SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS

Faculty Showcase Reception

Celebrating Major Accomplishments of 2016

Friday, December 9, 2016
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Welcome to the 9th annual faculty showcase reception. This yearly event gives us the opportunity to recognize outstanding accomplishments in research and creative activities by the School of Liberal Arts faculty. As evident by today’s celebration, these works cover a great variety of approaches and disciplines. They range from addressing the most immediate and pressing problems of our society to offering insights into the philosophical, literary, and historical nature of the human condition. But as varied as these works are, they all share a common thread. They challenge us—the reader, the viewer, the audience—to come to a new understanding of ourselves and the world in which we live. In their depth and breadth, they truly represent the power of research in the liberal arts.
Over several decades there have been major changes to the way public economists investigate behavioural responses to taxation. This includes areas such as the supply of labour, charitable giving, savings, capital gains realisations, mobility, bequests, family structure, reported income, and tax evasion. Recent research has utilised new data sets and applied new empirical methods, including laboratory experiments, natural field experiments, and controlled field experiments. Other disciplines, especially psychology, are increasingly contributing to the application of behavioural (or cognitive) economics, but the lessons from this work are unevenly disseminated. This important volume brings together the most important scholarly articles on how taxes affect individual behaviour, highlighting current knowledge on behavioural responses to taxation, new thinking about the relevant issues, and analysis of useful policy options.
William Balée

Inside Cultures: A New Introduction to Cultural Anthropology, 2nd Edition
(Routledge Press, 2016)

This concise, contemporary, and inexpensive option for instructors of cultural anthropology breaks away from the traditional structure of introductory textbooks. Emphasizing the interaction between humans and their environment, the tension between human universals and cultural variation, and the impacts of colonialism on traditional cultures, Inside Cultures shows students how cultural anthropology can help us understand the complex, globalized world around us. This second edition:

• includes brand new material on a variety of subjects, including genomic studies, race and racism, cross-cultural issues of gender identity, terrorism and ethnography, and business anthropology
• presents updated and enhanced discussions of medical anthropology, European colonialism and disease, the Atlantic slave trade, and much more
• offers personal stories of the author’s fieldwork in Amazonia, sidebars illustrating fascinating cases of cultures in action, and other pedagogical elements such as timelines
• is written in clear, supple prose that delights readers while informing them

Carl L. Bankston, III

The Rise of the New Second Generation
[Carl L. Bankston III, Min Zhou, eds.]
(Polity Press, 2016)

In this age of migration, more and more children are growing up in immigrant or transnational families. The “new second generation” refers to foreign-born and native-born children of immigrants who have come of age at the turn of the twenty-first century. This book is about this new generation in the world’s largest host country of international migration – the United States.

Recognizing that immigration is an intergenerational phenomenon, and one that is always evolving, the authors begin by asking “Do members of the new second generation follow the same pathways taken by the ‘old’ second generation?” They consider the relevance of assimilation approaches to understanding the lived experiences of the new second generation, and show that the demographic characteristics of today’s immigrant groups and changing social, economic, and cultural contexts require new thinking and paradigms. Ultimately, the book offers a view of how American society is shaping the life chances of members of this new second generation and how today’s second generation, in turn, is shaping a new America.

Designed as a rich overview for general readers and students, and as a concise summary for scholars, this book will be an essential work for all interested in contemporary issues of race, ethnicity, and migration.
Jean Godefroy Bidima

Réalités et représentations de la violence en postcolonies (Realities and Representations of Violence in Postcolonies) [Jean Godefroy Bidima, Victorien Lavou Zoungbo, authors]
{Presses Universitaires de Perpignan, 2016}

We get used to everything, even to violence. We are exasperate on everything... not to mention books on violence. We are proclaimed experts on everything, especially when it comes to denouncing violence. One becomes cynical on everything, especially when administering violence. We get tired of everything, especially of the practices and representations of violence. Violence is a challenge to intelligence, ethics, and sense of responsibility. Forms of violence of postcolonial histories and their perpetuation inspired this book which, with an interdisciplinary tone, reads and tracks down the confusions and manipulations which accompany violence in postcolonial countries. Affecting history and geography, the physical and the mental, individuals and communities, states and civil societies, the sacred and the profane, the local and the global, violence instruct us not only on the construction of the absurdity of postcolonial existences, but also on the unjustifiable permanence of injustice. Violence reveals the bestial tendency in all of us, when, drunk with our power or our failure, we put our minds and responsibilities on hold.
Volume fifteen in the series “Discovering Russia,” written and photographed by William Brumfield, is devoted to the Chukhloma Region of Kostroma Province. Although less known than such major sites in Russian artistic culture as Yaroslavl and Novgorod, the Chukhloma area has its share of architectural treasures, some of which are among the most distinctive in Russia.

The first part of the book contains text in Russian and English, with 18 color photographs by the author and two early 20th-century views. The text begins with a survey of the architectural heritage of the town of Chukhloma, whose fate is closely connected with the medieval principality of Galich.

The second section is devoted to the restoration of the exuberantly decorated wooden mansion from the turn of the 20th century at the village of Astashova. Constructed by Martyan Sazonov, a local peasant who acquired wealth as a building contractor in St. Petersburg, this “terem”, or tower, displays Russian crafts traditions in a sophisticated contemporary aesthetic context.

The third section examines village churches within close range of Astashova and gives special attention to the monumental, abandoned Church of the Convocation of the Virgin at Verkhniaia Pustyn (village of Korovye). The church contains fragments of a masterful complement of frescoes, whose first publication appears in this book.

The fourth section is devoted to another extraordinary wooden mansion, constructed at Pogorelovo by Ivan Poliashov, a local peasant who, like Sazonov, acquired wealth as a building contractor in St. Petersburg and displayed it in his native village. Intricately decorated on the massive rustic exterior, the house is perhaps the best surviving example of “Carpenter Gothic” in Russia. On the interior the mansion still preserves spaces decorated in an urbane manner derived from St. Petersburg fashion.

The fifth section surveys the nearby small town of Sudai, with its ensemble of brick churches and a number of traditional wooden houses. The sixth and concluding section surveys the renowned Dormition-St. Avraamy Gorodetsky Monastery, picturesquely located on a bluff overlooking Lake Chukhloma and visible from the town of Chukhloma, from which the book’s survey began.

Plato’s portrayal of the trial and execution of Socrates is set in motion on the day Socrates receives the indictment against him for “making new gods.” He meets up on that occasion with the seer Euthyphro, who believes he understands the charge against Socrates, sharing, he presumes, the experience of being envied for their wisdom. But while the citizens laugh at Euthyphro, they want to kill Socrates. In his comic dramatization, Plato explores the serious implications of this encounter between philosopher and seer. As the conversation moves from a search for the “idea” of the holy in the first half to an examination of piety and its relation to justice in the second, the pivotal moment arrives with this question: Is something holy only because a god loves it or would a god love only what is in itself holy? With its distinctive approach to that question as it emerges within the argument of the dialogue as a whole, this study addresses a problem that has reverberated throughout the philosophic tradition.
Linda L. Carroll

Commerce, Peace, and the Arts in Renaissance Venice: Ruzante and the Empire at Center Stage
(Routledge, 2016)

With the Paduan playwright Angelo Beolco, aka Ruzante, as a focal point, this book sheds new light on his oeuvre and times—and on Venetian patrician interest in him—by embedding the Venetian aspects of his life within the monumental changes taking place in fifteenth- and sixteenth-century Venice, politically, economically, socially, and artistically.

In a study of patronage in the broadest sense of the term, Linda L. Carroll draws on vast quantities of new archival information; and by reading the previously unpublished primary sources against each other, she uncovers remarkable and heretofore unsuspected coincidences and connections. She documents the well-known links between the increasingly fruitless trade to the north and the need for new investments in land (re)gained by Venice on the mainland, links between problems of governance and political networks. She unveils the significance and potential purposes of those who invited Ruzante to perform in what are interpreted as “rudely” metaphorical truth-telling plays for Venetians at the highest social and political levels.

Focusing on patrons of art works in S. Maria Gloriosa dei Frari, the first chapter establishes their numerous interrelated commercial and political interests and connects them to the content of the works and artists chosen to execute them. The second chapter demonstrates the economic interests and related political tensions that lay behind the presence of many high-ranking government officials at a scandalous 1525 Ruzante performance. It also draws on these and materials concerning previous generations of the Beolco family and Venetian patricians to provide an entirely new picture of Beolco’s relationships with his Venetian supporters. The third chapter analyzes an important Venetian literary manuscript of the period in the Bodleian Library of Oxford University whose copyist had remained unknown and whose contents have been little studied. The identity of the copyist, a central figure in the worlds of theatrical and historical and, now, literary writing in early sixteenth-century Venice, is clarified and the works in the manuscript connected to the cultural worlds of Venice, Padua, and Rome.

Linda L. Carroll

Antonio Molino (Il Burchiella), Delightful Madrigals for Four Voices..., Newly...Composed and Brought to Light...First Book...1568 [Linda L. Carroll, Anthony M. Cummings, Zachary W. Jones, and Philip Weller, eds.]
(Istituto Italiano per la Storia della Musica, 2015)

With this edition of the fragmentary first book of madrigals of Italian composer Antonio Molino, the editors seek to increase scholarly understanding of this fascinating, emblematic figure of the Italian Renaissance. Merchant, soldier, actor, poet, musician and composer, inventor of amusing polyglot texts, and celebrated performer, Molino has attracted great interest among literary and music historians. The Historical Introduction reviews his biography, his linguistic inventions, and his performative and compositional activity. Of particular interest to music historians is Molino’s expertise in both vernacular and cultivated traditions. Early in life, he followed the oral, memory-based tradition of singing with self-accompaniment on an instrument. Later, under the influence of Maddalena Casulana, one of the earliest documented female composer-musicians, Molino converted to the written tradition. He composed two books of madrigals requiring a four-person vocal ensemble, musical notation, and a command of the polyrhythmic and contrapuntal complexities of polyphony. The general character of the collection is described as a kind of encomium of Venetian courtesans and a document of the informal academic culture of mid-sixteenth-century Venice. The edition proper that follows reclaims from the primary source Molino’s initial essays in polyphonic composition; his settings of Italian verse for an ensemble of four vocal soloists.
Teresa Cole

*Depth of Surface*

(Solo Exhibition, Whitespace Gallery, 2016)

Teresa Cole’s 3rd solo exhibition, *Depth of Surface* at Whitespace Gallery, Atlanta, Georgia, included handmade paper works and two installations created from hand-printed and hand-dyed Japanese paper. This show contained pieces that utilize paper in two different ways. The first way is through a group of works where the imagery and handmade papers are created at the same time. These works were produced at Dieu Donné Papermill in New York City where different colored pulps are meshed together to create both image and structure. The second way of working pushes the paper to become structural. This is manifested in installations that use Washi or Japanese paper by printing on each sheet then folding and dying and finally forming the sheets into their own surface. All the works employ patterned imagery as a grammar, a dialect, a language of desire.

Christopher Dunn

*Contracultura: Alternative Arts and Social Transformation in Authoritarian Brazil*

(University of North Carolina Press, 2016)

Christopher Dunn’s history of authoritarian Brazil exposes the inventive cultural production and intense social transformations that emerged during the rule of an iron-fisted military regime during the sixties and seventies. The Brazilian contracultura was a complex and multifaceted phenomenon that developed alongside the ascent of hardline forces within the regime in the late 1960s. Focusing on urban, middle-class Brazilians often inspired by the international counterculture that flourished in the United States and parts of western Europe, Dunn shows how new understandings of race, gender, sexuality, and citizenship erupted under even the most oppressive political conditions.

Dunn reveals previously ignored connections between the counterculture and Brazilian music, literature, film, visual arts, and alternative journalism. In chronicling *desbunde*, the Brazilian hippie movement, he shows how the state of Bahia, renowned for its Afro-Brazilian culture, emerged as a countercultural mecca for youth in search of spiritual alternatives. As this critical and expansive book demonstrates, many of the country’s social and justice movements have their origins in the countercultural attitudes, practices, and sensibilities that flourished during the military dictatorship.
How does a nation come to terms with losing a war – especially an overseas war whose purpose is fervently contested? In the years after the war, how does such a nation construct and reconstruct its identity and values? For the French in Indochina, the stunning defeat at Dien Bien Phu ushered in the violent process of decolonization and a fraught reckoning with a colonial past. Contesting Indochina is the first in-depth study of the competing and intertwined narratives of the Indochina War. It analyzes the layers of French remembrance, focusing on state-sponsored commemoration, veterans’ associations, special-interest groups, intellectuals, films, and heated public disputes. These narratives constitute the ideological battleground for contesting the legacies of colonialism, decolonization, the Cold War, and France’s changing global status.

Data Shadows is a photographic investigation into the physical apparatus of the Internet and digital surveillance. The title piece of the show is an interactive installation that uses eye tracking technology to create a computational artwork that is “aware” of the viewer’s presence and gaze. Over the course of the past two years, Erickson has traveled more than 15,000 miles photographing the sites of data centers and server farms across the United States. The resulting photographs show the enormous, yet unremarkable exteriors alongside the brightly colored, frenzied interiors, exposing the complexity of activities taking place within these deceptively minimal and inaccessible compounds.

As we enter an era defined by Big Data and Internet surveillance, we remain only vaguely aware that our personal data is both part of us and at the same time not entirely ours. At this strange moment in history, Data Shadows offers a symbolic gesture of “counterveillance” – an attempt to pinpoint the precise location of our data and use photography to peer back, if only momentarily, into the apparatus of the internet and experience a dissolution of the boundary between our physical and virtual selves.
Mark Gasiorowski
{Westview Press, 2016}

With recent upheavals in the Middle East and North Africa, the eighth edition of The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa has been thoroughly revised to provide a necessary, comprehensive, and current examination of the domestic politics and foreign policies of this crucial region. A newly expanded introduction provides students with a comparative and thematic overview of the region, from its political regimes and electoral institutions to its economic and social concerns. Each chapter, written by an invited specialist, uses a common framework to explore the historical background, social and political environment, political structure and dynamics, and foreign policy of a country. Chapters are augmented by a country map, a box providing key facts, and an annotated bibliography summarizing the major literature.

The eighth edition provides vital new considerations of the aftermath of the Arab Spring, the ongoing sectarian violence and rise of ISIS, and the growth of social forces like youth movements and women’s rights groups. In addition, the inclusion of six new contributors brings fresh perspectives, ensuring that The Government and Politics of the Middle East and North Africa remains an essential guide to the region’s political landscape.

Marky Jean-Pierre
Language and Learning in a Post-Colonial Context: A Critical Ethnographic Study in Schools in Haiti
{Routledge, 2016}

This book explores the social, political, and historical forces that mediate language ideology, and practices in post-colonial education and how such ideology and practices influence students’ academic achievement. Jean-Pierre provides empirical evidence that a relationship exists between language practices and school underperformance.

He takes Haiti as the focus of study, finding that students and teachers experience difficulty constructing knowledge in a setting in which the language they speak at home (Creole) differs from the language of instruction (French). The research is based on ethnographic data collected in classrooms in both private and public school settings in addition to different sectors of the society (e.g. state and private institutions).
Kevin H. Jones
Sleight of Hand
(Solo Exhibition, Art Lab Akiba, Tokyo, 2016)

“Magic is the sole science not accepted by scientists, because they can’t understand it.”
-Harry Houdini

Artist Statement:
Just as predicted, the 7th row of the periodic table was recently completed by the synthesis of four new elements by scientists from Japan, United States, and Russia. These four highly unstable chemicals last for fractions of a second in the lab. Just as these new elements are unstable, our attempt to understand the world around us is also often fleeting and is just as much a misguided illusion. With my exhibition, Sleight Of Hand, I am examining this instability or hallucination by merging systems of magic and science with concepts of Democracy, chance, and language. Works such as “Carrot Slaw Recipe” tempt us with a carrot as we try to grasp the English language. While the work titled, “Problems of American Democracy” hermetically seals a book on the topic of Democracy in an attempt to save it. Other works reference pachinko and skee ball, both games of chance.

Ultimately the works in this exhibition continue to investigate my interest in the absurd and our attempts to understand the world around us.

Dennis P. Kehoe
The Codex of Justinian [Based on the translation by Justice Fred H. Blume; Bruce W. Frier, general editor; Dennis P. Kehoe, editor and translator]
(Cambridge University Press, 2016)

The Codex of Justinian is, together with the Digest, the core of the great Byzantine compilation of Roman law called the Corpus Iuris Civilis. The Codex compiles legal proclamations issued by Roman emperors from the second to the sixth centuries CE. Its influence on subsequent legal development in the medieval and early modern world has been almost incalculable. But the Codex has not, until now, been credibly translated into English. This translation, with a facing Latin and Greek text (from Paul Krüger’s ninth edition of the Codex), is based on one made by Justice Fred H. Blume in the 1920s, but left unpublished for almost a century. It is accompanied by introductions explaining the background of the translation, a bibliography and glossary, and notes that help in understanding the text. Anyone with an interest in the Codex, whether an interested novice or a professional historian, will find ample assistance here.
Gene Koss

From a Distance
(Solo Exhibition, Arthur Roger Gallery, 2016)

From a Distance features recent sculptures by renowned glass artist Gene Koss that reveal evolutions of earlier themes as well as new. Drawing inspiration from New Orleans and the rural Wisconsin landscapes of his youth, Koss masterfully constructs cast-glass forms paired with found or fabricated steel, creating works that examine balance, light, and mass. The sculptures range from small-scale to monumental, some of which weigh several tons.

Artist Statement:
From a Distance, the signature sculpture in this exhibition, was inspired by this city I’ve loved for forty years. I frequently travel across the Crescent City Connection from my studio in Plaquemines Parish. The view of the city from the bridge is amazing and inspirational – the architecture, the movement of the water in the river, the way the light reflects off the buildings, the ships and barges traveling up and down the Mississippi. The cantilever of the sculpture addresses the precarious feeling of being suspended over the river.

Chapel is my response to a long time desire to create a chapel. As I’ve traveled around the U.S., I’ve often seen memorials along the highway at the site where someone lost their life in an accident. On a recent trip to Greece, I was enamored by the roadside chapels of varying sizes seen everywhere, usually including a burning candle and icons. This inspired me to finally build my chapel using cast glass for color and light reflection, resulting in a place of quiet and reflection.

Crevasse, Series 1, No. 2 is a result of learning about and viewing the giant crevasse in the earth created by the intentional Mississippi River levee breach in Poydras, LA, in 1922.

Adeline Masquelier

Muslim Youth and the 9/11 Generation
[Adeline Masquelier, Benjamin F. Soares, eds.]
{University of New Mexico Press, 2016}

A new cohort of Muslim youth has arisen since the attacks of 9/11, facilitated by the proliferation of recent communication technologies and the Internet. By focusing on these young people as a heterogeneous global cohort, the contributors to this volume—who draw from a variety of disciplines—show how the study of Muslim youth at this particular historical juncture is relevant to thinking about the anthropology of youth, the anthropology of Islamic and Muslim societies, and the post-9/11 world more generally. These scholars focus on young Muslims in a variety of settings in Asia, Africa, Europe, the Middle East, and North America and explore the distinct pastimes and performances, processes of civic engagement and political action, entrepreneurial and consumption practices, forms of self-fashioning, and aspirations and struggles in which they engage as they seek to understand their place and make their way in a transformed world.
What defines a president? Is it policymaking? A good relationship with the American people? Or is it legacy? Most would argue that legacy imprints a president in the American consciousness. A president’s federal judicial appointees may be his or her most lasting political legacy. Because federal judges serve for life, their legal policymaking endures long after a president’s term in office is over. Presidents who care about serving their mandate, who desire to maximize their policy agenda, and who wish to influence the nation’s constitutional fabric appoint as many federal judges as possible.

This new volume in the Presidential Briefings series shows how the president’s appointment power has expanded beyond its bare constitutional outlines. In exercising their constitutional powers while paying heed to political opportunities, presidents and the Senate have together created our modern judicial appointment politics. Presidents consider a host of demographic and ideological factors, candidate qualities, and electoral politics.

Nancy Maveety examines the dynamics of screening and choosing judicial nominees and analyzes the institutional calculus in securing their confirmation in the face of senatorial obstruction. Maveety shows how a president can adapt to particular circumstances and provides an outline for synergistically staffing the federal judiciary, thus securing a legacy for all time.

The Book of Harlan opens with the courtship of Harlan’s parents and his 1917 birth in Macon, Georgia. After his prominent minister grandfather dies, Harlan and his parents move to Harlem, where he eventually becomes a professional musician. When Harlan and his best friend, trumpeter Lizard Robbins, are invited to perform at a popular cabaret in the Parisian enclave of Montmartre—affectionately referred to as “The Harlem of Paris” by black American musicians—Harlan jumps at the opportunity, convincing Lizard to join him.

But after the City of Light falls under Nazi occupation, Harlan and Lizard are thrown into Buchenwald—the notorious concentration camp in Weimar, Germany—irreparably changing the course of Harlan’s life. Based on exhaustive research and told in Bernice McFadden’s mesmeric prose, The Book of Harlan skillfully blends the stories of McFadden’s familial ancestors with those of real and imagined characters.
Stephanie Porras
Pieter Bruegel’s Historical Imagination
(Penn State University Press, 2016)

The question of how to understand Bruegel’s art has cast the artist in various guises: as a moralizing satirist, comedic humanist, celebrator of vernacular traditions, and proto-ethnographer. Stephanie Porras reorients these apparently contradictory accounts, arguing that the debate about how to read Bruegel has obscured his pictures’ complex relation to time and history.

Rather than viewing Bruegel’s art as simply illustrating the social realities of his day, Porras asserts that Bruegel was an artist deeply concerned with the past. In playing with the boundaries of the familiar and the foreign, history and the present, Bruegel’s images engaged with the fraught question of Netherlandish history in the years just prior to the Dutch Revolt, when imperial, religious, and national identities were increasingly drawn into tension. His pictorial style and his manipulation of traditional iconographies reveal the complex relations, unique to this moment, among classical antiquity, local history, and art history.

An important reassessment of Renaissance attitudes toward history and of Renaissance humanism in the Low Countries, this volume traces the emergence of archaeological and anthropological practices in historical thinking, their intersections with artistic production, and the developing concept of local art history.

Fernando Rivera
Ustedes que jamás vieron mi muerte
(You, Who Never Watched My Death)
(Aquelarre Ediciones, 2016)

Two corpses were buried in open ground eleven years ago while a group of college students were building a bonfire nearby. Now, one of the former students lives in the United States and starts a journey to Paris, Livorno, Madrid, and Arequipa to meet his old fellows and recollect that event with them.

Ustedes que jamás vieron mi muerte [You, Who Never Watched My Death] is not only a crime story, but also a travel, adventure, and immigration account, which deals with small politics and human responsibility. It deploys a writing machine that includes reports, epitaphs, journalistic articles, ancient alphabets, paintings, and the passionate book reading that diverse characters made to capture the meaning of history.
Established in 1566 by Spanish conquistador Juan Pardo, Fort San Juan is the earliest known European settlement in the interior United States. Located at the Berry site in western North Carolina, the fort and its associated domestic compound stood near the Native American town of Joara, whose residents sacked the fort and burned the compound after only eighteen months.

Drawing on archaeological evidence of architecture, food, and material culture, as well as newly discovered accounts of Pardo’s expeditions, the contributors to this volume explore this borderland location at the northern frontier of Spain’s long reach. They piece together the fragments of the colonial encounter between Pardo’s thirty soldiers and the people of Joara to chronicle the deterioration in Native American–Spanish relations that sparked Joara’s revolt. *Fort San Juan and the Limits of Empire* offers critical insight into the nature of early colonial interactions.

A man and woman are in an open relationship. They have agreed that having sexual partners outside of their relationship is permissible. One night, when her partner is in another city, the woman has sex with the man’s best friend. What does this mean for their relationship? More importantly, why is there such a strong cultural taboo against this kind of triangulation and what does it reveal about the social organization of gender and sexuality? In *Beyond Monogamy*, Mimi Schippers asks these and other questions to explore compulsory monogamy as a central feature of sexual normalcy. Schippers argues that compulsory monogamy promotes the monogamous couple as the only legitimate, natural, or desirable relationship form in ways that support and legitimize gender, race, and sexual inequalities.

Through an investigation of sexual interactions and relationship forms that include more than two people, from polyamory, to threesomes, to the complexity of the ‘down-low,’ Schippers explores the queer, feminist, and anti-racist potential of non-dyadic sex and relationships. A serious look at the intersections of society and sexuality, *Beyond Monogamy* takes the reader on a compelling and accessible journey through compulsory monogamy, polyamory, and polyqueer sex and relationships.
Ösaki Hachiman: Architecture, Materiality, and Samurai Power
{Dietrich Reimer, 2016}

Osaki Hachimangu (1607), located in Sendai, Japan, is one of only a handful of surviving buildings from the Momoyama period (1568–1615). The shrine is a rare example of “lacquered architecture” – an architectural type characterized by a shiny, black coat made of refined tree sap and evocative of transitory splendor and cyclical renewal. The shrine’s sponsor, the warlord Date Masamune, was one of the last independent feudal lords of his time and remains famous for dispatching diplomatic missions to Mexico, Spain, and Rome. Although his ambitions to become a ruler of Northern Japan were frustrated, his shrine stands as a lasting testament to the political struggles he faced, his global aspirations, and the cultural cloak by which he sought to advance these objectives.

Africans in the Old South: Mapping Exceptional Lives across the Atlantic World
{Harvard University Press, 2016}

The Atlantic slave trade was the largest forced migration in history, and its toll in lives damaged or destroyed is incalculable. Most of those stories are lost to history, making the few that can be reconstructed critical to understanding the trade in all its breadth and variety. Randy J. Sparks examines the experiences of a range of West Africans who lived in the American South between 1740 and 1860. Their stories highlight the diversity of struggles that confronted every African who arrived on American shores.

The subjects of Africans in the Old South include Elizabeth Cleveland Hardcastle, the mixed-race daughter of an African slave-trading family who invested in South Carolina rice plantations and slaves, passed as white, and integrated herself into the Lowcountry planter elite; Robert Johnson, kidnapped as a child and sold into slavery in Georgia, who later learned English, won his freedom, and joined the abolition movement in the North; Dimmock Charlton, who bought his freedom after being illegally enslaved in Savannah; and a group of unidentified Africans who were picked up by a British ship in the Caribbean, escaped in Mobile’s port, and were recaptured and eventually returned to their homeland.

These exceptional lives challenge long-held assumptions about how the slave trade operated and who was involved. The African Atlantic was a complex world characterized by constant movement, intricate hierarchies, and shifting identities. Not all Africans who crossed the Atlantic were enslaved, nor was the voyage always one-way.
Trepanation is the oldest surgical procedure known from antiquity, extending back more than five thousand years in Europe and to at least the fifth century BC in the New World. Anthropologists and medical historians have been investigating ancient trepanation since the mid-nineteenth century, but questions remain about its origins, evolution, and the possible motivations for conducting such a dangerous surgical procedure. Peru is particularly important to these questions, as it boasts more trepanned skulls than the rest of the world combined. This volume presents the results of a long-term research project that examined more than 800 trepanned skulls from recent archaeological excavations and from museum collections in Peru, the United States, and Europe. It examines trepanation in ancient Peru from a broad anthropological and historic perspective, focusing on the archaeological context of osteological collections and highlighting the history of discoveries. It explores the origins and spread of the practice throughout the Central Andes, with a focus on trepanation techniques, success rates, and motivations for trepanning. It examines the apparent disappearance of trepanation in the Andes following Spanish conquest, while noting that there are reports of trepanations being performed by healers in highland Peru and Bolivia into the twentieth century.

National Book Award winner Jesmyn Ward takes James Baldwin’s 1963 examination of race in America, *The Fire Next Time*, as a jumping off point for this groundbreaking collection of essays and poems about race from the most important voices of her generation and our time.

In light of recent tragedies and widespread protests across the nation, *The Progressive* magazine republished one of its most famous pieces: James Baldwin’s 1962 “Letter to My Nephew,” which was later published in his landmark book, *The Fire Next Time*. Addressing his fifteen-year-old namesake on the one hundredth anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, Baldwin wrote: “You know and I know, that the country is celebrating one hundred years of freedom one hundred years too soon.”

Jesmyn Ward knows that Baldwin’s words ring as true as ever today. In response, she has gathered short essays, memoirs, and a few essential poems to engage the question of race in the United States. And she has turned to some of her generation’s most original thinkers and writers to give voice to their concerns. *The Fire This Time* is divided into three parts that shine a light on the darkest corners of our history, wrestle with our current predicament, and envision a better future. Of the eighteen pieces, ten were written specifically for this volume.

In the fifty-odd years since Baldwin’s essay was published, entire generations have dared everything and made significant progress. But the idea that we are living in the post-Civil Rights era, that we are a “post-racial” society is an inaccurate and harmful reflection of a truth the country must confront. Baldwin’s “fire next time” is now upon us, and it needs to be talked about.

Contributors include Carol Anderson, Jericho Brown, Garnette Cadogan, Edwidge Danticat, Rachel Kaadzi Ghansah, Mitchell S. Jackson, Honoree Jeffers, Kima Jones, Kiese Laymon, Daniel Jose Older, Emily Raboteau, Claudia Rankine, Clint Smith, Natasha Trethewey, Wendy S. Walters, Isabel Wilkerson, and Kevin Young.
Ferruh Yilmaz

How the Workers Became Muslims
(University of Michigan Press, 2016)

Writing in the beginning of the 1980s, Ernesto Laclau and Chantal Mouffe explored possibilities for a new socialist strategy to capitalize on the period’s fragmented political and social conditions. Two and a half decades later, Ferruh Yilmaz acknowledges that the populist far right—not the socialist movement—has demonstrated greater facility in adopting successful hegemonic strategies along the structural lines Laclau and Mouffe imagined. Right wing hegemonic strategy, Yilmaz argues, has led to the reconfiguration of internal fault lines in European societies.

Yilmaz’s primary case study is Danish immigration discourse, but his argument contextualizes his study in terms of questions of current concern across Europe, where right wing groups that were long on the fringes of “legitimate” politics have managed to make significant gains with populations typically aligned with the Left. Specifically, Yilmaz argues that socio-political space has been transformed in the last three decades such that group classification has been destabilized to emphasize cultural rather than economic attributes.

According to this point-of-view, traditional European social and political cleavages are jettisoned for new “cultural” alliances pulling the political spectrum to the right, against the “corrosive” presence of Muslim immigrants, whose own social and political variety is flattened into an illusion of alien sameness.

Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé

Wittgenstein and Modernism [Michael Lemahieu, Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé, eds.]
(University of Chicago Press, 2016)

Ludwig Wittgenstein famously declared that philosophy “ought really to be written only as a form of poetry,” and he even described the Tractatus as “philosophical and, at the same time, literary.” But few books have really followed up on these claims, and fewer still have focused on their relation to the special literary and artistic period in which Wittgenstein worked. Wittgenstein and Modernism offers the first collection to address the rich, vexed, and often contradictory relationship between modernism—the twentieth century’s predominant cultural and artistic movement—and Wittgenstein, one of its preeminent and most enduring philosophers. In doing so, it offers rich new understandings of both.

Michael LeMahieu and Karen Zumhagen-Yekplé bring together scholars in both twentieth-century philosophy and modern literary studies to put Wittgenstein into dialogue with some of modernism’s most iconic figures, including Samuel Beckett, Saul Bellow, Walter Benjamin, Henry James, James Joyce, Franz Kafka, Adolf Loos, Robert Musil, Wallace Stevens, and Virginia Woolf. The contributors touch on two important aspects of Wittgenstein’s work and modernism itself: form and medium. They discuss issues ranging from Wittgenstein and poetics to his use of numbered propositions in the Tractatus as a virtuoso performance of modernist form; from Wittgenstein’s persistent metaphoric use of religion, music, and photography to an exploration of how he and Henry James both negotiated the relationship between the aesthetic and the ethical.

Covering many other fascinating intersections of the philosopher and the arts, Wittgenstein and Modernism offers an important bridge across the disciplinary divides that have kept us from a fuller picture of both Wittgenstein and the larger intellectual and cultural movement of which he was a part.
The mission of the School of Liberal Arts is to nurture and promote innovative scholarship, transformative research, and creative inquiry within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Based on a distinctive vision comprised of our interdisciplinary approach, dedication to place-based creativity, and commitment to service learning, the school provides students with an outstanding education founded on close working relationships with distinguished faculty. In our belief in interdisciplinary inquiry, our faculty reach beyond traditional academic boundaries; in our dedication to place-based learning, we engage with New Orleans and the greater Gulf region; in our pursuit of social innovation, we foster a life-long enthusiasm for service to the community and the world.