provides a concise overview of the historical development of ancient Israel for students, scholars, and lay readers alike.

Bernd U. Schipper is Professor of Hebrew Bible and Ancient Near Eastern Religion at the Humboldt University of Berlin.

January 2027
184 pages | 11 b&w illus. | 6×9 | PB: $24.99
Critical Studies in the Hebrew Bible Series

Ancient Near East | Biblical Studies | Jewish Studies



Israel and Judah in the Monarchical Period

Early Israel and Its Literature, Volume 2

Nadav Naʾaman

Nadav Naʾaman, one of today's leading historians of ancient Canaan and Israel, has published hundreds of studies and monographs. His scholarship combines biblical studies with research on geographical history, archaeology, and historiography in the ancient Near East to shed light upon the land and people of Israel in the second and first millennia BCE.

This is the second of a three-volume compilation that presents the breadth and scope of Naʾaman's scholarship. The studies in this volume deal with a series of major events that took place in Israel and Judah in the 10th–7th centuries BCE. Several episodes in the biblical narrative deal with the cult and culture of the two kingdoms and reflect efforts to explain the development of religion and cult in the transition from polytheism to monotheism. By combining all the available sources—biblical, extrabiblical, and archaeological—the book sheds new light on the historicity of many debated episodes and contributes to the reconstruction of the history of Israel and Judah in the monarchical period. Special emphasis is placed on the ideological nature of biblical history. Seen in this light, biblical history differs from all other histories written in antiquity, and readers must carefully attend to the many gaps between the historical events and their presentation in biblical historiography.

Nadav Naʾaman is Professor Emeritus of Jewish History and Archaeology at Tel Aviv University. He is the author of almost four hundred articles and six books, including *The Past That Shapes the Present* (in Hebrew), winner of the Yad Izhak Ben-Zvi prize for the history of Eretz-Israel. In 2006 he was awarded the Landau Prize, and in 2012 he was elected member of the Israel Academy of Sciences and Humanities.

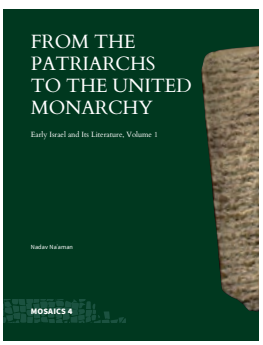
March 2027
412 pages | 3 b&w illus. / 6 maps | 8.5×11 | HC: $99.99
Copublished with The Institute of Archaeology of Tel Aviv University
Mosaics: Studies on Ancient Israel Series
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Ancient Near East | Anthropology & Archaeology | Jewish Studies

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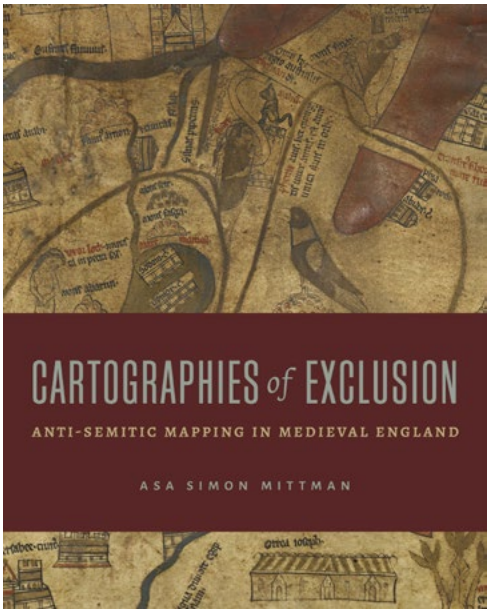
From the Patriarchs to the United Monarchy
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Nadav Naʾaman
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award winners



Cartographies of Exclusion

Anti-Semitic Mapping in Medieval England

Asa Simon Mittman

Winner of the 2026 HBA Book Award for Exemplary Scholarship on the Period Before 1600

A 2025 Choice Outstanding Academic Title

From the battles over Jerusalem to the emergence of the "Holy Land," from legally mandated ghettos to the Edict of Expulsion, geography has long been a component of Christian–Jewish relations. Attending to world maps drawn by medieval Christian mapmakers, *Cartographies of Exclusion* brings us to the literal drawing board of "Christendom" and shows the creation, in real time, of a mythic state intended to dehumanize the non-Christian people it ultimately sought to displace.

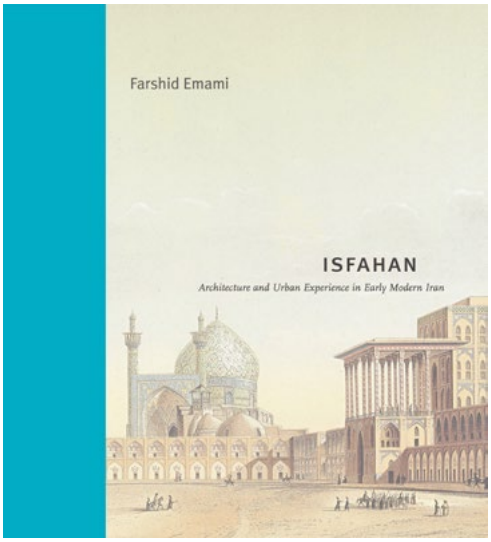
In his close analyses of English maps from the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, Asa Mittman makes a valuable contribution to conversations about medieval Christian perceptions of Jews and Judaism. Grounding his arguments in the history of anti-Jewish sentiment and actions rampant in twelfth- and thirteenth-century England, Mittman shows how English world maps of the period successfully Othered Jewish people by means of four primary strategies: conflating Jews with other groups; spreading libels about Jewish bodies, beliefs, and practices; associating Jews with Satan; and, most importantly, cartographically "mislocating" Jews in time and space. On maps, Jews were banished to locations and historical moments with no actual connection to Jewish populations or histories.

Medieval Christian anti-Semitism is the foundation upon which modern anti-Semitism rests, and the medieval mapping of Jews was crucial to that foundation. Mittman's thinking offers essential insights for any scholar interested in the interface of cartography, politics, and religion in premodern Europe.

Asa Simon Mittman is Professor of Art and Art History at California State University, Chico. He is the author of *Maps and Monsters in Medieval England* and coauthor, with Susan Kim, of *Inconceivable Beasts: The "Wonders of the East" in the "Beowulf" Manuscript*.

November 2025
256 pages | 38 color / 32 b&w illus. | 8×10 | HC: $109.95

Art History & Architecture | Medieval & Early Modern Studies | Jewish Studies



Isfahan

Architecture and Urban Experience in Early Modern Iran

Farshid Emami

Winner of the 2025 IJIA Book Award

Winner of the 2026 Spiro Kostof Book Award

A vibrant urban settlement from medieval times and the royal seat of the Safavid dynasty, the city of Isfahan emerged as a great metropolis during the seventeenth century. Using key sources, this book reconstructs the spaces and senses of this dynamic city.

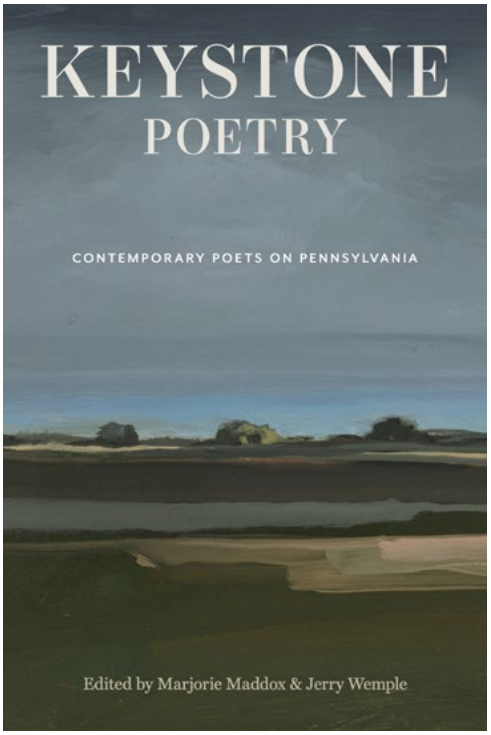
Focusing on nuances of urban experience, Farshid Emami expands our understanding of Isfahan in a global context. He takes the reader on an evocative journey through the city's markets, promenades, and coffeehouses, bringing to life the social landscapes that animated the lives of urban dwellers and shaped their perceptions of themselves and the world. In doing so, Emami reveals seventeenth-century Isfahan as more than a cluster of beautiful monuments and gardens. It was a cosmopolitan city, where senses and materials, nature and artifice, and ritual and sociability acted in unison, engendering urban experiences that became paramount across the globe during the early modern period.

Drawing extensively on Persian literary and visual sources, including the "Guide for Strolling in Isfahan," this book casts new light on the history of a major Eurasian city and opens up new possibilities for cross-cultural studies of urban experience in the early modern period.

Farshid Emami is Assistant Professor in the Department of Art History at Rice University.

April 2024
276 pages | 45 color / 60 b&w illus. | 9×10 | HC: $112.95
Buildings, Landscapes, and Societies Series

Art History & Architecture | Medieval & Early Modern Studies



Keystone Poetry

Contemporary Poets on Pennsylvania

Edited by Marjorie Maddox and Jerry Wemple

Winner of the 2026 Silver Medal in Mid-Atlantic Nonfiction from the Independent Publisher Book Awards

Winner of the 2026 American Fiction Awards Anthology Category

From Philadelphia to Erie, and from the shale fields to the coal mines, *Keystone Poetry* celebrates the varied landscapes and voices of Pennsylvania. This collection brings together the work of 182 poets who commemorate the hometowns, history, traditions, and culture of the Commonwealth.

Organized geographically, the poems traverse county lines, ancestral lineages, and thematic concerns—as well as gender, racial, and socioeconomic barriers. The poems in this collection seek to bring the reader close to home while fostering a deeper understanding of all those who live in the Keystone State.

Keystone Poetry also includes resources for teachers. Drawing from this collection of place-based literature, high school and college educators can use students' hometown experiences to make disciplines such as literature, composition, creative writing, history, geography, sociology, political science, and psychology more engaging and accessible.

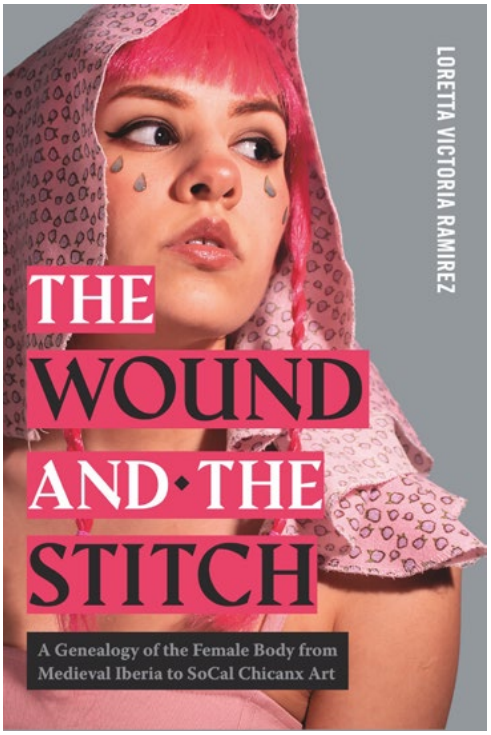
Marjorie Maddox is Professor Emerita of English and Creative Writing at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, Lock Haven. Maddox has published seventeen collections of poetry, including *Seeing Things* and *Begin with a Question*, and the ekphrastic books *Heart Speaks, Is Spoken For*; *In the Museum of My Daughter's Mind*; and *Small Earthly Space*.

Jerry Wemple is Professor of English at Commonwealth University of Pennsylvania, Bloomsburg. Wemple is the award-winning author of four poetry collections, including *We Always Wondered What Became of You* and *Artemas and Ark: The Ridge and Valley Poems*.

Together, Maddox and Wemple are the coeditors of *Common Wealth: Contemporary Poets on Pennsylvania*, also published by Penn State University Press.

May 2025
336 pages | 6×9 | PB: $27.95
Keystone Books Series

Poetry | Pennsylvania & the Mid-Atlantic | Literary Studies | History



The Wound and the Stitch

A Genealogy of the Female Body from Medieval Iberia to SoCal Chicanx Art

Loretta Victoria Ramirez

Winner of the Bronze Medal for the 2025 ILBA Best Academic Themed Book, College Level

Winner of the 2026 CCCC Outstanding Book Award (Monograph Category)

Winner of the 2026 AAHHE Book of the Year Award (Early Career Category)

The Wound and the Stitch traces a history of imagery and language centered on the concept of woundedness and the stitching together of fragmented selves. Focusing particularly on California and its historical violences against Chicanx bodies, Loretta Victoria Ramirez argues that woundedness has become a ubiquitous and significant form of Chicanx self-representation, especially in late twentieth-century print media and art.

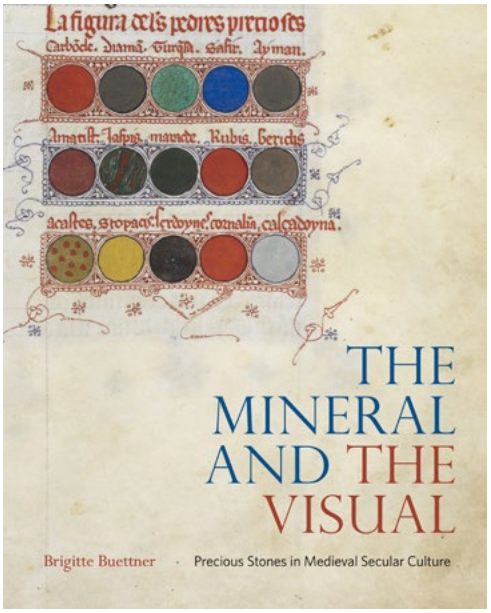
Ramirez maps a genealogy of the female body from late medieval Iberian devotional sculptures to contemporary strategies of self-representation. By doing so, she shows how wounds—metaphorical, physical, historical, and linguistic—are inherited and manifested as ongoing violations of the body and othered forms of identity. Beyond simply exposing these wounds, however, Ramirez also shows us how they can be healed—or rather stitched. Drawing on Mesoamerican concepts of securing stability during lived turmoil, or *nepantla*, Ramirez investigates how creators such as Cherríe Moraga, Renee Tajima-Peña, Guillermo Gómez-Peña, and Amalia Mesa-Bains repurpose the concept of woundedness to advocate for redress and offer delicate, ephemeral moments of healing.

Positioning woundedness as a potent method to express Chicanx realities and transform the self from one that is wounded to one that is stitched, this book emphasizes the necessity of acknowledgment and ethical restitution for colonial legacies. It will be valued by scholars and students interested in the history of rhetorics, twentieth-century Chicanx art, and Latinx studies.

Loretta Victoria Ramirez is Assistant Professor of Latinx Rhetoric and Composition at California State University, Long Beach.

May 2024
256 pages | 17 color / 3 b&w illus. | 6×9
HC: $112.95 | PB: $27.95
RSA Series in Transdisciplinary Rhetoric

Latin American Studies | Rhetoric | Gender Studies | Communication Studies



The Mineral and the Visual

Precious Stones in Medieval Secular Culture

Brigitte Buettner

Winner of the 2023 International Center of Medieval Art Annual Book Prize

Winner of the 2026 Karen Gould Prize in Art History

Opulent jeweled objects ranked among the most highly valued works of art in the European Middle Ages. At the same time, precious stones prompted sophisticated reflections on the power of nature and the experience of mineralized beings. Beyond a visual regime that put a premium on brilliant materiality, how can we account for the ubiquity of gems in medieval thought?

In *The Mineral and the Visual*, art historian Brigitte Buettner examines the social roles, cultural meanings, and active agency of precious stones in secular medieval art. Exploring the layered roles played by gems in aesthetic, ideological, intellectual, and economic practices, Buettner focuses on three significant categories of art: the jeweled crown, the pictorialized lapidary, and the illustrated travel account. The global gem trade brought coveted jewels from the Indies to goldsmiths' workshops in Paris, fashionable bodies in London, and the crowns of kings across Europe, and Buettner shows that Europe's literal and metaphorical enrichment was predicated on the importation of gems and ideas from Byzantium, the Islamic world, Persia, and India.

Original, transhistorical, and cross-disciplinary, *The Mineral and the Visual* engages important methodological questions about the work of culture in its material dimension. It will be especially useful to scholars and students interested in medieval art history, material culture, and medieval history.

Brigitte Buettner is Louise I. Doyle '34 Professor of Art at Smith College. She is the author of *Boccaccio's "Des cleres et nobles femmes": Systems of Signification in an Illuminated Manuscript*.

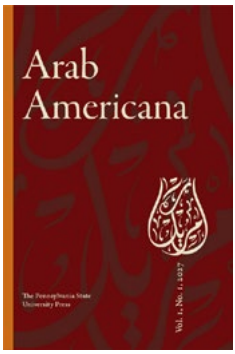
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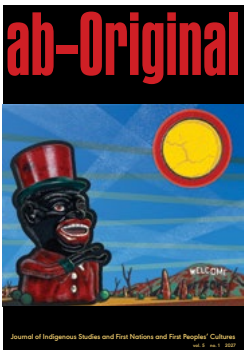
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Edward E. Curtis, IV, Editor

BIANNUAL

Arab Americana is a new journal that will adopt a multidisciplinary approach to understanding Arab American life in the United States and across the Arab American diaspora through refereed secondary scholarship and original work produced in the arts and humanities, social sciences, and professional fields such as education, public health, the law, social work, informatics, media studies, business, and government affairs. The journal nurtures intellectual conversations both inside and outside the academy to increase knowledge by, about, and for Arab Americans and all those influenced by or connected to their diverse heritage. The journal is sponsored by the Center for Arab Narratives, A National Institution of ACCESS, and supported by the William M. and Gail M. Plater Chair of the Liberal Arts at Indiana University, Indianapolis. Submit your paper and subscribe: psupress.org/journals/jnls_arabamericana.html



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QUARTERLY

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