

“With his new masterwork, Chakrabarty confirms that he is one of the most creative and philosophically-minded historians writing today. The oppositions he proposes between the *global* of globalization and the *global* of global warming, between the *world* and the *planet*, between *sustainability* and *habitability* are illuminating and effective for thinking and acting through our highly uncertain and disoriented times.”—François Hartog, author of *Chronos*

Dipesh Chakrabarty is the Lawrence A. Kimpton Distinguished Service Professor of History, South Asian Languages and Civilizations at the University of Chicago. He is the author of *The Calling of History: Sir Jadunath Sarkar and His Empire of Truth*, also published by the University of Chicago Press. He is the recipient of the 2014 Toynbee Prize, which is given to a distinguished practitioner of global history.

DIPESH CHAKRABARTY

The Climate of History in a Planetary Age

MARCH | 296 p. | 2 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$95.00 Paper \$25.00

For the past decade, no thinker has had a greater influence on debates about the meaning of climate change in the humanities than the historian Dipesh Chakrabarty. Climate change, he has argued, upends our ideas about history, modernity, and globalization, and confronts humanists with the kinds of universals that they have been long loath to consider. Here Chakrabarty elaborates this thesis for the first time in book form and extends it in important ways. “The human condition,” Chakrabarty writes, “has changed.” The burden of *The Climate of History in a Planetary Age* is to grapple with what this means for historical and political thought. Chakrabarty argues that our times require us to see ourselves from two perspectives at once: the planetary and the global. The global (and thus globalization) are human constructs, but the planetary Earth system de-centers the human. Chakrabarty explores the question of modern freedoms in light of this globe/planet distinction. He also considers why Marxist, postcolonial, and other progressive scholarship has failed to account for the problems of human history that anthropogenic climate change poses. The book concludes with a conversation between Chakrabarty and the French anthropologist Bruno Latour. Few works are as likely to shape our understanding of the human condition as we open ourselves to the implications of the Anthropocene.

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HISTORY



Carolyn N. Biltoft is assistant professor of international history at the Graduate Institute Geneva.

CAROLYN N. BILTOFT

A Violent Peace

Media, Truth, and Power at the League of Nations

APRIL | 216 p. | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$95.00 Paper \$35.00

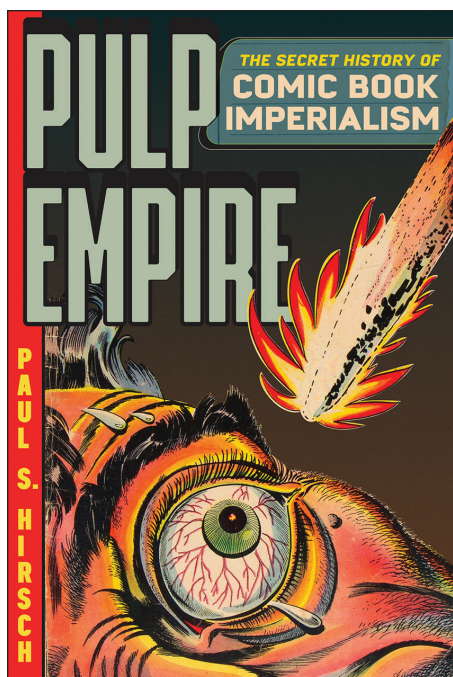
- Examines the mediascape of the interwar years through the archives of the League of Nations
- A global intellectual history of how information systems transformed the heart of politics, markets, and mentalities between 1918 and 1945
- A highly original book that blends careful historical scholarship with sophisticated social theory

Confronted with the roiling changes of the post-WWI world—from growing stateless populations to the resurgence of right-wing movements—the League of Nations aimed to counteract dangerous conflicts between national interests and generate instead a transnational, cosmopolitan dialogue on truth and justice. Amid widespread anxiety over truth and falsehood, an army of League personnel produced streams of documents in the pursuit of “shaping global public opinion.” Combining the tools of global intellectual history and cultural history, *A Violent Peace* explores the power and the vulnerability of information systems while laying bare “the anatomy of fascism” in the interwar period. Carolyn N. Biltoft reopens the archives of the League to show how its attempt to operationalize information science in support of the post-WWI order proved ultimately pyrrhic as informational power struggles devolved into violence. A meditation on instability in information systems, the allure of fascism, and the contradictions at the heart of a global and violent modernity, *A Violent Peace* paints a rich portrait of the emergence of the age of information—and all its attendant problems.

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HISTORY



“I’ll be frank: I love this book. Hirsch’s writing is crisp and exciting, and it’s a joy to see the history of comic books and the Cold War United States told from such a fresh angle. This fun, sharp book is one I’ll be thinking about for a while.”

—Daniel Immerwahr, author of *How to Hide an Empire: A History of the Greater United States*

Paul S. Hirsch is a postdoctoral fellow at the Institute for Historical Studies at the University of Texas, Austin and an inaugural fellow at the Robert B. Silvers foundation.

PAUL S. HIRSCH

Pulp Empire

The Secret History of Comic Book Imperialism

JUNE | 344 p. | 44 color plates, 6 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$30.00

- Exposes (shockingly!) the US government’s use of comic books as overseas propaganda both in wartime and when at peace
- Details (gruesomely!) that comic books encapsulate America’s best ideals and darkest urges
- Reveals (at last!) the dark, pulsing heart of America’s self-image, smeared in four colors across the globe

Paul S. Hirsch’s revelatory book opens the archives to show the complex relationships between comic books and American foreign relations in the mid-twentieth century. Scourged and repressed on the one hand, yet co-opted and deployed as propaganda on the other, violent, sexist comic books were both vital expressions of American freedom and upsetting depictions of the American id. Hirsch draws on previously classified material and newly available personal records to weave together the perspectives of government officials, comic-book publishers and creators, and people in other countries who found themselves on the receiving end of American culture.

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Introduction: Making an American Monster

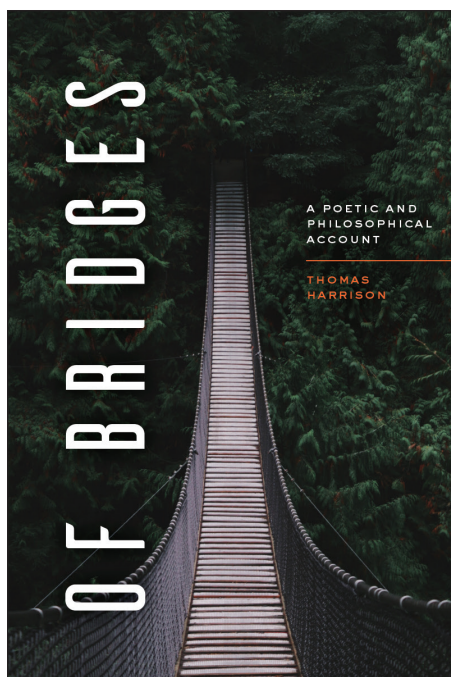
1. This Is Our Enemy
2. The Wild Spree of the Laughing Sadist
3. Donald Duck’s Atom Bomb
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“Of Bridges is a dazzling investigation into the profound semantic and historical resonance of the seemingly simple word bridge, that passage between two points that is unique in its material, metaphoric, and philosophical properties. Harrison’s book is astonishingly learned, well-written, and imaginative. Bridges will never be the same after this brilliant study.”

—Marjorie Perloff, Stanford University

Thomas Harrison is professor of European Languages and Transcultural Studies at the University of California, Los Angeles. He is the author of *1910: The Emancipation of Dissonance and Essayism: Conrad, Musil, and Pirandello* as well as the editor of *Nietzsche in Italy* and *The Favorite Malice: Ontology and Reference in Contemporary Italian Poetry*.

THOMAS HARRISON

Of Bridges

A Poetic and Philosophical Account

MARCH | 304 p. | 3 color plates, 73 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$35.00

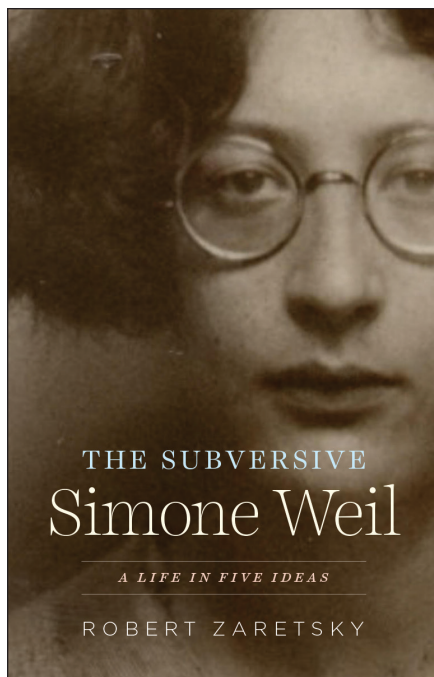
- By turns witty and playful, but also erudite and intensely serious, Harrison explores diverse meanings and purposes of bridges in human culture
- Views bridges as both melancholy sights of unfinished work and marvels of human invention and ambition
- Discusses bridges as metaphors, musical figures, and how sound and poetry, in literature, philosophy, and film, can connect images and ideas

“Always,” wrote Philip Larkin, “it is by bridges that we live.” Bridges represent our aspirations to connect, to soar beyond divides. And it is the unfinished business of human connection that makes bridges such melancholy sights, even and especially when they are marvels of invention. In this wide-ranging and erudite book, Thomas Harrison gives a panoramic account of the many meanings and valences of bridges in human culture. He considers the impulse to build bridges in early human civilizations and the way bridges linked the transience of human life and the eternal realm of the divine. He visits historical bridges over which people have gone to battle, discusses metaphorical bridges, such those in musical composition, and probes the many connections between bridges and death, and bridges and love. Throughout, Harrison illustrates his discussions with a wide range of references from art, poetry, and philosophy, mostly though not exclusively from the European tradition, reaching back to antiquity.

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HISTORY



“Zaretsky’s work is unfailingly eloquent, fascinating, and relevant. In treating both her life and her writings, *The Subversive Simone Weil* displays a subject who, by going too far toward goodness, reminds so many of us that we have not gone far enough. In Zaretsky’s hands, her courage stands as a complicated but necessary lesson for us all.”—Todd May, author of *A Decent Life: Morality for the Rest of Us*

Robert Zaretsky is the author of *Boswell’s Enlightenment*; *A Life Worth Living: Albert Camus and the Quest for Meaning*; and *Catherine & Diderot: The Empress, the Philosopher, and the Fate of the Enlightenment*, among other books. A frequent contributor to the *New York Times*, the *Washington Post*, *Foreign Affairs*, the *Times Literary Supplement*, the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, and the *Chronicle of Higher Education*, he lives in Houston with his wife, children, and assorted pets.

ROBERT ZARETSKY

The Subversive Simone Weil

A Life in Five Ideas

FEBRUARY | 200 p. | 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 | Cloth \$20.00

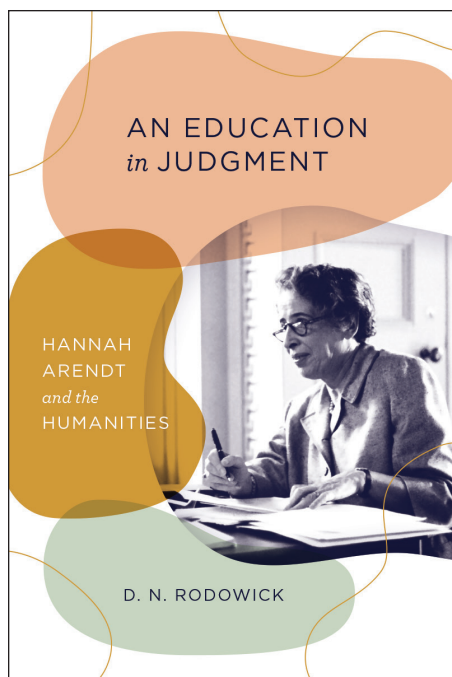
- A thematic engagement with Simone Weil’s life and thought
- Organized around central elements of Weil’s philosophy—affliction, attention, resistance, roots, and spirituality
- Uses Weil’s life, work, and heritage to shed light on the world we live in today and the pressing issues of our time

André Gide called her “the patron saint of outsiders,” and “the best spiritual writer of the [twentieth] century.” Camus called her “the only great spirit of our time,” while Iris Murdoch described their first intellectual meeting as “total love at first sight.” Today, her fan club continues to admit new members, from Pankaj Mishra to Anne Carson. Simone Weil is one of the most challenging and yet beguiling thinkers of the twentieth century. There is a highly charged mystical current that runs through her life and works that seems almost timeless. And yet Weil was a keen observer of the modern condition, coming of age as she did during the 1930s. Amid the recurrent indignities and inhumanities of modern life, she wondered what is to become of the precious space we have for grace, for friendship, and for truth? One of our most astute historians of existentialism, Robert Zaretsky shifts his attention to the utterly original Simone Weil with this new book. Taking up the central elements of her philosophy—affliction, attention, resistance, roots, and spirituality—he explores how they animated her life, and how they might animate ours.

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D. N. Rodowick is the Glen A. Lloyd Distinguished Service Professor in the College and the Division of Humanities at the University of Chicago. Among his books are *Philosophy's Artful Conversation*, *Elegy for Theory*, and *What Philosophy Wants from Images*, also published by the University of Chicago Press.

D. N. RODOWICK

An Education in Judgment

Hannah Arendt and the Humanities

JULY | 224 p. | 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 | Cloth \$35.00

- Written by a major humanistic thinker
- Offers an impassioned defense of the importance of the humanities
- Engages with the thinking of Hannah Arendt on democracy and freedom

In *An Education in Judgment*, philosopher D. N. Rodowick makes the definitive case for a philosophical humanistic education aimed at the cultivation of a life guided by both self-reflection and interpersonal exchange. Such a life is an education in judgment, the moral capacity to draw conclusions alone and with others, and to let one's own judgments be answerable to the potentially contrasting judgments of others. Thinking, for Rodowick, is an art we practice with and learn from each other all the time. In taking this approach, Rodowick follows the lead of Hannah Arendt, who made judgment the cornerstone of her conception of community. Arendt was famously wary of mass culture, and so community (in an authentic sense) must be safeguarded from its many false guises. What is important for Rodowick, as for Arendt, is the cultivation of "free relations," in which we allow our judgments to be affected and transformed by those of others, creating "an ever-widening fabric of intersubjective moral consideration." This is a fragile fabric, to be sure, but one well worth pursuing, caring for, and preserving. This is an original work in which the author thinks with Arendt about the importance of the humanities and what "the humanities" amounts to beyond the university.

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PHILOSOPHY

DEIRDRE NANSEN McCLOSKEY

Bettering Humanomics

A New, and Old, Approach to Economic Science

APRIL | 144 p. | 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 | Cloth \$30.00 Paper \$30.00



Deirdre Nansen McCloskey is distinguished professor emerita of economics and of history and professor emerita of English and of communication, at the University of Illinois at Chicago. She is the author of two dozen books including *Leave Me Alone and I'll Make You Rich*, *The Bourgeois Virtues*, *Bourgeois Dignity*, *Bourgeois Equality*, *Crossing: A Transgender Memoir*, and *Economical Writing*.

In *Bettering Humanomics: A New and Old Approach to Economic Science*, Deirdre Nansen McCloskey offers a critique of contemporary economics and a proposal for a better humanomics. McCloskey argues for an economic science that accepts the models and mathematics, the statistics and experiments of the current orthodoxy, but also attests to the immense amount we can still learn about human nature and the economy. From observing human actions in social contexts, to the various understandings attained by studying history, philosophy, and literature, McCloskey presents the myriad ways in which we think about life and how we justify and understand our actions in a synergistically human approach towards economic theory and practice.

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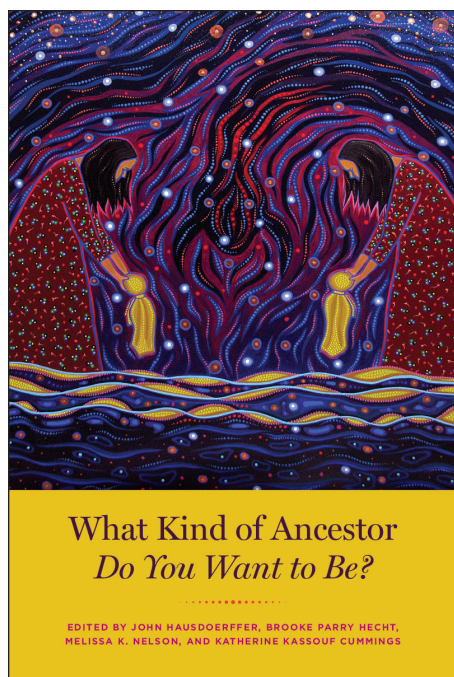
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ECONOMICS



Edited by JOHN HAUSDOERFFER, BROOKE PARRY HECHT, MELISSA K. NELSON, and KATHERINE KASSOUF CUMMINGS

What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be?

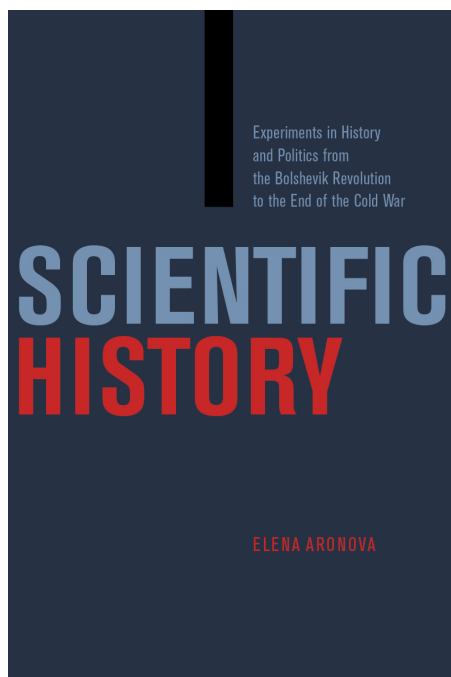
MAY | 248 p. | 3 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$95.00 Paper \$27.50

John Hausdoerffer is dean of the School of Environment & Sustainability at Western Colorado University. Most recently, he is coeditor of *Wildness: Relations of People and Place*. For more information, visit www.jhausdoerffer.com. He lives in Gunnison, CO. **Brooke Parry Hecht** is president of the Center for Humans and Nature at www.humansandnature.org. **Melissa K. Nelson** (Anishinaabe/Métis [Turtle Mountain Chippewa]) is professor of Indigenous sustainability at Arizona State University and president of the Cultural Conservancy, a Native-led Indigenous rights organization. Most recently, she is coeditor of *Traditional Ecological Knowledge: Learning from Indigenous Practices for Environmental Sustainability*. **Katherine Kassouf Cummings** serves as managing editor at the Center for Humans and Nature and leads Questions for a Resilient Future.

As we face an ever-more-fragmented world, *What Kind of Ancestor Do You Want to Be?* demands a return to the force of lineage—to spiritual, social, and ecological connections across time. It sparks a myriad of ageless-yet-urgent questions: How will I be remembered? What traditions do I want to continue? What cycles do I want to break? What new systems do I want to initiate for those yet-to-be-born? How do we endure? Published in association with the Center for Humans and Nature and interweaving essays, interviews, and poetry, this book brings together a thoughtful community of Indigenous and other voices—including Linda Hogan, Wendell Berry, Winona LaDuke, Vandana Shiva, Robin Kimmerer, and Wes Jackson—to explore what we want to give to our descendants. It is an offering to teachers who have come before and to those who will follow, a tool for healing our relationships with ourselves, with each other, and with our most powerful ancestors—the lands and waters that give and sustain all life.

Contributors

Aaron A. Abeyta, Leah Bayens, Kaylena Bray, Brian Calvert, Taiyon Coleman, Katherine Kassouf Cummings, Camille T. Dungy, Peter Forbes, Leora Gansworth, Shannon Gibney, Oscar Guttierrez, John Hausdoerffer, Brooke Parry Hecht, Elizabeth Carothers Herron, Linda Hogan, Wes Jackson, Princess Daazhrai Johnson, Lyla June Johnston, Frances H. Kakugawa, Robin Kimmerer, Winona LaDuke, Jack Loeffler, Lindsay Lunsford, Jamaal May, Toby McLeod, Curt Meine, Ilarion Mercurieff, Kathleen Dean Moore, Melissa K. Nelson, Sean Prentiss, Enrique Salmón, Catroina Sandilands, Vandana Shiva, Caleen Sisk, and more . . .



ELENA ARONOVA

Scientific History

Experiments in History and Politics from the Bolshevik Revolution to the End of the Cold War

MARCH | 256 p. | 5 halftones | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$45.00

- First transnational history of scientific history throughout the twentieth century
- Recovers transnational, West-East circulations, interactions, and entanglements by drawing on sources in the US, UK, central Europe, and Russia
- Reveals unexpected and disregarded historical connections that shed light on today's big history movement

“The book is significant in canvassing so much diverse material so efficiently and expertly, uncovering unexpected and disregarded historical connections while presenting the material engagingly and accessibly. It is a satisfying, impressive piece of scholarship that provides an explicit, extended, transnational histori-cization of big history.”—Nasser Zakariya, author of *A Final Story: Science, Myth, and Beginnings*

“Aronova’s sparkingly subversive narrative excavates foundational fights over how to write the history of science, how to practice the science of history, and how to tell the story of mankind. A work of wit, grace, and profundity.”—James Delbourgo, Rutgers University

Elena Aronova is assistant professor of the history of science at the University of California, Santa Barbara. She is the coeditor of *Osiris, Volume 32: Data Histories and Science Studies during the Cold War and Beyond: Paradigms Defected*.

Increasingly, scholars in the humanities are calling for a re-engagement with the natural sciences. We are experiencing a “scientific turn” in the first decades of the twenty-first century, and against this backdrop, Elena Aronova argues that there was a “scientific turn” in history at every turn, for at least a century. *Scientific History* maps out the submerged history of historians’ continuous engagement with the methods, tools, and values of the natural sciences by examining several waves of experimentation with the scale of history and its method, each of which surged highest at perceived times of trouble, from the crisis-ridden decades around 1900 to the ruptures of the Cold War.

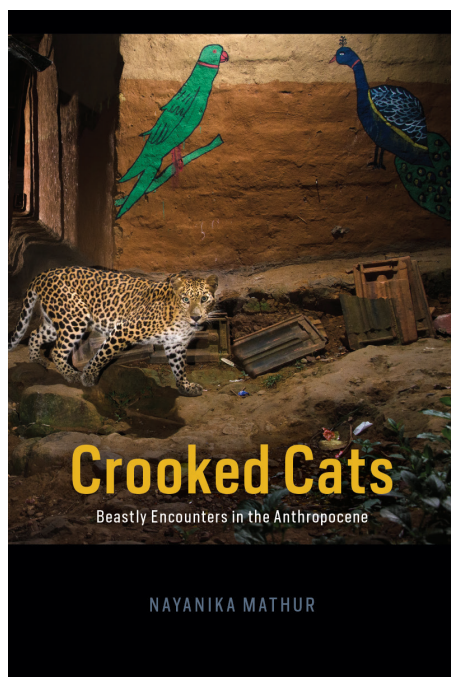
The book explores the intertwined trajectories of six intellectuals and the larger programs they set in motion. Henri Berr (1863–1954), Nikolai Bukharin (1888–1938), Lucien Febvre (1878–1956), Nikolai Vavilov (1887–1943), Julian Huxley (1887–1975), and John Desmond Bernal (1901–1971) are representative of a larger motley crew who sought to reexamine the boundaries, tools, and uses of history, and who created powerful institutions and networks to support their projects.

Through their stories, she traces relationships between history and science that were diverse, ambiguous, and, at times, surprisingly productive, thereby highlighting how the history of the history of science itself is instructive for today’s repositioning of academic history.

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SCIENCE



Nayanika Mathur is associate professor in anthropology and South Asian studies as well as Fellow of Wolfson College at the University of Oxford. She is the author of *Paper Tiger: Law, Bureaucracy and the Developmental State in Himalayan India*.

NAYANIKA MATHUR

Crooked Cats

Beastly Encounters in the Anthropocene

JULY | 224 p. | 16 halftones | 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 | Cloth \$82.50 Paper \$27.50

- An innovative ethnographic portrait of human-animal relations in India
- Rethinks the notion of the violent or so-called “crooked” animal
- Provides tools with which to rethink the treatment of big cats

Series: Animal Lives

The last decade has seen the increasing entry of big cats—lions, tigers, and leopards—into human settlements in India. Most big cats co-reside with humans. But some have become “crooked”—killing people, often serially, and frightening residents in villages and cities. This new book, by big cat connoisseur and anthropologist Nayanika Mathur, lays bare the peculiar atmosphere of terror these encounters create, reinforced by stories, conspiracy theories, rumors, anger, and news reports about charismatic “celebrity” cats. There are various theories of why and how a big cat turns to eating people, and Mathur lays out the dominant ideas offered by the residents with whom she works. These vary from the effects of climate change and habitat loss to history and politics. The latter, for example, include the idea of big cats turning on humans for retribution for past injustices (poaching or hunting). Still, no one, including the scientists who study animal behavior, has been able to explain the highly individualized reasons why some cats turn against humans and others do not. Beautifully detailed in its portrayal of India’s places, people, and animals, *Crooked Cats* sheds light on how we understand nonhuman animals and the growing intensity of human-nonhuman conflict in the Anthropocene.

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SOCIOLOGY & ANTHROPOLOGY

Keats's Odes
A Lover's Discourse
Anahid Nersessian

ANAHID NERSESSIAN

Keats's Odes

A Lover's Discourse

FEBRUARY | 160 p. | 5 1/2 x 8 1/2 | Cloth \$20.00

- An intimate, speculative, personal approach to Keats's Great Odes, for students and nonspecialists
- Describes the author's lifelong love/hate attachment to the poems
- Highlights historical difficulty for readers of different ethnicity/sexuality to fully love the poems
- Makes literary criticism accessible, connects the work of reading to the business of living

In a book timed for the 200th anniversary of John Keats's death in February 2021, Anahid Nersessian gathers Keats's six Great Odes and comments on them in essays at once bold, speculative, and personal. There are many lovers in this "lover's discourse," but the main ones are Keats and Nersessian herself. Each ode emerges here as an expression and an inducement of love—sometimes for humanity in general, sometimes for a specific person. This is literary criticism as passion work, close reading as intimacy, with memoir occasionally breaking to the surface with hints of heartbreak and an absent lover. For many younger readers today, it is difficult to love canonical literature when, like Nersessian herself, one belongs to ethnic and sexual categories that were historically excluded from its purview. Yet every year, students and other readers fall hard for Keats, despite lives so distant from the world of the English Regency. There is what one critic long ago called a "lovableness" to this poet who died of tuberculosis on 23 February 1821, at age 25, exiled in rooms beside the Spanish Steps in Rome. Nersessian shows why we love him still, and why his odes continue to speak powerfully to our own desires.

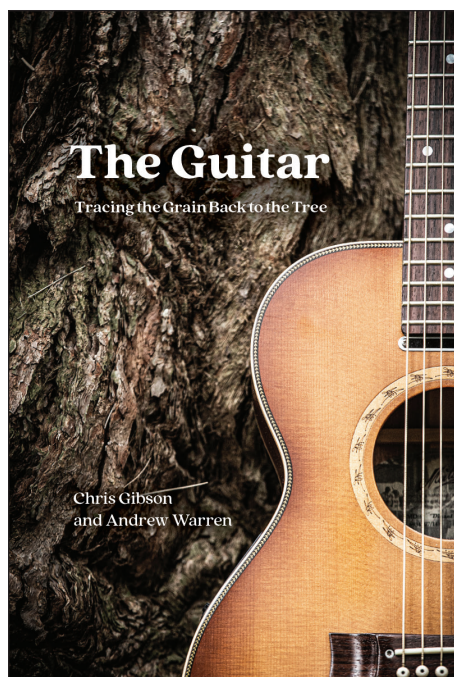
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"This book claims to be 'about' Keats's odes. And it is. But it is also about beauty and sadness and love and revolution and how the odes can help us to better understand these things. It is nothing short of a perfect book, one that understands how poetry can transform one's life. Nersessian is on track to be the Harold Bloom of her generation, but a Bloom with politics."—Juliana Spahr

Anahid Nersessian is associate professor of English at the University of California, Los Angeles. She is the author of *The Calamity Form: On Poetry and Social Life*, *Utopia, Limited: Romanticism and Adjustment*, and the coeditor of the Thinking Literature series, published by the University of Chicago Press.

LITERATURE & LITERARY CRITICISM



CHRIS GIBSON and ANDREW WARREN

The Guitar

Tracing the Grain Back to the Tree

APRIL | 288 p. | 44 halftones, 1 table | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$95.00 Paper \$20.00

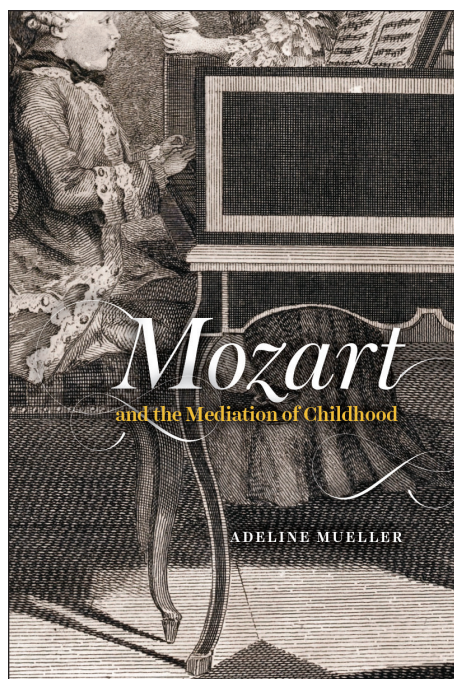
- Account of how guitars are made that traces the process from the makers all the way back to the tree, traveling the world to meet the people who make guitars and fell the woods used in their production
- Explains the cultural and environmental processes that go into making musical instruments, looking to place-specific knowledges that contribute to the craft of guitar making
- For guitar, travel, and nature lovers, as well as scholars in music and environmental studies

Chris Gibson is professor of geography at the University of Wollongong, Australia.

Andrew Warren is senior lecturer in economic geography at the University of Wollongong, Australia. They are coauthors of *Surfing Places*, *Surfboard Makers: Craft, Creativity and Cultural Heritage in Hawai'i, California, and Australia*.

Guitars inspire cult-like devotion: an aficionado can tell you precisely when and where their favorite instruments were made. And she will likely also tell you about the wood they were made from and its unique effects on the instruments' sound. In *The Guitar*, Chris Gibson and Andrew Warren trace guitars all the way back to the tree. It is a book about musical instrument making, the timbers and trees from which guitars are made. It chronicles the authors' journeys across the world, to guitar festivals, factories, remote sawmills, Indigenous lands, and distant rainforests, in search of the behind-the-scenes stories of how guitars are made, where the much-cherished guitar timbers ultimately come from, and the people and skills involved along the way. The authors are able to unlock insights on longer arcs of world history: on the human exploitation of nature, colonialism, industrial capitalism, and cultural change. They end on a parable of wider resonance: of the incredible but unappreciated skill and care that goes into growing and felling trees, milling timber, and making enchanted musical instruments; set against the human tendency to reform our use (and abuse) of natural resources only when it appears too late.

MUSIC



Adeline Mueller is assistant professor of music at Mount Holyoke College.

ADELINE MUELLER

Mozart and the Mediation of Childhood

JUNE | 288 p. | 36 halftones, 9 line drawings | 6 x 9 | Cloth \$55.00

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- Advances an original argument about childhood in the Austrian Enlightenment
- Combines musicological analysis with intellectual history and thorough archival work

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This book examines how Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart shaped the social and cultural reevaluation of childhood during the Austrian Enlightenment. Whether in a juvenile sonata printed with his age on the title page, a concerto for a father and daughter, a lullaby, a musical dice game, or a mass for the consecration of an orphanage church, Mozart's music and persona transformed attitudes toward children's agency, intellectual capacity, political and economic value, work, school, and leisure time, and their relationships with each other and with the adults around them. Thousands of children across the Habsburg Monarchy were affected by the Salzburg child prodigy and the idea he embodied: that childhood itself could be packaged, consumed, deployed, "performed"—in short, mediated—through music. The book advances a new understanding of the history of childhood as dynamic, rather than a mere projection or fantasy—in other words, as something mediated not just through ideas or objects, but also through actions. Drawing on a range of evidence, from children's periodicals to Habsburg court edicts and spurious Mozart prints, the book shows that while we need the history of childhood to help us understand Mozart, we also need Mozart to help us understand the history of childhood.

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JACK HART

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Wordcraft

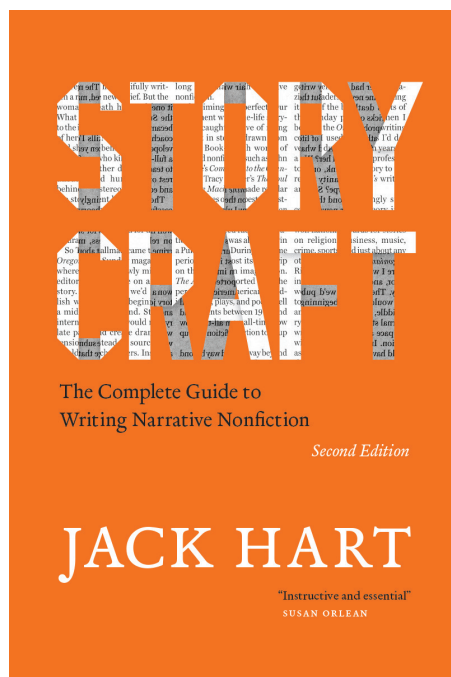
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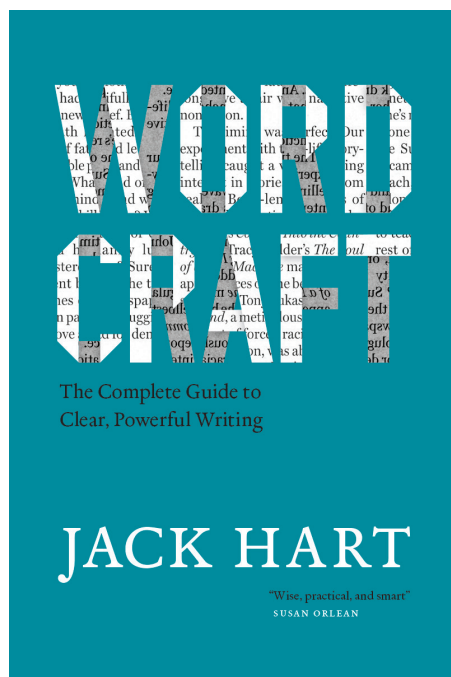
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Wordcraft now functions as a set with the second edition of Hart's book *Storycraft*, on the art of storytelling.



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Jack Hart is an author, writing coach, and former managing editor at the *Oregonian*. He has taught at six universities and served as the acting dean at The University of Oregon School of Journalism and Communication.

REFERENCE