A Message from Dean Edwards

At the end of every calendar year, the School of Liberal Arts comes together to celebrate the major achievements of our faculty from the past twelve months. Held in the magnificent home at 2 Audubon, the Faculty Showcase has become one of our cherished traditions—a place to commend the products of dedicated research, creativity and innovation. Last year, this tradition was interrupted, as we were unable to gather in person because of a pandemic that made gathering dangerous. And yet, like so many others in the world forced to improvise under unwanted restrictions, we found a new way to pay tribute.

As we moved from salon to screen, our virtual celebration allowed us to focus more intently on the works and their authors. A year later, we are enabled by the advances of science to gather again to celebrate our colleagues. Yet we recognize too that we are moving into a new paradigm, eager to take the lessons learned over the past year and a half into the future. We come together again at 2 Audubon to applaud our colleagues this year, celebrating 37 remarkable accomplishments both in person as well as digitally, where the archive of their work and this celebration will continue to live after our event.

Please join me in celebrating and congratulating our faculty colleagues for their achievements of 2021 the best way we know how: by taking some time here to regard and discuss the works themselves. Congratulations to all!
Idelber Avelar’s *Eles em nós* is the first in-depth study of the role of language in the political processes undergone by Brazil in the twenty-first century. The book argues that cultural studies and discourse analysis offer relevant contributions to the understanding of the unique trajectory of Brazilian politics in the past two decades, marked by ten years of remarkable stability, growth, and international protagonism, followed by the largest protests, the greatest corruption scandal, and the worst recession in the country’s history.

This book sheds light on the roots of what many analysts have called a political catastrophe, the election of a far-right coalition that threatens the very foundations of democracy in the country. Avelar argues that the explanation for these processes must include an account of the hyperboles with which Brazil has thought of itself, its political system’s inability to translate real societal antagonisms, and the euphemisms with which the Amerindian genocide has been masked. For Avelar, the most original feature of the far-right coalition currently governing Brazil lies precisely in its use of language, one that is marked by constant parody, pastiche, and self-contradiction. *Eles em nós* has been reviewed in several Brazilian newspapers, magazines, radio and TV shows, and has now reached second edition.
This concise, contemporary 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 third edition:
- contains brand new material on many subjects, including anthropological approaches to anti-racism social movements in the Global North during 2020;
- includes findings in anthropological research regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, and its relation to other recent global events and conditions;
- updates the organization and presentation of cultural universals and cultural variations;
- presents updated and enhanced discussions of anthropological studies of humankind and the environment, with expanded analysis of industrial agriculture in the age of globalization;
- includes more illustrations and updates to existing illustrations, sidebars, and guideposts throughout the volume;
- is written in clear, supple prose that delights readers while informing on content of one of the important courses in a liberal arts education, one that effectively bridges humanities and the sciences.

Equality is a fundamental American value. The nation’s Declaration of Independence declared equality as a self-evident foundation for political life, and the pursuit of equality has continued to dominate policy debates in the twenty-first century. However, equality is a complex idea, and it has had different meanings in different eras.

Using a variety of data sources, this book describes how the views we hold regarding this fundamental national value developed as products of our cultural history from the origins of the American republic to 2020. It traces how cultural transmission, political and economic structures, and communication technology have shaped this core American value. The book begins with the early days of the American republic and follows ideological changes through the era of the self-made man, the rise of corporate society, the New Deal, the post–World War II era, and the era of civil rights. It ends with a detailed discussion of how this history has resulted in some of the most divisive political and social controversies of the twenty-first century.

American Ideas of Equality is a valuable resource for academic researchers, students, and general readers interested in American studies; cultural, economic, and political history; political science; and sociology.
If thought is meaningless without History, we should question the traces, marks and painful imprints History can have over our way of thinking. An international and multidisciplinary collective work, L’Histoire, à l’épreuve de l’histoire seeks therefore to offer a panoply of viewpoints and perspectives and to give a privileged voice to the History of Africa as much as to African philosophy, which has been far too long suppressed and silenced in Western thought. To affirm that the universal is necessarily pluriform, this volume also opens the thinking of History or Histories to other genres and artistic practices. A story and poems illustrate different ways to think and write the Historical.

Analyzing the texts as one distinct corpus, Boone shows how they combined European and indigenous traditions of documentation and considers questions of motive, authorship, and audience. For Spanish authorities, she shows, the books revealed Aztec ideology and practice, while for the indigenous community, they preserved venerated ways of pictorial expression as well as rhetorical and linguistic features of ancient discourses. The first comparative analysis of these encyclopedias, Descendants of Aztec Pictography analyzes how the painted compilations embraced artistic traditions from both sides of the Atlantic.
The photography exhibition “Corner Stone: View from the West” was organized by the Saint Theodore Convent in Pereslavl-Zalessky, Russia. Founded in the early fourteenth century on the site of a major battle between two Russian principalities, the monastery (reconsecrated as a convent in 1667) is among the most historic in the Russian heartland. The exhibition consists of a selection from over 300 of William Brumfield’s photographs of the convent, the earliest of which date from April 1980. Taken in all four seasons and with the blessing of the Mother Superior, the photographs are the most thorough documentation of the convent by a single photographer. At the same time, they form a lyrical evocation of this venerated site.

The exhibition is available to view online: [http://pereslavforum.ru/vystavka](http://pereslavforum.ru/vystavka)
**Nathalie Dajko**  
*French on Shifting Ground: Cultural and Coastal Erosion in South Louisiana*  
University Press of Mississippi, 2020

In *French on Shifting Ground: Cultural and Coastal Erosion in South Louisiana*, Nathalie Dajko introduces readers to the lower Lafourche Basin, Louisiana, where the land, a language, and a way of life are at risk due to climate change, environmental disaster, and coastal erosion. Louisiana French is endangered all around the state, but in the lower Lafourche Basin the shift to English is accompanied by the equally rapid disappearance of the land on which its speakers live.  

*French on Shifting Ground* allows both scholars and the general public to get an overview of how rich and diverse the French language in Louisiana is, and serves as a key reminder that Louisiana serves as a prime repository for Native and heritage languages, ranking among the strongest preservation regions in the southern and eastern U.S. Nathalie Dajko outlines the development of French in the region, highlighting the features that make it unique in the world and including the first published comparison of the way it is spoken by the local American Indian and Cajun populations.  

She then weaves together evidence from multiple lines of linguistic research, years of extensive participant observation, and personal narratives from the residents themselves to illustrate the ways in which language—in this case French—is as fundamental to the creation of place as is the physical landscape. It is a story at once scholarly and personal: the loss of the land and the concomitant loss of the language have implications for the academic community as well as for the people whose cultures—and identities—are literally at stake.  

**Brian T. Edwards**  
*Dear McSweeney’s: Two Decades of Letters to the Editor from Writers, Readers, and the Occasional Bewildered Consumer*  
McSweeney’s Publishing, 2021 | Contributor

McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern has been printing issues since 1998 and sending them into the world with reckless faith. Now and then, the world writes back. In two decades and change, we’ve accumulated a heady archive of letters to the editor: dispatches, pleas, confessions, treatises, ruminations, rants, raves, and the occasional misdirected customer service query. *Dear McSweeney’s* takes readers into the depths of this archive—including material that’s long been out of print. “We like to think of these pieces as personal essays smuggled into the Quarterly in the form of letters,” says Quarterly editor Claire Boyle.  

Collected here are one hundred installments from this sprawling many-to-one correspondence, including but not limited to musings on moths and mummies, macaroons and cats, armadillos and homicidal sea worms and the arcana of Jerry Lewis’s acting career. In turns poignant and absurd, these letters are a sparkling glimpse into the strange and unforgettable lives of McSweeney’s readers. Their unexpected perspectives—messy, weird, tender, funny—synchronize here into a collective portrait of who we are.  

Says Levin Becker: “Think of *Dear McSweeney’s* as a highly experimental epistolary novel whose only real plot is the gentle, inevitable passing of time.”
Collecting diverse critical perspectives on the topic of play—from dolls, bilboquets, and lotteries, to writing itself—this volume offers new insights into how play was used to represent and reimagine the world in eighteenth-century France. In documenting various modes of play, contributors theorize its relation to law, religion, politics, and economics. Equally important was the role of “play” in plays, and the function of theatrical performance in mirroring, and often contesting, our place in the universe.

These essays remind us that the spirit of play was very much alive during the “Age of Reason,” providing ways for its practitioners to consider more “serious” themes such as free will and determinism, illusions and equivocations, or chance and inequality. Standing at the intersection of multiple intellectual avenues, this is the first comprehensive study in English devoted to the different guises of play in Enlightenment France, certain to interest curious readers across disciplinary backgrounds.
Pippin Frisbie-Calder

Resurgence
Solo Exhibition, LeMieux Galleries, New Orleans, LA
November 6–December 24, 2021

In Resurgence, her second solo exhibition at LeMieux Galleries, Pippin Frisbie-Calder bears witness to the improbable ways that nature reasserts and rebounds. Her show celebrates the recent return of Bald Eagles to our landscape, with more than 350 nesting pairs in Southern Louisiana alone.

This body of work is a series of mixed-media silkscreens and woodcuts drawn from photographs and videos taken from years of observation. Many of the pieces were created during her spring residency at the Joan Mitchell Foundation.

Pippin Frisbie-Calder

“Canceled Edition: Ivory-Billed Woodpecker”
Installation, 12th Biennale internationale d’estampe contemporaine de Trois-Rivières
June 12–September 12, 2021

Pippin Frisbie-Calder’s “Canceled Edition: Ivory-Billed Woodpecker” was on view from June 20th to September 20th at the Biennale internationale d’estampe contemporaine de Trois-Rivières (BIECTR), an international print biennial in Canada with nearly 250 prints by more than 52 professional artists from 19 countries.

“Canceled Edition” is a species extinction simulation with hundreds of woodcut prints of Ivory-billed Woodpeckers. Viewers are invited to take a bird home with them until gradually the gallery empties and the species goes extinct.
Though at times it may seem impossible, we can heal with help from our friends and community– if we know how to ask. This heartrending, relatable account of one woman’s reckoning with loss is a guide to the world of self-recovery, self-love, and the skills necessary to meeting one’s own needs in these times of pain– especially when that pain is suffered alone.

Grief is all around us. In the world of today it has become common and layered, no longer only an occasional weight. A book needed now more than ever, *Forget Prayers, Bring Cake* is for people of all ages and orientations dealing with grief of any sort—professional, personal, romantic, familial, or even the sadness of the modern day. This book provides actions to boost self-care and self-worth; it shows when and how to ask for love and attention, and how to provide it for others. It shows that it is okay to define your needs and ask others to share theirs. In a moment in which community, affection, and generosity are needed more than ever, this book is an indispensable road map.

This book will be a guiding light to a healthier mental state amid these troubled times.

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**Bouchaib Gadir**  
*Petits rêves*  
Éditions Non Lieu, 2021

Bouchaib Gadir’s poems are part of a larger sequence characterized by a deep sense of compassion and humanity. His book, titled *Petits rêves*, critiques the politics of immigration in France, Europe, and the United States, in line with the poetry of Abd Al Malik, Marc Alexandre Oho Bambe, and Gaël Faye.

Even though *Petits rêves* (or, *Small Dreams*) reflect on the suffering and alienation experienced by the immigrant, while connecting the present experience with the immigrant’s roots and the family that they leave behind, any contemporary reader can relate to these experiences, which are, in fact, a product of the modern condition. His poems come across as raw and real in Arabic, as clear and almost unfiltered expressions of visceral human experience.

**Merissa Nathan Gerson**  
*Forget Prayers, Bring Cake: A Single Woman’s Guide to Grieving*  
Mandala Publishing, 2021

**French & Italian Communication**
Yuri Herrera-Gutiérrez

Three Novels
And Other Stories, 2021

This collectible edition gathers in one beautifully crafted volume three novels that have made Yuri Herrera’s reputation as one of the best and most revolutionary writers of the new millennium, adding a new preface from the author as well as notes from his Best Translated Book Award-winning translator Lisa Dillman.

The Mexico we hear about in the news—with its vicious drug cartels, desperate migrants, and senseless violence—could only ever be one small part of the story. Hailing from a place beyond the stereotypes, behind the hardships of daily life, Yuri Herrera’s characters are castaways from the realms of myth, the epic, the fairy tale. There is the singer Lobo in Kingdom Cons, who loves a drug lord’s daughter; Makina, who crosses borders to find her brother in Signs Preceding the End of the World; and the Redeemer, a hard-boiled hero looking to broker peace between feuding families during a pandemic in The Transmigration of Bodies.

Spanish & Portuguese

McSweeney’s Quarterly Concern has been printing issues since 1998 and sending them into the world with reckless faith. Now and then, the world writes back. In two decades and change, we’ve accumulated a heady archive of letters to the editor: dispatches, pleas, confessions, treatises, ruminations, rants, raves, and the occasional misdirected customer service query. Dear McSweeney’s takes readers into the depths of this archive—including material that’s long been out of print. “We like to think of these pieces as personal essays smuggled into the Quarterly in the form of letters,” says Quarterly editor Claire Boyle.

Collected here are one hundred installments from this sprawling many-to-one correspondence, including but not limited to musings on moths and mummies, macaroons and cats, armadillos and homicidal sea worms and the arcana of Jerry Lewis’s acting career. In turns poignant and absurd, these letters are a sparkling glimpse into the strange and unforgettable lives of McSweeney’s readers. Their unexpected perspectives—messy, weird, tender, funny—synchronize here into a collective portrait of who we are.

Yuri Herrera-Gutiérrez

Dear McSweeney’s: Two Decades of Letters to the Editor from Writers, Readers, and the Occasional Bewildered Consumer
McSweeney’s Publishing, 2021 | Contributor

Says Levin Becker: “Think of Dear McSweeney’s as a highly experimental epistolary novel whose only real plot is the gentle, inevitable passing of time.”

Spanish & Portuguese
This book announces the new, interdisciplinary field of critical disaster studies. Unlike most existing approaches to disaster, critical disaster studies begins with the idea that disasters are not objective facts, but rather are interpretive fictions—and they shape the way people see the world. By questioning the concept of disaster itself, critical disaster studies reveals the stakes of defining people or places as vulnerable, resilient, or at risk.

As social constructs, disaster, vulnerability, resilience, and risk shape and are shaped by contests over power. Managers and technocrats often herald the goals of disaster response and recovery as objective, quantifiable, or self-evident. In reality, the goals are subjective, and usually contested.

Critical disaster studies attends to the ways powerful people often use claims of technocratic expertise to maintain power.

Moreover, rather than existing as isolated events, disasters take place over time. People commonly imagine disasters to be unexpected and sudden, making structural conditions appear contingent, widespread conditions appear local, and chronic conditions appear acute. By placing disasters in broader contexts, critical disaster studies peels away that veneer.

With chapters by scholars of five continents and seven disciplines, Critical Disaster Studies asks how disasters come to be known as disasters, how disasters are used as tools of governance and politics, and how people imagine and anticipate disasters. The volume will be of interest to scholars of disaster in any discipline and especially to those teaching the growing number of courses on disaster studies.

When Jennifer Doudna was in sixth grade, she came home one day to find that her dad had left a paperback titled The Double Helix on her bed. She put it aside, thinking it was one of those detective tales she loved. When she read it on a rainy Saturday, she discovered she was right, in a way. As she sped through the pages, she became enthralled by the intense drama behind the competition to discover the code of life. Even though her high school counselor told her girls didn't become scientists, she decided she would.

Driven by a passion to understand how nature works and to turn discoveries into inventions, she would help to make what the book’s author, James Watson, told her was the most important biological advance since his codiscovery of the structure of DNA.

She and her collaborators turned a curiosity of nature into an invention that will transform the human race: an easy-to-use tool that can edit DNA. Known as CRISPR, it opened a brave new world of medical miracles and moral questions.

The development of CRISPR and the race to create vaccines for coronavirus will hasten our transition to the next great innovation revolution. The past half-century has been a digital age, based on the microchip, computer, and internet. Now we are entering a life-science revolution. Children who study digital coding will be joined by those who study genetic code.

Should we use our new evolution-hacking powers to make us less susceptible to viruses? What a wonderful boon that would be! And what about preventing depression? Hmmm...Should we allow parents, if they can afford it, to enhance the height or muscles or IQ of their kids?

After helping to discover CRISPR, Doudna became a leader in wrestling with these moral issues and, with her collaborator Emmanuelle Charpentier, won the Nobel Prize in 2020. Her story is an “enthralling detective story” (Oprah Daily) that involves the most profound wonders of nature, from the origins of life to the future of our species.
Gene H. Koss
Gene Koss
Solo Exhibition, Arthur Roger Gallery, New Orleans, LA | January 9–April 10, 2021

Gene Koss uses cast glass and metal to create complex, monumental sculptures that represent his thoughts and ideas. The design and fabrication of his sculptures is a two-year process, and the focal point of his solo exhibition at Arthur Roger Gallery is a sculpture titled “Toil”. The found wheel implies motion in “Toil” as the beautiful wall of glass is dragged forward, together referencing our efforts and toils to maintain hope for better, more beautiful times as we pull through life’s difficulties. The deep grooves cut into the metal of “Furrow,” another large cast glass and steel sculpture in the exhibition, allude to the turning of the soil in preparation for renewal and new beginnings. Five maquettes of cast glass and found metal objects, as well as 11 solid glass sculptures, are also included in this exhibition.

Peter Kunze
Taking a Stand: Contemporary US Stand-Up Comedians as Public Intellectuals
Jackson: University Press of Mississippi, 2021 | Co-edited with Jared Champion

Stand-up comedians have a long history of walking a careful line between serious and playful engagement with social issues: Lenny Bruce questioned the symbolic valence of racial slurs, Dick Gregory took time away from the stage to speak alongside Martin Luther King Jr., and—more recently—Tig Notaro challenged popular notions of damaged or abject bodies. Stand-up comedians deploy humor to open up difficult topics for broader examination, which only underscores the social and cultural importance of their work.

Taking a Stand: Contemporary US Stand-Up Comedians as Public Intellectuals draws together essays that contribute to the analysis of the stand-up comedian as public intellectual since the 1980s. The chapters explore stand-up comedians as contributors to and shapers of public discourse via their live performances, podcasts, social media presence, and political activism.

Each chapter highlights a stand-up comedian and their ongoing discussion of a cultural issue or expression of a political ideology/standpoint: Lisa Lampanelli’s use of problematic postracial humor, Aziz Ansari’s merging of sociology and technology, or Maria Bamford’s emphasis on mental health, to name just a few. Taking a Stand offers a starting point for understanding the work stand-up comedians do as well as its reach beyond the stage. Comedians influence discourse, perspectives, even public policy on myriad issues, and this book sets out to take those jokes seriously.
Directed by Katie Mathews and produced by Jenny Mercein alongside Darcy McKinnon and Abby Epstein, ROLEPLAY explores a modern college campus through the lens of social norms and social performance—how young people wear masks, code switch and perform identities to fit in and to survive—and the impact art can have as a healing practice. The film follows the rehearsal process, students’ lives outside of the classroom, and staged fantasy sequences where students’ imaginations run wild and we understand the healing power of creative spaces.

This film is currently in post-production.


*Tulane students and/or recent graduates.

**Dr. Denise Frazier is the Assistant Director of the New Orleans Center for the Gulf South.

***Darci Jens Fulcher is a former adjunct faculty member.

While most people are aware of the World War II internment of thousands of Japanese citizens and residents of the United States, few know that Germans, Austrians, and Italians were also apprehended and held in internment camps under the terms of the Enemy Alien Control Program. Port of No Return tells the story of New Orleans’s key role in this complex secret operation through the lens of Camp Algiers, located just three miles from downtown New Orleans.

Deemed to be one of two principal ports through which enemy aliens might enter the United States, New Orleans saw the arrival of thousands of Latin American detainees during the war years. Some were processed there by the Immigration and Naturalization Service before traveling on to other detention facilities, while others spent years imprisoned at Camp Algiers. In 1943, a contingent of Jewish refugees, some of them already survivors of concentration camps in Europe, were transferred to Camp Algiers in the wake of tensions at other internment sites that housed both refugees and Nazis. The presence of this group earned Camp Algiers the nickname “Camp of the Innocents.”

Despite the sinister overtones of the “enemy alien” classification, most of those detained were civilians who possessed no criminal record and had escaped difficult economic or political situations in their countries of origin by finding a refuge in Latin America. While the deportees had been assured that their stay in the United States would be short, such was rarely the case. Few of those deported to the U.S. during World War II were able to return to their countries of residence, either because their businesses and properties had been confiscated or because their home governments rejected their requests for reentry. Some were even repatriated to their countries of origin, a possibility that horrified Jews and others who had suffered under the Nazis. Port of No Return tells the varied, fascinating stories of these internees and their lives in Camp Algiers.
With unprecedented speed, scientists have raced to develop vaccines to bring the Covid-19 pandemic under control and restore a sense of normalcy to our lives. Despite the havoc and disruption the pandemic has caused, it’s exposed exactly why we should not return to life as we once knew it. Our current profit-driven healthcare systems have exacerbated global inequality and endangered public health, and we must take this opportunity to construct a new social order that understands public health as a basic human right.

A COVID Charter, A Better World outlines the steps needed to reform public policies and fix the structural vulnerabilities that the current pandemic has made so painfully clear. Leading scholar Toby Miller argues that we must resist neoliberalism’s tendency to view health in terms of individual choices and market-driven solutions, because that fails to preserve human rights. He addresses the imbalance of geopolitical power to explain how we arrived at this point and shows that the pandemic is more than just a virus—it’s a social disease. By examining how the U.S., Britain, Mexico, and Colombia have responded to the Covid-19 crisis, Miller investigates corporate, scientific, and governmental decision-making and the effects those decisions have had on disadvantaged local communities. Drawing from human rights charters ratified by various international organizations, he then proposes a Covid-19 charter, calling for a new world that places human lives above corporate profits.

Using discourses from across the conceptual and geographical board, Toby Miller argues for a different way of understanding violence, one that goes beyond supposedly universal human traits to focus instead on the specificities of history, place, and population as explanations for it. Violence engages these issues in a wide-ranging interdisciplinary form, examining definitions and data, psychology and ideology, gender, nation-states, and the media by covering several foundational questions:

- How has violence been defined, historically and geographically?
- Has it decreased or increased over time?
- Which regions of the world are the most violent?
- Does violence correlate with economies, political systems, and religions?
- What is the relationship of gender and violence?
- What role do the media play?

This book is a powerful introduction to the study of violence, ideal for students and researchers across the human sciences, most notably sociology, American and area studies, history, media and communication studies, politics, literature, and cultural studies.
This volume brings together archaeologists working in Ecuador, Peru, and Bolivia to construct a new prehistory of the Upper Amazon, outlining cultural developments from the late third millennium B.C. to the Inca Empire of the sixteenth century A.D. Encompassing the forested tropical slopes of the eastern Andes as well as Andean drainage systems that connect to the Amazon River basin, this vast region has been unevenly studied due to the restrictions of national borders, remote site locations, and limited interpretive models.

The Archaeology of the Upper Amazon unites and builds on recent field investigations that have found evidence of extensive interaction networks along the major rivers—Santiago, Marañon, Huallaga, and Ucayali. Chapters detail how these rivers facilitated the movement of people, resources, and ideas between the Andean highlands and the Amazonian lowlands. Contributors demonstrate that the Upper Amazon was not a peripheral zone but a locus for complex societal developments. Reaching across geographical, cultural, and political boundaries, this volume shows that the trajectory of Andean civilization cannot be fully understood without a nuanced perspective on the region’s diverse patterns of interaction with the Upper Amazon.

Religion and the Medieval and Early Modern Global Marketplace brings together scholars from a variety of disciplines to examine the intersection, conflict, and confluence of religion and the market before 1700.

Each chapter analyzes the unique interplay of faith and economy in a different locale: Syria, Ethiopia, France, Iceland, India, Peru, and beyond. In ten case studies, specialists of archaeology, art history, social and economic history, religious studies, and critical theory address issues of secularization, tolerance, colonialism, and race with a fresh focus. They chart the tensions between religious and economic thought in specific locales or texts, the complex ways that religion and economy interacted with one another, and the way in which matters of faith, economy, and race converge in religious images of the pre- and early modern periods. Considering the intersection of faith and economy, the volume questions the legacy of early modern economic and spiritual exceptionalism, and the ways in which prosperity still entangles itself with righteousness.

The interdisciplinary nature means that this volume is the perfect resource for advanced undergraduates, postgraduates, and scholars working across multiple areas including history, literature, politics, art history, global studies, philosophy, and gender studies in the medieval and early modern periods.
In countries around the world, politicians distribute patronage jobs to supporters in exchange for a wide range of political services, such as helping with campaigns and electoral mobilization. Patronage employees (clients) engage in these political activities that support politicians (patrons) because their fates are tied to the political fate of their patrons. Although conventional wisdom holds that control of patronage significantly increases an incumbent’s chance of staying in power, we actually know very little about how patronage works.

Drawing on in-depth interviews, survey data, and survey experiments in Argentina, Virginia Oliveros details the specific mechanisms that explain the effect of patronage on political competition. This fascinating study is the first to provide a systematic analysis of the political activities of mid and low-level public employees in Latin America. It provides a novel explanation of the enforcement of patronage contracts that has wider implications for understanding the functioning of clientelist exchanges.

The Archives and Visual Production History of Tulane University Theatre, the Newcomb Dance Company, and the Department of Theatre and Dance 1937-present

A compendium of photos, programs, posters, articles, ads, reviews, and other memorabilia amounting to over 67,000 files.

Premiering Soon at:
https://liberalarts.tulane.edu/departments/theatre-dance/archives

The Production Archives of the Department of Theatre and Dance encompass 67,873 files of photos, programs, posters, articles, advertising, reviews, and other images covering the over 800 productions produced under Tulane University Theater, Newcomb Dance, the Department of Theatre and Dance, Tulane Center Stage, and the New Orleans Shakespeare Festival at Tulane.

Started in 2019 as part of Sachs’ sabbatical, the Production Archives will stand as a repository of all department-related (and production-specific) information moving forward. Over 95% of the shows have something in their file folders. What started out as a small project quickly became a vast undertaking. Via mail, email, and Facebook, the word out to a vast network of alumni, and Sachs soon became the recipient of old photos, programs, and other memorabilia—all part of this project. It is, and will continue to be, a work in progress.
Respect plays a prominent role in contemporary moral philosophy, as well as our everyday moral thought. Ordinary discussion about morality is often framed in terms of demands for respect or complaints about being disrespected, yet basic questions about the concept and role of respect are frequently overlooked. Here, leading philosophers present their latest ideas and fresh perspectives to point research on the topic in new directions.

Following an introduction to the historical rise of respect as a central concept in moral discourse, Part I addresses the fundamental questions of what respect is; its nature and basis. Part II then examines questions in moral theory, for example what exactly ought to be respected, what role respect plays in morality, and which different types of respect are appropriate and morally significant. Part III concludes with the practical application of requirements of respect, with implications for significant moral issues of our time including environmental ethics, social justice, disability, bioethics, and more.

The story of Afro-Brazilian percussionist Naná Vasconcelos stitches together histories of 1960s-1980s jazz, psychedelia, world music, experimentalism and post-punk. Based in Recife, Rio de Janeiro, New York City and Paris, Naná played with musicians as varied as Egberto Gismonti, Don Cherry, Pat Metheny, Ralph Towner, Arto Lindsay, Talking Heads, Laurie Anderson, Paul Simon, Jon Hassell, Brian Eno, Os Mutantes, and Milton Nascimento.

This book traces the 15 years (1964-1979) leading up to Naná’s *Saudades* (1979, ECM), an album evoking his sonic memories of Brazil that he recorded while in Germany. *Saudades* features berimbau, a one-stringed instrument that looks like a bow and arrow, alongside onomatopoetic vocals and the strings of the Radio Symphony Stuttgart. Daniel B. Sharp hears Naná’s playing as a counterargument against dishonest notions of the primitive just as world music emerged as a genre. With a gourd, a stick, a wire, a wicker basket, and a stone, Naná made music as complex and contemporary as the ARP synthesizers in vogue at the time.
David Smilde
Postsecularismo y la religión vivida: aportes desde la sociología cualitativa norteamericana
Universidad Católica Andrés Bello, 2021 | Co-edited with Hugo Pérez Hernáiz

Is the world we live in as secularized as twentieth century sociologists thought it would be? What are people doing when they practice what’s called “religion”? How should we study contemporary religion? For sociology, religion is a form of human practice that has a supernatural reference, sometimes understood as sacred. It is common engaged in the pursuit of myriad human purposes—from salvation after death, to strengthening a marriage, to reconstruction of the self. It is a relevant phenomenon in all human societies, with churches and religious associations that control significant resources and provide important services. But it is also a medium through which people can work to reconstruct their micro-social contexts, including their own identity.

The chapters in this book are translations of articles originally published in the journal Qualitative Sociology between 2011 and 2018, while David Smilde was its Editor-in-Chief. They reflect the most recent approaches in qualitative methods and conceptual direction referred to as “lived religion.”

Allison J. Truitt
Pure Land in the Making: Vietnamese in the Gulf South
Seattle: University of Washington Press, 2021

Since the 1970s, tens of thousands of Vietnamese immigrants have settled in Louisiana, Florida, and other Gulf Coast states, rebuilding lives that were upended by the wars in Indochina. For many, their faith has been an essential source of community and hope. But how have their experiences as migrants influenced their religious practices and interpretations of Buddhist tenets? And how has organized religion shaped their understanding of what it means to be Vietnamese in the United States?

This ethnographic study follows the monks and lay members of temples in the Gulf Coast region who practice Pure Land Buddhism, which is prevalent in East Asia but in the United States is less familiar than forms such as Zen. By treating the temple as a site to be made and remade, Vietnamese Americans have developed approaches that sometimes contradict fundamental Buddhist principles of nonattachment.

This book considers the adaptation of Buddhist practices to fit American cultural contexts, from temple fundraising drives to the rebranding of the Vu Lan festival as Vietnamese Mother’s Day. It also reveals the vital role these faith communities have played in helping Vietnamese Americans navigate challenges from racial discrimination to Hurricane Katrina.
Chad Van Schoelandt

*The Routledge Handbook of Anarchy and Anarchist Thought*
Routledge, 2020  |  Co-edited with Gary Charter

This Handbook offers an authoritative, up-to-date introduction to the rich scholarly conversation about anarchy—about the possibility, dynamics, and appeal of social order without the state. Drawing on resources from philosophy, economics, law, history, politics, and religious studies, it is designed to deepen understanding of anarchy and the development of anarchist ideas at a time when those ideas have attracted increasing attention.

The popular identification of anarchy with chaos makes sophisticated interpretations—which recognize anarchy as a kind of social order rather than an alternative to it—especially interesting. Strong, centralized governments have struggled to quell popular frustration even as doubts have continued to percolate about their legitimacy and long-term financial stability. Since the emergence of the modern state, concerns like these have driven scholars to wonder whether societies could flourish while abandoning monopolistic governance entirely.

Standard treatments of political philosophy frequently assume the justifiability and desirability of states, focusing on such questions as, *What is the best kind of state?* and *What laws and policies should states adopt?*, without considering whether it is just or prudent for states to do anything at all. This Handbook encourages engagement with a provocative alternative that casts more conventional views in stark relief.

Its 30 chapters, written specifically for this volume by an international team of leading scholars, are organized into four main parts:

I. Concept and Significance
II. Figures and Traditions
III. Legitimacy and Order
IV. Critique and Alternatives

In addition, a comprehensive index makes the volume easy to navigate and an annotated bibliography points readers to the most promising avenues of future research.

Richard Velkley

*Sarastro’s Cave: Letters from the Recent Past*
Mercer University Press, 2021

“I hoped to use these letters to make a book, in which they would retain their character as individual utterances, although they would become parts of a larger whole.” So writes Clovis Mendling, professor of history at a Southern university, bequeathing his letters as an unfinished project to a friend shortly before he mysteriously disappears. Much is at stake in these letters for Mendling, as they reflect on a personal crisis in which he discovers philosophical, political, musical, and literary significance. By making an epistolary novel out of his letters he hopes to prove to himself that he is truly a living human and not a mechanical simulation. At the same time, his moral and intellectual world unravels as he questions the tenets of Enlightenment thought, especially Freemasonry, his scholarly focus.

Through these accounts of his travels in China and Europe, a balletic inspiration in the classroom, a spectral vision on the streets of New Orleans, and insights drawn from opera, drama, and film, the reader learns how Mendling overcomes the quandary of whether he is human, but finally succumbs to a deeper challenge to his ordered existence: the pull of eros. Although moved by the music of Mozart’s Sarastro, teacher of self-mastery and inner harmony through love, a bewitched and confused Mendling plunges into the mind’s netherworld.
Using engaging stories and a diverse cast of characters, Lisa Wade memorably delivers what C. Wright Mills described as both the terrible and the magnificent lessons of sociology. With chapters that build upon one another, *Terrible Magnificent Sociology* represents a new kind of introduction to sociology.

Recognizing the many statuses students carry, Wade goes beyond race, class, and gender, considering inequalities of all kinds—and their intersections. She also highlights the remarkable diversity of sociology, not only of its methods and approaches but also of the scholars themselves, emphasizing the contributions of women, immigrants, and people of color.

The book ends with an inspiring call to action, urging students to use their sociological imaginations to improve the world in which they live.