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Rights Catalogue
A Sentimental Education

Hannah McGregor

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Feminism and feminist theory | Communication studies

How do you tell the story of a feminist education, when the work of feminism can never be perfected or completed? In A Sentimental Education, Hannah McGregor, the podcaster behind Witch, Please and Secret Feminist Agenda, explores what podcasting has taught her about doing feminist scholarship not as a methodology but as a way of life.

Moving between memoir and theory, these essays consider the collective practices of feminist meaning-making in activities as varied as reading, critique, podcasting, and even mourning. In part this book is a memoir of one person’s education as a reader and a thinker, and in part it is an analysis of some of the genres and aesthetic modes that have been sites of feminist meaning-making: the sentimental, the personal, the banal, and the relatable. Above all, it is a meditation on what it means to care deeply and to know that caring is both necessary and utterly insufficient.

In the tradition of feminist autotheory, this collection works outward from the specificity of McGregor’s embodied experience—as a white settler, a fat femme, and a motherless daughter. In so doing, it invites readers to reconsider the culture, media, political structures, and lived experiences that inform how we move through the world separately and together.

“McGregor, host of the podcast Secret Feminist Agenda, delivers a stirring collection of essays exploring sentimentality and the use of emotion in reading and storytelling. ... With verve and insight, McGregor underscores the contradictions of contemporary narratives that seek out the harrowing details of societal marginalization while offering no solutions to its problems. ... McGregor draws on the works of feminist thinkers including Sara Ahmed, Lauren Berlant, and Jia Tolentino, and her work will surely take its place among them. This radiates with intelligence.”
- Publishers Weekly

Hannah McGregor is an Associate Professor of Publishing at Simon Fraser University. She is the host of the podcasts Secret Feminist Agenda and The SpokenWeb Podcast, and co-host of Witch, Please, a feminist podcast about the Harry Potter world. She also co-edited the book Refuse: CanLit in Ruins (Book*hug 2018).
Performing Female Blackness
Naila Keleta-Mae

Performing Female Blackness examines race, gender, and nation in Black life using critical race, feminist and performance studies methodologies.

This book examines what private and public performances of female blackness reveal about race, gender, and nation and considers how Canada shapes these performances. Naila Keleta-Mae proposes that performance is part of the ontology of female blackness in the public and private spaces that constitute everyday life because people who are female and Black are constantly expected to perform fantasies—be it their own or, far more commonly, those insisted on by dominant culture. By exploring Black expressive culture in familial, literary, and performance settings, the author demonstrates how people who are read as female and Black in private and public settings, are figuratively on stage regardless of the cultural, political, or historical contexts in which they find themselves. Written in poetry, prose and journal-form and drawing from the author’s own life and artistic works, Performing Female Blackness is ideal for scholars, educators, and students of race, gender, performance, and Black expressive culture.

“What I love most about this book is that even as a non-Canadian I can see myself in it. I would argue that even other minoritized people can relate to the idea of having to ‘perpetually perform’—to shift between being and being read by society. Like the best of DJs, Naila Keleta-Mae mixes and spins a deft, poetic, fluid, and moving collaged narrative of theory, lived experience, literary and performance analysis, and multiple performances to tell her own story. In the process, she also illustrates a diverse, global journey of female blackness borne out of the chattel slave trade.”

—Rashida K. Braggs, Williams College, author of Jazz Diasporas: Race, Music, and Migration in Post-World War II Paris
The Black Prairie Archives
An Anthology
Karina Vernon

Paperback | 594 pp.
978-1-77112-374-7
2020
$44.99 USD
Rights Available: World
Thema: DNT JBSL1
Anthologies: general, Ethnic minorities & multicultural studies

The Black Prairie Archives: An Anthology recovers a new regional archive of “black prairie” literature, and includes writing that ranges from work by nineteenth-century black fur traders and pioneers, all of it published here for the first time, to contemporary writing of the twenty-first century.

This anthology establishes a new black prairie literary tradition and transforms inherited understandings of what prairie literature looks and sounds like. It collects varied and unique work by writers who were both conscious and unconscious of themselves as black writers or as “prairie” people. Their letters, recipes, oral literature, autobiographies, rap, and poetry- provide vivid glimpses into the reality of their lived experiences and give meaning to them. The book includes introductory notes for each writer in non-specialist language, and notes to assist readers in their engagement with the literature. This archive and its supporting text offer new scholarly and pedagogical possibilities by expanding the nation’s and the region’s archives. They enrich our understanding of black Canada by bringing to light the prairies’ black histories, cultures, and presences.

“Karina Vernon’s anthology, The Black Prairie Archives, is readable, engaging, lively, polyphonic, political and literary, and simply impossible to reduce to simple periodization or even to a set of aesthetic values.”
— Ian Williams, Alberta Views, 2020 September 2

Karina Vernon is an associate professor of English at the University of Toronto, where her teaching and research focus on black Canadian literature, archives, and decolonization.
‘Membering Austin Clarke reflects on the life and writing of Austin Clarke, whose depictions of Black life in Canada enlarged our understanding of what Canadian literature looks like. Despite being one of Canada’s most widely published, and most richly awarded writers, Austin Clarke (1934–2016) is not a household name.

This collection addresses Clarke’s marginalization in Canadian literature by demonstrating that his writing on Black diasporic life and the immigrant experience is a foundational, if untold, part of the story of CanLit. Novelist, short-story writer, poet, and essayist, Clarke was born in Barbados, moved to Canada in 1955 and went on to establish Black Studies programs at a number of universities in America. He returned to Canada and became one of Canadian literature’s most prolific authors and a public voice for Black people in Canada. Among his best-known works are the Giller Award–winning *The Polished Hoe* (2002) and his memoir *Membering* (2015).

This collection of essays from colleagues, scholars, friends, and fellow writers addresses Clarke’s work in all its richness and complexity in order to understand how Clarke’s legacy continues to transform Canadian writing. It includes previously unpublished poems and short stories from Clarke’s archives as well as personal reflections from friends, histories of the publication of his works, essays, interviews, and short stories and poems inspired by Clarke.

“This anthology stands as a refutation of how Black life in Canada is discarded and disremembered. It marks an intimate encounter with Austin Clarke’s life and writing and reminds us of his singular contributions to Black life in Canada.”
— Rinaldo Walcott

“*Membering Austin Clarke* is a wonderful collection – a both discerning and poignant tribute to one of Canada’s great writers, which will be a landmark work in Austin Clarke criticism for years to come. Paul Barrett has assembled some of the leading names in Black Canadian criticism, along with several friends and fellow travellers of Clarke, resulting in the production of a manuscript that will be widely read beyond an academic audience.”
— Aaron Kamugisha

Paul Barrett is an Assistant Professor in the School of English and Theatre Studies at the University of Guelph. His research interests include Canadian literature, diasporic literature, and digital humanities.
The Contemporary Leonard Cohen
Response, Reappraisal, and Rediscovery
Kait Pinder and Joel Deshaye, editors

The Contemporary Leonard Cohen is an exciting new study that offers an original explanation of Leonard Cohen’s staying power and his various positions in music, literature, and art.

The death of Leonard Cohen received media attention across the globe, and this international star remains dear to the hearts of many fans. This book examines the diversity of Cohen’s art in the wake of his death, positioning him as a contemporary, multi-media artist whose career was framed by the twentieth-century and neoliberal contexts of its production. The authors borrow the idea of “the contemporary” especially from philosophy and art history, applying it to Cohen for the first time—not only to the drawings that he included in some of his books but also to his songs, poems, and novels. This idea helps us to understand Cohen’s techniques after his postmodern experiments with poems and novels in the 1960s and 1970s. It also helps us to see how his most recent songs, poems, and drawings developed out of that earlier material, including earlier connections to other writers and musicians.

Philosophically, “the contemporary” also sounds out the deep feelings that Cohen’s work still generates in readers and listeners. Whether these feelings are spiritual or secular, sincere or ironic, we get them partly from the sense of timeliness and the sense of timelessness in Cohen’s lyrics and images, which speak to our own lives and times, our own struggles and survival. From a set of international collaborators, The Contemporary Leonard Cohen delivers an appreciative but critical examination of one of our dark luminaries.

Kait Pinder is an Assistant Professor in the Department of English and Theatre at Acadia University. Her recent work has appeared in Canadian Literature, Studies in Canadian Literature, and The University of Toronto Quarterly.

Joel Deshaye is a professor at Memorial University. His move to the East Coast stimulated his writing of The American Western in Canadian Literature (forthcoming from the University of Calgary Press). His first book was The Metaphor of Celebrity: Canadian Poetry and the Public, 1955–1980 (2013), which focused partly on Cohen.
Unpacking the Personal Library
The Public and Private Life of Books

Jason Camlot and J.A. Weingarten, editors.

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2022
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Thema: DNL | GLH | JBC
| Literary essays | Acquisitions and collection development |
| Cultural and media studies |

*Unpacking the Personal Library: The Public and Private Life of Books* is an edited collection of essays that ponders the cultural meaning and significance of private book collections in relation to public libraries.

Contributors explore libraries at particular moments in their history across a wide range of cases, and includes Alberto Manguel’s account of the Library of Alexandria as well as chapters on library collecting in the middle ages, the libraries of prime ministers and foreign embassies, protest libraries and the slow transformation of university libraries, and the stories of the personal libraries of Virginia Woolf, Robert Duncan, Sheila Watson, Al Purdy and others. The book shows how the history of the library is really a history of collection, consolidation, migration, dispersal, and integration, where each story negotiates private and public spaces.

*Unpacking the Personal Library* builds on and interrogates theories and approaches from library and archive studies, the history of the book, reading, authorship and publishing. Collectively, the chapters articulate a critical poetics of the personal library within its extended social, aesthetic and cultural contexts.

At a time when the Covid-19 pandemic has forced the wholesale migration of the academic world online, and an urgent re-think of how teaching, learning and research are conducted, this book’s enthusiastic interrogation of issues around the value and purpose of libraries, and of the nature of humanities research conducted within them, is timely. It is fitting in 2022 to be thinking about these things, and this book offers an interesting, stimulating and encouragingly positive answer to the question, “Why libraries?”

—Alice Crawford, Digital Humanities Research Librarian, University of St Andrews

**Jason Camlot** is Professor of English and Research Chair in Literature and Sound Studies at Concordia University. Recent books include *Phonopoetics* (Stanford, 2019), *CanLit Across Media* (MQUP, 2019) and *Vlarf* (MQUP 2021). He is director of the SSHRC-funded SpokenWeb research partnership that focuses on literary audio collections.

**J.A. Weingarten** is a Professor in the School of Language and Liberal Studies at Fanshawe College. He is also the author of *Sharing the Past* (UTP, 2019), as well as more than three dozen articles, book reviews, and papers on Canadian arts and culture.
Moving Archives

Linda M. Morra

The image of the dusty, undisturbed archive has been swept away in response to growing interest across disciplines in the materials they house and the desire to find and make meaning through an engagement with those materials. Archival studies scholars and archivists are developing related theoretical frameworks and practices that recognize that the archives are anything but static. Archival deposits are proliferating, and the architects, practitioners, and scholars engaged with them are scarcely able to keep abreast of them. Archives, archival theory, and archival practice are on the move.

But what of the archives that were once safely housed and have since been lost, or are under threat? What of the urgency that underscores the appeals made on behalf of these archives? As scholars in this volume argue, archives—their materialization, their preservation, and the research produced about them—are moving in a different way: they are involved in an emotionally engaged and charged process, one that acts equally upon archival subjects and those engaged with them. So too do archives at once represent members of various communities and the fields of study drawn to them. Moving Archives grounds itself in the critical trajectory related to what Sara Ahmed calls “affective economies” to offer fresh insights about the process of archiving and approaching literary materials. These economies are not necessarily determined by ethical impulses, although many scholars have called out for such impulses to underwrite current archival practices; rather, they form the crucial affective contexts for the legitimization of archival caches in the present moment and for future use.

Linda M. Morra is a Full Professor (Bishop's University) and a former Craig Dobbin Chair (2016-2017). Her book, Unarrested Archives, was a finalist for the Gabrielle Roy Prize in 2015. She prepared an edition of Jane Rule's memoir, Taking My Life, shortlisted for the international LAMBDA prize in 2012.
This Is Not a Hoax
Unsettling Truth in Canadian Culture
Heather Jessup

Hardback | 227 pp.
978-1-77112-364-8
2019
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   History of art, Indigenous peoples

This Is Not a Hoax shows how the work of some contemporary artists and writers intentionally disrupts the curatorial and authorial practices of the country’s most respected cultural institutions: art galleries, museums, and book publishers. This first-ever study of contemporary Canadian hoaxes in visual art and literature asks why we trust authority in artistic works and how that trust is manifest.

This book claims that hoaxes, far from being merely lies meant to deceive or wound, may exert a positive influence. Through their insistent disobedience, they assist viewers and readers in re-examining unquestioned institutional trust, habituated cultural hierarchies, and the deeply inscribed racism and sexism of Canada’s settler-colonial history.

Through its attentive look at hoaxical works by Canadian artists Iris Häußler, Brian Jungen, and Rebecca Belmore, photographer Jeff Wall, and writers and translators David Solway and Erin Mouré, this book celebrates the surprising ways hoaxes call attention to human capacities for flexibility, adaptation, and resilience in a cultural moment when radical empathy and imagination is critically needed.

Heather Jessup holds a doctorate from the University of Toronto and teaches English at Langara College, BC. Her first novel, The Lightning Field, was a finalist for the Raddall and Savage Book Awards, and was nominated for the International Dublin Literary Award. She is co-curator and lead director of the Prud’homme Library Project.
PRAISE FOR THIS IS NOT A HOAX

A parlour game? A sly wink-and-nod? A cruel but usually harmless trick perpetrated on the unwary? All of my previous associations with the hoax have been overturned by this elegantly argued, deeply thoughtful, and passionately political book. Drawing on an abundance of examples from visual arts and literature produced in Canada, Heather Jessup shows us how these seemingly momentary glitches in the fabric of our deeply held assumptions and conventions have the interruptive power to turn our reflections towards the searing disruptions of colonization, genocide, and institutionally sanctioned cruelty. This is a rare, creative work of cultural scholarship.

— Lorraine York, Senator William McMaster Chair, Canadian Literatures and Cultures, McMaster University

Heather Jessup asks us to look closely at how, and why, we believe what we do. Often funny, sometimes heartbreaking, and always highly readable, This Is Not A Hoax is essential reading for all of us right now - artists, writers, teachers, activists, citizens – who wrestle with making, or unmaking, the distinctions between fiction and non-fiction, truth and lies. Jessup's smart, probing, entirely human study invites us to re-see and re-imagine our relationship to these categories, as well as to the hegemonic power structures implicit within every system of classification.

— Johanna Skibsrud, Author of The Sentimentalists, Winner of the Giller Prize

The art forger concentrates on what our culture expects to see. Heather Jessup, in illuminating the lie, tells us some important truths about our personal, national, and earthly prejudices. This Is Not A Hoax is an essential read in an era of fake news.

— Michael Winter, Author of The Death of Donna Whalen and Minister Without Portfolio, winner of the Writers’ Trust Notable Author Award

In this immensely readable book, Jessup makes the case for the necessity of disruption. This is Not a Hoax proves that our innate human gullibility can be a powerful tool for questioning the institutions and experiences that shape our lives.

— Mandy Len Catron, author of How to Fall in Love with Anyone: A Memoir in Essays
The Frankfurt Kabuff Critical Edition
Claire Squires; Beth Driscoll

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  Publishing and book trade | Literary studies: general

When violence breaks out at the stands of far-right publishers at the Frankfurt Book Fair, Beatrice Deft is provoked into action. An alienated Australian high school teacher who finds herself at the centre of the global book industry, Beatrice encounters a cast of characters including the very hot Caspian Schorle (German police officer), Kurt Weidenfeld (left-wing German publisher), and White Storm (a neo-Nazi publishing organisation).

Such is the premise of The Frankfurt Kabuff, a comic erotic thriller about the publishing industry originally self-published under the pseudonym Blaire Squiscoll. With The Frankfurt Kabuff Critical Edition, Blaire Squiscoll is revealed as the pen name of Beth Driscoll and Claire Squires, who created the novella in the midst of fieldwork at the Frankfurt Book Fair. Published for the first time as a full critical edition, this experimental, playful work combines critical and creative modes for new perspectives on the publishing industry and creative economies.

The Frankfurt Kabuff Critical Edition enriches the novella with an introduction, annotated text, 15 essays by leading scholars and practitioners, and additional creative assemblages. This highly unusual research project offers insights for students, academics and publishers alike.

Claire Squires is Professor of Publishing Studies at the University of Stirling. Her publications include Marketing Literature: the Making of Contemporary Writing in Britain and as co-editor The Cambridge History of the Book in Britain Vol 7: The Twentieth Century and Beyond. With Beth Driscoll, she is co-founder of Ullapoolism.

Beth Driscoll is Associate Professor of Publishing and Communications at the University of Melbourne. Her books include The New Literary Middlebrow: Tastemakers and Reading in the Twenty-First Century (2014) and, with Kim Willkins and Lisa Fletcher, Genre Worlds (2022). With Claire Squires, she is the co-founder of Ullapoolism.
Salomania and the Representation of Race and Gender in Modern Erotic Dance

Cecily Devereux

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Dance | Literature: history and criticism | Film history, theory or criticism

Salomania and the Representation of Race and Gender in Modern Erotic Dance situates the 1908 dance craze, which The New York Times called “Salomania,” as a crucial event and a turning point in the history of the modern business of erotic dance. Framing Salomania with reference to imperial ideologies of motherhood and race, it works toward better understanding the increasing value of the display of the undressed female body in the 19th and early 20th centuries.

This study turns critical attention to cultures of maternity in the late 19th century, primarily with reference to the ways in which women are defined in relation to their genitals as patriarchal property and space and are valued according to reproduction as their primary labour. Erotic dance as it takes shape in the modern representation of Salome insists both that the mother is and is not visible in the body of the dancer, a contradiction this study characterizes as reproductive fetishism.

Looking at a range of media, the study traces the modern figure of Salome through visual art, writing, early psychoanalysis and dance, from “hootchie kootch” to the performances dancer Maud Allan called “mimeo-dramatic” to mid-20th-century North American films such as Billy Wilder’s Sunset Boulevard and Charles Lamont’s Salome, Where She Danced to the 21st-century HBO series The Sopranos.

“In this deeply researched book, Cecily Devereux engages psychoanalytic theory to examine how the figure of Salome has been deployed as a reproductive fetish to affirm white heteropatriarchal imperialist objectives from the late nineteenth century to the present. Through insightful analyses of theatrical performances, novellas, films (Sunset Boulevard), and recent television shows (The Sopranos), Devereux situates longstanding fascination with the “daughter of Herodias” within the intertwined histories of erotic dance, white femininity, and Euro-imperial expansion. Timely and invigorating, Salomania and the Representation of Race and Gender in Modern Erotic Dance makes an exciting contribution to interdisciplinary feminist scholarship.”
—Marlis Schweitzer, York University, author of Bloody Tyrants and Little Pickles: Stage Roles of Anglo-American Girls in the Nineteenth Century

Cecily Devereux is a professor in the Department of English and Film Studies at the University of Alberta. Her publications include Growing a Race: Nellie L. McClung and the Fiction of Eugenic Feminism (2005).
Literatures, Communities, and Learning
Conversations with Indigenous Writers
Aubrey Jean Hanson

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Indigenous Studies
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   Indigenous peoples, Literary studies: general, Educational: Social sciences, social studies

*Literatures, Communities, and Learning: Conversations with Indigenous Writers* gathers nine conversations with Indigenous writers about the relationship between Indigenous literatures and learning, and how their writing relates to communities.

Relevant, reflexive, and critical, these conversations explore the pressing topic of Indigenous writings and its importance to the well-being of Indigenous Peoples and to Canadian education. It offers readers a chance to listen to authors’ perspectives in their own words.

This book presents conversations shared with nine Indigenous writers in what is now Canada: Tenille Campbell, Warren Cariou, Marilyn Dumont, Daniel Heath Justice, Lee Maracle, Sharron Proulx-Turner, David Alexander Robertson, Richard Van Camp, and Katherena Vermette. Influenced by generations of colonization, surrounded by discourses of Indigenization, reconciliation, appropriation, and representation, and swept up in the rapid growth of Indigenous publishing and Indigenous literary studies, these writers have thought a great deal about their work.

Each conversation is a nuanced examination of one writer’s concerns, critiques, and craft. In their own ways, these writers are navigating the beautiful challenge of storying their communities within politically charged terrain. This book considers the pedagogical dimensions of stories, serving as an Indigenous literary and education project.

*Aubrey Jean Hanson* is a member of the Métis Nation of Alberta and a faculty member at the University of Calgary. Her research spans Indigenous literary studies, curriculum studies, and social justice education. Aubrey has previously published in *English Studies in Canada, The Walrus,* and *Studies in American Indian Literatures.*
Autobiography as Indigenous Intellectual Tradition
Cree and Métis âcimisowina
Deanna Reder

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Indigenous Studies
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   Indigenous peoples | Comparative Literature

Autobiography as Indigenous Intellectual Tradition critiques ways of approaching Indigenous texts that are informed by the Western academic tradition and offers instead a new way of theorizing Indigenous literature based on the Indigenous practice of life writing.

Since the 1970s non-Indigenous scholars have perpetrated the notion that Indigenous people were disinclined to talk about their lives and underscored the assumption that autobiography is a European invention. Deanna Reder challenges such long held assumptions by calling attention to longstanding autobiographical practices that are engrained in Cree and Métis, or nêhiyawak, culture and examining a series of examples of Indigenous life writing. Blended with family stories and drawing on original historical research, Reder examines censored and suppressed writing by nêhiyawak intellectuals such as Maria Campbell, Edward Ahenakew, and James Brady. Grounded in nêhiyawak ontologies and epistemologies that consider life stories to be an intergenerational conduit to pass on knowledge about a shared world, this study encourages a widespread re-evaluation of past and present engagement with Indigenous storytelling forms across scholarly disciplines.

Deanna Reder (Cree-Métis) is Associate Professor of Indigenous Studies and English at Simon Fraser University. Her research project, The People and the Text, focuses on the understudied archive of Indigenous literary work in Canada, and she has co-edited several anthologies in Indigenous literary studies.
Why Indigenous Literatures Matter

Daniel Heath Justice

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2018
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Indigenous Studies
Rights Available: World
Thema: JBSL11 DS
  Indigenous peoples, Literature: history & criticism

Part survey of the field of Indigenous literary studies, part cultural history, and part literary polemic, Why Indigenous Literatures Matter asserts the vital significance of literary expression to the political, creative, and intellectual efforts of Indigenous peoples today.

In considering the connections between literature and lived experience, this book contemplates four key questions at the heart of Indigenous kinship traditions: How do we learn to be human? How do we become good relatives? How do we become good ancestors? How do we learn to live together? Blending personal narrative and broader historical and cultural analysis with close readings of key creative and critical texts, Justice argues that Indigenous writers engage with these questions in part to challenge settler-colonial policies and practices that have targeted Indigenous connections to land, history, family, and self. More importantly, Indigenous writers imaginatively engage the many ways that communities and individuals have sought to nurture these relationships and project them into the future.

This provocative volume challenges readers to critically consider and rethink their assumptions about Indigenous literature, history, and politics while never forgetting the emotional connections of our shared humanity and the power of story to effect personal and social change. Written with a generalist reader firmly in mind, but addressing issues of interest to specialists in the field, this book welcomes new audiences to Indigenous literary studies while offering more seasoned readers a renewed appreciation for these transformative literary traditions.

Daniel Heath Justice (Cherokee Nation) is Canada Research Chair in Indigenous Literature and Expressive Culture at the University of British Columbia. A widely published scholar in Indigenous literary studies, he is the co-editor of the groundbreaking Oxford Handbook of Indigenous American Literature (2014) and author of a Cherokee literary history, a cultural history of badgers, and an Indigenous epic fantasy series.
PRAISE FOR *WHY INDIGENOUS LITERATURES MATTER*

This book simultaneously affirms Indigenous writing, introduces Indigenous readers to the canon of Indigenous writing, and teaches non-Indigenous folks how to read our literatures. That's impressive, and it's done in a beautiful, intimate and at times playful way. Why Indigenous Literatures Matter was an honour to read. It is instructional without instructing, grounded, confident, affirming, generous, brilliant, clear and joyful.

— Leanne Betasamosake Simpson, author of *As We Have Always Done* and *This Accident of Being Lost*

Concise, engaging and readable, *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* evokes Indigenous frameworks of relationality at every turn, whether the history of dispossession and removal, or pressing contemporary issues like reconciliation and climate change. Ultimately, this book argues that Indigenous literatures matter because they transform lives. The last chapter, 'Reading the Ruptures,' is startling, moving, brilliant storytelling—troubling and transformative tribalography, laced with humour, provocation, and insight. The characters, drawn from real life, are ones I want to travel with.

— Lisa Brooks, Amherst College, author of *Our Beloved Kin: A New History of King Philip’s War*

Justice makes strong, well-reasoned arguments that indigenous liberation is essential for indigenous peoples to survive and recover from colonialism … and offers erudite, passionate analysis of and paths toward discovering new material.

— Publishers Weekly

A seminal work of simply outstanding scholarship, *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* is as impressively informed and informative as it is thoughtful and thought-provoking.

— Jack Mason, Midwest Book Review, 2018 June 22

In *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter*, Daniel Justice, a writer and scholar from the Cherokee Nation, points out the all-too-common disparity between the stories Indigenous writers tell about ourselves, and the stories others have told about us. ... [Justice is] a bridge builder between cultures.

— Carleigh Baker, Literary Review of Canada, 2018 July 1

The fact that Justice writes on the matter of why Indigenous literatures matter in an analytically clear and intellectually generous, compassionate, and inclusive manner, always making clear how and why they do so to him, might make it easier for readers less familiar with Indigenous writing, history, and culture to consider the significance of Indigenous literatures to them personally, even if the possibility did not occur to them before. The book ends with an appendix that makes a case for the richness of Indigenous literatures in a more encyclopedic fashion and provides an excellent starting point to explore more Native writing. ... In a time where the question about the existence and worth of Indigenous literatures still has not ended, *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* now stands as the number one recommendation to anyone asking this question.

— Rene Dietrich, Transmotion

Daniel Heath Justice’s *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter* tackles the significant task of illuminating the heart of Indigenous literary engagement, articulating the significance of the literary arts to Indigenous peoples. While politically impactful and theoretically cogent, Justice’s book is simultaneously tender and personal. While owning his feelings and experiences, Justice comes out swinging against the systems that exacerbate and perpetuate the misrepresentation and erasure of Indigenous stories—but not by positing himself as a pure critical voice above the messiness of mutually complex relationships. Through this fertile approach to his questions, Justice opens up space for collective engagement around the significance of Indigenous literatures to Indigenous peoples.

— Aubrey Hanson, Canadian Literature 237 (2019)

"Justice has created a wonderwork of his own in *Why Indigenous Literatures Matter*; it is a text that I will read, teach, and share with students, fellow scholars, friends, and relatives because it demonstrates with such clarity and conviction why “Indigenous peoples matter” and why that fact should be celebrated […]"

— Jennifer Andrews, The Fiddlehead 277

[...] this compelling book offers a point of entry into the field of Indigenous literary studies to new readers as well as a better, more expansive, understanding of the field for scholars.

Read, Listen, Tell
Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island
Sophie McCall, Deanna Reder, David Gaertner, and Gabrielle L’Hirondelle Hill, editors

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2017
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Indigenous peoples

“I don’t say in the years to come that you would have lived your life differently if only you had heard this story. You’ve heard it now.”
—Thomas King, in this volume

Read, Listen, Tell brings together an extraordinary range of Indigenous stories from across Turtle Island (North America). From short fiction to as-told-to narratives, from illustrated stories to personal essays, these stories celebrate the strength of heritage and the liveliness of innovation. Ranging in tone from humorous to defiant to triumphant, the stories explore core concepts in Indigenous literary expression, such as the relations between land, language, and community, the variety of narrative forms, and the continuities between oral and written forms of expression. Rich in insight and bold in execution, the stories proclaim the diversity, vitality, and depth of Indigenous writing.

Building on two decades of scholarly work to centre Indigenous knowledges and perspectives, the book transforms literary method while respecting and honouring Indigenous histories and peoples of these lands. It includes stories by acclaimed writers like Thomas King, Sherman Alexie, Paula Gunn Allen, and Eden Robinson, a new generation of emergent writers, and writers and storytellers who have often been excluded from the canon, such as French- and Spanish-language Indigenous authors, Indigenous authors from Mexico, Chicana/o authors, Indigenous-language authors, works in translation, and “lost” or underappreciated texts.

In a place and time when Indigenous people often have to contend with representations that marginalize or devalue their intellectual and cultural heritage, this collection is a testament to Indigenous resilience and creativity. It shows that the ways in which we read, listen, and tell play key roles in how we establish relationships with one another, and how we might share knowledges across cultures, languages, and social spaces.

Sophie McCall is an associate professor in the Department of English at Simon Fraser University, where she teaches Indigenous literatures and contemporary Canadian literature. Her most recent publication, with co-editor, Gabrielle L’Hirondelle Hill, is The Land We Are: Artists and Writers Unsettle the Politics of Reconciliation (2015).

Deanna Reder (Cree-Metis) is an associate professor in the Departments of First Nations Studies and English at Simon Fraser University. She serves as editor for the Indigenous Studies series at WLU Press and was one of the founding members of the Indigenous Literary Studies Association. She teaches and publishes on Indigenous theory, life writing, pop fiction, and gender and sexuality.

David Gaertner is a settler scholar of German descent and an instructor in the First Nations and Indigenous Studies Program at the University of British Columbia, where he specializes in digital storytelling. He is also a co-editor of Read, Listen, Tell: Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island.

Gabrielle L’Hirondelle Hill is a Metis writer and artist from Vancouver, BC, which lies on unceded Coast Salish territory. Hill’s practice investigates struggles over land use and occupation, as well as black markets and unofficial economies.
PRAISE FOR **READ, LISTEN, TELL**

*Read, Listen, Tell* collects a brilliant and vast array of indigenous short fiction, bolstered by insightful critical essays that prioritize indigenous voices, culture, and methodologies.

— Clarissa Goldsmith, Foreword Reviews, 2017 July 29

If you want a primer on Indigenous cultural expressions, this is for you. If you want deft, detailed stories in Indigenous written, oral, and graphic traditions, these will expand your thinking. *Read, Listen, Tell* will make you laugh, dream, and search for more.

— Niigaan Sinclair, CBC Books, 2017 June 23

A unique compendium that is the direct result of outstanding and painstaking scholarship, *Read, Listen, Tell: Indigenous Stories from Turtle Island* is an impressively informative, deftly organized, and exceptionally well presented volume that is unreservedly recommended for both community and academic library Indigenous Cultural Studies collections and supplemental reading lists.

— Midwest Book Review

The strength of this anthology isn’t just in its breadth of content or the high quality of the selected stories; it’s first and foremost in the prioritization of the voices included—their complexities, their complications, and their identities, all wonderfully and honestly presented.

— Publishers Weekly

Most impressive about this anthology is the mixture of texts. There are traditional stories, contemporary short stories, poetry, and anthropological texts, but most notable are the visual texts, such as the excerpt from Michael Nicoll Yahgulanaas’s *Red: A Haida Manga*. This offers readers a window into Indigenous artists as using unexpected genres in order to establish simultaneously an Indigenous and a global perspective. … a refreshing anthology.

— Meredith K. James, American Indian Quarterly, 2018 September 1
Indianthusiasm
Indigenous Responses

Hartmut Lutz, Florentine Strzelczyk, and Renae Watchman

Paperback | 262 pp.
978-1-77112-399-0
2020
$29.99 USD

Indigenous Studies
Rights Available: World
Thema: JBSL11  DSK
   Indigenous peoples, Literary studies: fiction, novelists & prose writers

Indianthusiasm refers to the European fascination with, and fantasies about, Indigenous peoples of North America, and has its roots in nineteenth-century German colonial imagination.

Often manifested in romanticized representations of the past, Indianthusiasm has developed into a veritable industry in Germany and other European nations: there are Western and so-called “Indian” theme parks and a German hobbyist scene that attract people of all social backgrounds and ages to join camps and clubs that practise beading, powwow dancing, and Indigenous lifestyles.

Containing interviews with twelve Indigenous authors, artists, and scholars who comment on the German fascination with North American Indigenous Peoples, Indianthusiasm is the first collection to present Indigenous critiques and assessments of this phenomenon. The volume connects two disciplines and strands of scholarship: German Studies and Indigenous Studies, focusing on how Indianthusiam has created both barriers and opportunities for Indigenous peoples with Germans and in Germany.


Florentine Strzelczyk serves as Deputy Provost of the University of Calgary. She holds a PhD from UBC (1996). Her work has appeared in journals such as Modernism/Modernity; German Quarterly; German Studies Review; Seminar; and Quarterly Review for Film & Video.

Renae Watchman (Navajo) is originally from Shiprock, NM. She is an associate professor of English, cross-appointed with Indigenous Studies at Mount Royal University in Calgary. She is also a co-director of Academic Indigenization.
A War Guest in Canada

W.A.B. Douglas

Paperback | 200 pp.
978-1-77112-368-6
2023
Illus. 10
$24.99 CAD
Rights Available: World
Thema: DND | NHWR7 | NHK
Diaries, letters & journals | Second World War | History of the Americas

During the Second World War, hundreds of children were sent from the UK to stay with family and friends in Canada as “war guests.” This book collects the letters of one such war guest, young W.A.B (Alec) Douglas, who wrote from his wartime home in Toronto to his mother back home in London.

Alec wrote home every week, although sometimes he forgot to post his letters, and they were delayed, and some letters did not get through. Occasionally his godmother and host, Mavis Fry, would add comments and write her own more detailed letters. Also included are letters from Lillian Kingston, who brought Alec to North America in 1940.

This is a story of exposure, at an impressionable age, to ocean passage in wartime, the sights and sounds of New York, the totally new and unfamiliar world of Canada, the wonderful excitement of passage home in a Woolworth Aircraft Carrier as a “Guest of the Admiralty,” and his eventful return to a world he had left behind three years before.

A War Guest in Canada includes an introduction by Roger Sarty and a preface by Cynthia Comacchio.

W. A. B. (Alec) Douglas was born in Southern Rhodesia (now Zimbabwe) and spent his early childhood years in England. From 1940-43 he lived in Canada as a “war guest,” and he later returned to attend the University of Toronto. He served in the Royal Canadian Navy from 1951 to 1973 when he was appointed director of the Directorate of History, National Defence Headquarters. He is the author of numerous books, including official histories of the Royal Canadian Air Force and the Royal Canadian Navy. He lives in Ottawa.

Roger Sarty, history professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, was in previous careers senior historian at the Department of National Defence and deputy director at the Canadian War Museum. His other books on the Canadian Army in the Maritimes include Saint John Fortifications (2003, with Doug Knight) and Guardian of the Gulf: Sydney Cape Breton and the Atlantic Wars (2012, with Brian Tennyson).

Cynthia Comacchio is a professor in the Department of History at Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario. Her previous publications include Nations Are Built of Babies: Saving Ontarios Mothers and Children, 1900 to 1940 and The Infinite Bonds of Family: Domesticity in Canada, 1850 to 1940. With Elizabeth Jane Errington, she edited People, Places and Times: Topics in Canadian Social History, vol. 1: Pre-Confederation and vol. 2: Post-Confederation.
Joey Jacobson’s War
A Jewish Canadian Airman in the Second World War
Peter J. Usher

978-1-77112-342-6
2018
Illus. 30
$29.99 USD

In the spring of 1940 Canada sent hundreds of highly trained volunteers to serve in Britain’s Royal Air Force as it began a concerted bombing campaign against Germany. Nearly half of them were killed or captured within a year. This is the story of one of those airmen, as told through his own letters and diaries as well as those of his family and friends.

Joey Jacobson, a young Jewish man from Westmount on the Island of Montreal, trained as a navigator and bomb-aimer in Western Canada. On arriving in England he was assigned to No. 106 Squadron, a British unit tasked with the bombing of Germany. Joey Jacobson’s War tells, in his own words, why he enlisted, his understanding of strategy, tactics, and the effectiveness of the air war at its lowest point, how he responded to the inevitable battle stress, and how he became both a hopeful idealist and a seasoned airman.

Jacobson’s written legacy as a serviceman is impressive in scope and depth and provides a lively and intimate account of a Jewish Canadian’s life in the air and on the ground, written in the intensity of the moment, unfiltered by the memoirist’s reflection, revision, or hindsight. Accompanying excerpts from his father’s diary show the maturation of the relationship between father and son in a dangerous time.

“Well written, well researched, and well organized, Joey Jacobson’s War is a splendid account of a young Jewish airman’s war. His letters and diaries—and his father’s—offer great insight into the early years of the war and much on public opinion in Canada from 1939 until Joey’s death in action. Peter Usher has done a fine job.”
— J.L. Granatstein, author of Canada’s War

A wonderful book for many reasons, including the depth of meticulous research by the author. However, its uniqueness rests in the first-person narratives of Joey’s diary and notebook entries, and the letters to and from friends and family, particularly his father. Their great strength is that they were penned ‘in the now,’ unencumbered by the passage of time, faded recollections, and perhaps the sober reconsideration of issues after years of musing about matters/events long since passed. Joey was a prolific, skilled writer, fascinated by the world around him, the great events that were unfolding, and his place in them. Highly recommended.
— Lieutenant-Colonel (Ret’d) David L. Bashow, OMM, CD, author of No Prouder Place – Canadians and the Bomber Command Experience, 1939-1945

Peter J. Usher was born in Montreal in 1941. For many years he studied, wrote about, and advised on the environmental and social effects of resource development in Canada’s North. Inspired by his cousin Joey Jacobson’s letters and diaries, he began writing about the experience of Canadian airmen in the Second World War. He is married and lives near Clayton, Ontario.
Rough and Plenty
A Memorial
Raymond A. Rogers

As a commercial fisher in Nova Scotia in the early 1990s, Raymond Rogers experienced the collapse of Canada's East Coast fishery first-hand. Afterward, while preparing to leave the province to find work elsewhere, Rogers noticed a lone gravestone across the road from his home in Shelburne County that commemorates the life of Donald McDonald, a crofter from the Isle of Lewis in Scotland, who “departed this life” in 1881. Rogers wondered if there might be a connection between the necessity of his own departure, and McDonald's lonely presence on the nearby Atlantic shore, linking them as members of local communities that were displaced in the name of “economic progress.”

In *Rough and Plenty: A Memorial*, Rogers explores the parallel processes of dispossession suffered by nineteenth-century Scottish crofters expelled from their ancestral lands during the Highland Clearances, and by the marginalization of coastal fishing communities in Nova Scotia. The book aims to memorialize local ways of life that were destroyed by the forces of industrial production, as well as to convey the experience of dislocation using first-hand narratives, recent and historical. The author makes the case that in a world where capital abhors all communities but itself, remembering becomes a form of advocacy that can challenge dominant structures.

“*Rough and Plenty* is a moving testimony to the tragedies and griefs of dispossession that can result from the modern(izing of) capitalist economies in the old world and the new.”
—Rosemary E. Ommer, University of Victoria, author of *Coasts Under Stress*

“As brilliant, evocative, and narratively complex as a Stan Rogers song blended with the gritty, exacting realism of George Orwell’s *The Road to Wigan Pier*, this book grabs you slowly, but then won’t let go, as it draws portraits of communities now lost in the “merciless and self-congratulating power of progress and improvement.”
—Ruth Bradley-St.-Cyr, *Canadian Literature*

Raymond A. Rogers was a professor in the Faculty of Environmental Studies at York University for twenty-five years. He is the author of three previous books: *Nature and the Crisis of Modernity, The Oceans Are Emptying: Fish Wars and Sustainability,* and *Solving History: The Challenge of Environmental Activism.* He earned the first PhD in Environmental Studies in Canada.
In the Unlikeliest of Places
How Nachman Libeskind Survived the Nazis, Gulags, and Soviet Communism
Annette Libeskind Berkovits, and Daniel Libeskind

Annette Libeskind Berkovits was born in Kyrgyzstan and grew up in postwar Poland and the fledgling state of Israel before coming to America at age sixteen. In her three-decade career with the Wildlife Conservation Society in New York, she spearheaded the institution's nationwide and worldwide science education programs. Her achievements include the first-ever agreement to bring environmental education to China's schools. The National Science Foundation has recognized her outstanding leadership in the field.

Daniel Libeskind is an internationally renowned architect, known for the Jewish Museum in Berlin, the Royal Ontario Museum in Toronto, and the Dublin Performing Arts Center in Dublin, Ireland. His practice is designing commercial, residential, and cultural buildings around the world. His Master Plan for rebuilding the World Trade Center site in New York City was selected in 2003 and has served as the blueprint for the entire site, including the Freedom Tower, the Memorial, the Museum, and the PATH Terminal.

Annette Libeskind Berkovits thought her attempt to have her father record his life's story had failed. But three years after her father's death, she was going through his things and found a box of tapes—several years' worth—with his spectacular life, triumphs, and tragedies told one last time in his baritone voice.

Nachman Libeskind's remarkable story is an odyssey through crucial events of the twentieth century. With an unshakable will and a few drops of luck, he survives a pre-war Polish prison; witnesses the 1939 Nazi invasion of Lodz and narrowly escapes; is imprisoned in a brutal Soviet gulag where he helps his fellow inmates survive, and upon regaining his freedom treks to the foothills of the Himalayas, where he finds and nearly loses the love of his life. Later, the crushing communist regime and a lingering postwar anti-Semitism in Poland drive Nachman and his young family to Israel, where he faces a new form of discrimination. Then, defiantly, Nachman turns a pocketful of change into a new life in New York City, where a heartbreaking promise leads to his unlikely success as a modernist painter that inspires others to pursue their dreams.

With just a box of tapes, Annette Libeskind Berkovits tells more than her father's story: she builds an uncommon family saga and reimagines a turbulent past. In the process she uncovers a stubborn optimism that flourished in the unlikeliest of places.
PRAISE FOR IN THE UNLIKELYEST OF PLACES

“This is a beautifully written saga of a Jewish family before, during and after World War II. The Holocaust must never be forgotten. The historical value of survivor testimonies is important to preserving the collective memory of humanity.”
— Hanna Davidson Pankowsky, author of East of the Storm: Outrunning the Holocaust in Russia

“Berkovits, Libeskind’s daughter and the author of this cinematically gripping debut biography, does a masterful job weaving together a coherent narrative, culled largely from tape recordings that her father left behind. She has a rare gift for storytelling … the prose is lively and direct, and the story is deeply affecting … A moving tale that’s emotionally powerful and historically edifying.”
— Kirkus Reviews

“The deeper I went into In the Unlikelyest of Places the more I found my eyes tearing up—not from the suffering of victims of the Holocaust but from the beauty of the extraordinary courage and success of Nachman Libeskind. It is, of course, the success of a whole family, a whole people refusing to accept defeat, but it’s especially the defiance and joy in his spirit that is so moving. When he goes to Berlin to see the Jewish Museum, designed by his son, Daniel Libeskind, and when he takes up painting in his eighties, not as an old man’s busywork but with craft, power, verve, and a brilliant sense of color and composition—those victories moved me more than any recent book on the Holocaust and survival. That man! You’re going to love him and love the people who supported and believed in him, especially his wife Dora and his children—Annette and Daniel—and his grandchildren.”
— John J. Clayton, author of Many Seconds into the Future (2014) and Mitzvah Man (2011)

Annette Libeskind Berkovits’s In The Unlikelyest of Places is an incandescent biographical tribute to the author’s father, Nachman Libeskind, an eternally hopeful survivor. ... Berkovits relates her father’s story in elegant and shifting prose. ...Though this is, inescapably, a Holocaust survivor’s biography, it is not dominated by those horrors; rather, it celebrates the ingenuity with which one man made his time less about enduring than about living vibrantly. In the Unlikelyest of Places honors the life of an artist, a father, and a survivor who maintained his sense of identity with gentility, despite the historical challenges he endured.
— Michelle Anne Schingler, Foreword Clarion Reviews

“This is a book that works on so many levels: as the biography of a Polish Jew who narrowly escapes two murderous totalitarian systems, as a personal journey that leads to a new life in the United States marked by optimism and accomplishment and, above all, as the beautiful, heartfelt tribute of a daughter to her remarkable father.”
— Andrew Nagorski, author of Hitlerland: American Eyewitnesses to the Nazi Rise to Power (2012)
Appel
A Canadian in the French Foreign Legion
Joel Adam Struthers, and Col. Benoit Desmeulles, foreword

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2019
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Thema: DNC JWCS
   Memoirs, Special & elite forces

Appel: A Canadian in the French Foreign Legion is the first-hand account of the author's six years as a professional soldier during the 1990s, and his experience in the Legion's elite Groupe des Commandos Parachutistes (GCP). Joel Struthers recounts the dangers and demands of military life, from the rigours of recruitment and operational training in the rugged mountains of France, to face-to-face combat in the grasslands of some of Africa's most troubled nations.

Told through the eyes of a soldier, and interspersed with humorous anecdotes, Appel is a fascinating story that debunks myths about the French Foreign Legion and shows it more accurately as a professional arm of the French military. Struthers provides insight into the rigorous discipline that the Legion instills in its young recruits, who trade their identities as individuals for a life of adventure and a role in a unified fighting force whose motto is “Honour and Loyalty.”

“In Appel, Joel Struthers has illustrated a soldier’s life on and off duty through his vast experience in diverse training activities and operations. Those with a military background will find this a fascinating story, laced with humour, and told through the eyes of a professional soldier in a renowned military organization, the French Foreign Legion. Those who have not experienced military life will be equally fascinated with a soldier’s insights into the dangerous and demanding profession of arms.”
— LGen (Retired) RR Crabbe, CMM, MSC, MSM, CD, B Sc

“Travelling through these pages, you will discover how a restless young Canadian turned himself into a professional soldier, and then a pathfinder immersed in a system that, even if could always be improved, remains a reference in terms of soldiering. You will appreciate the quasi-monastic life—made of satisfaction, celebration, hard training, operational commitments, but also of routine and service—of these soldiers who decided to leave everything they had to come and serve in the Legion. And finally you will discover from the inside this esprit de corps that empowers the Corps and helps these hommes sans noms to cope with the tensions of their new lives.”
— Col. Benoit Desmeulles, commanding officer, 2e Régiment étranger de parachutistes (2012–14), from the Foreword

For readers wanting to learn about the reality of soldiering in the contemporary French Foreign Legion, unemcumbered by the myth and conceit which characterize so many of the past descriptions of ‘la Légion’, this is the book for you.
— Michael Boire, Canadian Military Journal 19, No. 2 (Spring 2019)

Joel Adam Struthers is a former Legionnaire, a father, and a commercial helicopter pilot. When not preparing his children’s school lunch, he is a helicopter pilot and a partner in a Canadian risk mitigation firm that solves difficult problems in challenging environments.
The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger
Carolyn Gammon; Israel Unger

Paperback | 240 pp.
978-1-77112-011-1
2014
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$24.99 CAD
Rights Available: World, ex. Germany, Japan
Thema: NHTZ1 | DNC
The Holocaust | Memoirs

At the beginning of the Nazi period, 25,000 Jewish people lived in Tarnow, Poland. By the end of the Second World War, nine remained. Like Anne Frank, Israel Unger and his family hid for two years in an attic crawl space above the Dagnan flour mill in Tarnow. Their stove was the chimney that went up through the attic; their windows were cracks in the wall. Survival depended on the food the adults were able to forage outside at night. Against all odds, they emerged alive. Now, decades later, here is Unger’s “unwritten diary."

At the end of the war, following a time as people sans pays, the Unger family immigrated to Canada. After discovering a love of chemistry, Israel Unger had a stellar academic career, married, and raised a family in Fredericton, New Brunswick. The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger is as much a Holocaust story as it is a story of a young immigrant making every possible use of the opportunities Canada had to offer.

This revised edition includes a reproduction of Dagnan’s List, a list of Jewish slave labourer similar Schindler’s List, made famous in the Steven Spielberg movie. The name of Israel Unger’s father appears on the list, in which Dagnan declares that Unger is an “essential worker”—a ruse that may have saved the father’s life. This recently discovered document proves that Israel Unger’s memory of this key part of the story was accurate. A new postscript details the importance of this startling document.


Israel Unger was born in 1938 in Tarnow, Poland, and immigrated to Canada in 1951. He is Dean Emeritus of Science at the University of New Brunswick. Israel Unger was one of fifty Holocaust survivors to be honoured by the Government of Canada in 1998 in connection with the fiftieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. He was the educational advisor for Atlantic Canada for the Friends of Simon Wiesenthal Center for Holocaust Studies.
PRAISE FOR THE UNWRITTEN DIARY OF ISRAEL UNGER

“This is like a detective story where we are also taken on the journey with the authors and become witnesses to the discovery of evidence that, in every detail, supports Israel’s memories and stories. I have seldom been so moved that I literally stop everything else, including eating until I reach the end. There is a tension between the utter honesty and attention to detail of Israel’s story, and the need to dig deeper and find out more emotionally. It makes this book powerful and indeed, empowering. This is storytelling/history/memoir/biography at its very best. The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger deserves an award for its content but also its methodology. It provides a useful blueprint for other writing-interviewing partnerships and shows how dedication to the cause can lead to an incredibly compelling book.... You cannot read this book fast. It is a slow read. It needs to be. Nor can you put it down. So, be prepared to find a safe haven, take plenty of time, and begin this journey. You will not emerge the same person as you began. This is one of those unique, life-changing books.”
— Cathie Koa Dunsford, Asia Pacific Review, 2013 April

“[The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger] is a powerful story of courage, survival, humility, and love—love of family, love of community, and love of peace, justice, and truth.... Unger and his collaborator, Carolyn Gammon, wrote this book clearly intending to tell the story of an extraordinary life. In the process, it became more than just a writing exercise for them. Like so many works motivated by passion and discovery and framed within the borders of historical and family narratives, this book became a journey of self-discovery and narrative renewal.... This book of memory is as finely written an account of a life as I have read.”
— Richard Blaquiere, Bugle-Observer (Woodstock, NB), 2013 May 10

“In a small town in Poland, nine Jews hid from the Nazis in an attic crawl space for two years. All of them survived. Israel Unger, professor and dean emeritus of the University of New Brunswick, was one of them. With the help of Carolyn Gammon, Unger has shared his story in The Unwritten Diary of Israel Unger. Unger says the idea to write this book was not his, it was Gammon’s. ‘When she first suggested to me that we write a book, my answer to her was that there wasn’t a book, that my memories were not very extensive because I was so young at the time,’ he says. Unger was five when they first hid in the attic, seven when they left that tiny space after Poland was liberated. ‘And I was 1 1/2 when the German war machine crashed into Poland,’ he notes. ‘But Carolyn then said, what happened afterwards is also interesting.’ Looking at himself as a representative of what happened to many survivors, he realized that there might be a book. ‘There were 350,000 Jews that survived Poland—10 per cent of the 3.5 million that were living there before the war—and I was one of those,’ says Unger. ‘It seemed to me, in telling the story, you could also tell in some ways the story of many other people.... What [Unger] found particularly gratifying was that the external reviewer said his story wasn’t just part of Holocaust history, it’s part of Canadian history. The reviewer also said his story filled a gap. ‘To me, it was kind of a justification for the book, that somebody considers it a part of Canadian history,’ he says.”
— Lori Gallagher, Fredericton Daily Gleaner, 2013 April 6

“The book’s final section sets it apart from many other memoirs, in detailing the extensive research undertaken by Unger and Gammon, greatly facilitated by the internet, to reconstruct the circumstances of his Holocaust childhood: the hiding place, the Polish citizens who helped the nine Jews, others who knew about their refuge but did not denounce them, and even the fates of the five others who hid with the Unger family. Correspondence and personal encounters with various helpful and unhelpful Polish authorities enliven this account. A high point is Unger’s meeting with the mill owner’s son, who had known about the hidden Jews, and the discovery of and visits with two women from the group, sisters living in Israel. Another strength of the book is its rich photographic documentation, again largely the result of careful research.... Gammon and Unger have produced a readable, unpretentious, straightforward book that will be of interest to those studying immigration and exile, Holocaust memoir, and Canadian university life. Closing the account, the reader is inclined to agree with Unger’s assertion that ‘every survivor story ... is unique and extraordinary’ and to concur with his own self-assessment: ‘I have had a very good life.’”
— Cecile Zorach, Franklin and Marshall College, Yearbook of German American Studies, Spring 2015, 2015 June
Tiff
A Life of Timothy Findley
Sherrill Grace

Timothy Findley (1930-2002) was one of Canada’s foremost writers—an award-winning novelist, playwright, and short-story writer who began his career as an actor in London, England. Findley was instrumental in the development of Canadian literature and publishing in the 1970s and 80s. During those years, he became a vocal advocate for human rights and the anti-war movement. His writing and interviews reveal a man concerned with the state of the world, a man who believed in the importance of not giving in to despair, despite his constant struggle with depression. Findley believed in the power of imagination and creativity to save us.

Tiff: A Life of Timothy Findley is the first full biography of this eminent Canadian writer. Sherrill Grace provides insight into Findley’s life and struggles through an exploration of his private journals and his relationships with family, his beloved partner, Bill Whitehead, and his close friends, including Alec Guinness, William Hutt, and Margaret Laurence. Based on many interviews and exhaustive archival research, this biography explores Findley’s life and work, the issues that consumed him, and his often profound depression over the evils of the twentieth-century. Shining through his darkness are Findley’s generous humour, his unforgettable characters, and his hope for the future. These qualities inform canonic works like The Wars (1977), Famous Last Words (1981), Not Wanted on the Voyage (1984), and The Piano Man’s Daughter (1995).

Sherrill Grace, OC, FRSC, is a University Killam Professor Emerita at the University of British Columbia. She specializes in Canadian literature and culture and has published extensively in these areas. Her recent books include Inventing Tom Thomson (2004), Canada and the Idea of North (2007), Making Theatre: A Life of Sharon Pollock (2008), and Landscapes of War and Memory (2014).
PRAISE FOR TIFF

“A meticulously researched deep dive into a troubled and fascinating life—passionate, engaged, often messy, vastly rewarding.”
— Margaret Atwood, Twitter, 2020 June 17

“superb … Written with great sensitivity and attention to detail, Grace’s comprehensive biography succeeds in giving a complete picture of its subject as an individual and an artist.”
— Publishers Weekly, 2020 June 22

“I was first drawn to Timothy Findley as a brilliant novelist, but over time I was privileged to know the man behind the novels. Despite a writer’s need for solitude, he was extraordinarily generous with his time and insight, and had a true talent for friendship and mentorship, qualities that shine through in this remarkable biography. Taking a cue from Tiff himself, Sherrill Grace never allows her meticulous research to overshadow the story of an extraordinarily engrossing, multi-faceted life.”
— Sylvia Tyson, singer/songwriter, author of Joyner’s Dream

Tiff is a biography of becoming. Timothy Findley was a writer, but one who arrived at the vocation by way of the stage, a storyteller who shifted from the speaking of others’ words to the crafting of his own. Sherrill Grace brings thoughtful attention to both the man and the work, the latter of which notably marked the national literature by its particular obsessions and inventions.”
— Andrew Pyper, author of The Demonologist and The Homecoming

Sherrill Grace’s meticulously researched biography accesses “Tiff’s” extensive personal diaries and dozens of interviews to reveal the stories behind the Timothy Findley we thought we knew. One of Canada’s most perceptive literary scholars, Grace explores the genesis of Findley’s writing, provides astute analyses of all his fiction, and an illuminating, long overdue reassessment of Findley’s acting and playwriting. She traces his personal and artistic friendships with some of the giants of twentieth century culture, from Margaret Atwood to Sir Alec Guinness, and unpacks the complex family history that inspired the work and troubled the man: his loves and hates, his obsessions and neuroses. Findley emerges as not just a great novelist but a talented, dedicated man of the theatre, passionate human rights crusader, and fierce advocate of Canadian arts who went to war against war, political ruthlessness, homophobia and personal betrayal. A powerful, eye-opening portrait of the artist as an anguished man who tried desperately to live by his motto: Against despair.
— Jerry Wasserman, Professor Emeritus, University of British Columbia

Memory and remembering were central to Timothy Findley’s life and work—and equally to Sherrill Grace’s outstanding biography of the celebrated Canadian author. Drawing impressively and insightfully on a vast archive of letters, photos, journals, diaries, and interviews, and on her own towering talents as one of Canada’s foremost literary scholars, Grace presents a compelling portrait of a complex man and brilliant multifaceted writer—himself a master of auto/biography—whose professional and personal experiences tracked the far-reaching changes of late-20th-century Canada’s social and cultural landscape.
— Christl Verduyn, Mount Allison University

“What a spectacular achievement! In “an ecstasy of exploration,” to use Sherrill Grace’s lovely description of Findley’s dogs criss-crossing a frozen river, one of Canada’s leading critics has created a definitive biography of a giant in Canadian literature. “We are what we keep” is the mantra informing her exhaustive attention to the details that shape and reflect the turbulent life of Timothy Findley or Tiff, as he was generally known. Sherrill Grace illuminates the private personal past that Findley’s fiction transforms into an urgent and unforgettable presence, like Chekhovian wildflowers in a stone orchard. Her version of a man sometimes obscured by his memories brings him to life and makes the fiction indelibly real.”
— John Moss, author of A Reader’s Guide to the Canadian Novel

“A tactful, sensitive, generous, storyteller, Sherrill Grace recounts the life of one of Canada’s greatest storytellers, illuminating his life and work, the people he knew and the cultural times in which he performed that life so passionately. We follow him as he learns his craft through writing and through living that intense, well-examined, if often tormented, life. At once learned and elegant, this immensely readable biography is a glorious summing up of all the themes of his work and life.”
— Linda Hutcheon, University of Toronto, author of The Canadian Postmodern
163256
A Memoir of Resistance
Michael Englishman

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2007
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$27.99 CAD
Rights Available: World, ex. Germany
Thema: NHTZ1 | DNC
   The Holocaust | Memoirs

163256: A Memoir of Resistance is Michael Englishman’s astonishing story of courage, resourcefulness, and moral fibre as a Dutch Jew during World War II and its aftermath, from the Nazi occupation of Holland in 1940, through his incarceration in numerous death and labour camps, to his eventual liberation by Allied soldiers in 1945 and his emigration to Canada.

Surviving by his wits, Englishman escaped death time and again, committing daring acts of bravery to do what he thought was right—helping other prisoners escape and actively participating in the underground resistance. A man who refused to surrender his spirit despite the loss of his wife and his entire family to the Nazis, Englishman kept a promise he had made to a friend, and sought his friend’s children after the war. With the children’s mother, he made a new life in Canada, where he continued his resistance, tracking neo-Nazi cells and infiltrating their headquarters to destroy their files.

Until his death in August 2007, Englishman remained active, speaking out against racism and hatred in seminars for young people. His gripping story should be widely read and will be of interest to scholars of auto/biography, World War II history, and the Holocaust.

“In an appendix to this fine memoir, Michael Englishman (Engelschman) lists the members of his immediate family who were murdered in Auschwitz-Birkenau concentration camp.... He survived in part because he was an electrician: his technical skills made him valuable.... He also developed...a keen sense of self-preservation [which] he used for his own benefit, but also to save the lives of others—he was able to get a number of his fellow prisoners transferred to safer work details.... Englishman emigrated to Canada after the war, and continued his fight against fascism by doing educational work and by taking on neo-Nazi groups. With this powerful memoir, his work continues.”

Michael Englishman was born in Amsterdam and immigrated to Canada after the war. He was an advisor at the Holocaust Centre of Toronto and lectured to students in elementary and high schools as well as at the Ontario Institute of Secondary Education. He received honour and recognition from the government of Canada for his outstanding work on educating the public on the Holocaust.
The Queer Evangelist
A Socialist Clergy’s
Radically Honest Tale
Cheri DiNovo, CM, and Kathleen Wynne, foreword

Cheri DiNovo went from living on the streets as a teenager to performing the first legal same-sex marriage registered in Canada in 2001 as a United Church minister. This story of one queer kid will hopefully inspire other young people (queer and not) to resist the system and change it.

In *The Queer Evangelist*, Rev. Dr. Cheri DiNovo (CM) tells her story, from her roots as a young socialist activist in the 1960s to ordained minister in the ‘90s to member of provincial parliament. As the New Democratic member representing Parkdale-High Park in the Legislative Assembly of Ontario from 2006 to 2017, DiNovo passed more LGBTQ bills than anyone in Canadian history. She describes the behind-the-scenes details of major changes to the law, including Toby’s Law, the first Transgender Rights legislation in North America in a major jurisdiction. She also passed bills banning conversion therapy, proclaiming parent equality for LGBTQ parents, and for enshrining in Ontario law the Trans Day of Remembrance. On this day in the legislature, the provincial government is mandated to observe a minute of silence while Trans murders and suicides are detailed. Interspersed with her political work DiNovo describes her conversion to religious life, her theological work, and her ongoing struggle with the Christian Right.

Cheri DiNovo’s story shows how queers can be both people of faith and critics of religion, illustrating how one can resist and change the repressive systems from within. Her book is the story of queer justice realized and a story of hope for queer (and other) kids everywhere. Includes a foreword by Kathleen Wynne, former premier of Ontario.

Cheri DiNovo grew up in Toronto in a rooming house owned by her parents and spent time on the streets as a teenager, leading to her to social activism. Formerly a member of the Ontario Legislative Assembly, she is host of The Radical Reverend Show, and Minister at Trinity St. Paul’s Centre for Faith Justice and the Arts. Her book *Qu(e)erying Evangelism: Growing a Community from the Outside In* won the Lambda award in 2005. She has won numerous awards for her activism and is a Member of the Order of Canada.

Kathleen Wynne was Premier of Ontario from 2013 to 2018.
On Comics and Grief

Dale Jacobs

Paperback | 270 pp.

2024
$34.99 CAD
Rights Available: World
Crossing Lines
Thema: DNC J X
Memoirs | Graphic Novels, Comic books, Cartoons


Structured around a year of comic books with a cover date of 1976, the book is divided into an Introduction plus twelve sections, each a month of the 1976 publishing year. Two comic books are highlighted each month and examined through the interwoven lenses of creative nonfiction and comics studies. Through these twenty-four comics, the book addresses the major comic book publishers and virtually all genres of comics published in 1976.

By pushing the ways in which the personal is used in comics studies, combining different modes of writing, and embracing a fragmentary style, the book explores what is possible in academic writing in general and comics studies in particular. On Comics and Grief both acts as a way for the author to process his grief and uses grief as a way to think about the comics themselves through the emotions and personal connections that underlie the work we do as scholars.

Dale Jacobs is the author of Graphic Encounters: Comics and the Sponsorship of Multimodal Literacy (2013) and the co-author (with Heidi LM Jacobs) of 100 Miles of Baseball: Fifty Games, One Summer (2021). His essays on comics have appeared in journals such as Inks, English Journal, CCC, Biography, and Studies in Comics. He lives in Windsor, Ontario.
What the Oceans Remember
Searching for Belonging and Home
Sonja Boon

Hardback | 336 pp.
978-1-77112-423-2
2019
Illus. 8
$29.99 USD
Life Writing
Rights Available: World
Thema: DNC JBFH JBSF1
Memoirs, Migration, immigration & emigration, Gender studies: women & girls

Author Sonja Boon's heritage is complicated. Although she has lived in Canada for more than thirty years, she was born in the UK to a Surinamese mother and a Dutch father. Boon’s family history spans five continents: Europe, Africa, Southeast Asia, South America, and North America. Despite her complex and multi-layered background, she has often omitted her full heritage, replying “I’m Dutch-Canadian” to anyone who asks about her identity.

An invitation to join a family tree project inspired a journey to the heart of the histories that have shaped her identity. It was an opportunity to answer the two questions that have dogged her over the years: Where does she belong? And who does she belong to? Boon’s archival research—in Suriname, the Netherlands, the UK, and Canada—brings her opportunities to reflect on the possibilities and limitations of the archives themselves, the tangliness of oceanic migration, histories, the meaning of legacy, music, love, freedom, memory, ruin, and imagination. Ultimately, she reflected on the relevance of our past to understanding our present.

Deeply informed by archival research and current scholarship, but written as a reflective and intimate memoir, What the Oceans Remember addresses current issues in migration, identity, belonging, and history through an interrogation of race, ethnicity, gender, archives and memory. More importantly, it addresses the relevance of our past to understanding our present. It shows the multiplicity of identities and origins that can shape the way we...

Sonja Boon is Associate Professor of Gender Studies at Memorial University. An award-winning researcher, writer, and teacher, Boon is the author of three scholarly monographs, the most recent titled Autoethnography and Feminist Theory at the Water’s Edge: Unsettled Islands (2018). For six years, she was principal flutist with the Portland Baroque Orchestra in Oregon.
PRAISE FOR WHAT THE OCEANS REMEMBER

understand our histories and our own selves.

“What the Oceans Remember is breathtaking in scope. Reaching across continents, oceans and histories, it shows us what it means to live in the shadow of freedom while unfree; how the colour of a person's skin can determine if they are seen or invisible; how the word home can exclude; how the beauty of music can be a balm; how the invaluable quiet of an archive can quake with unearthed voices. Unrelentingly honest, sometimes harrowing, steeped in rich and startling insight, and conveyed in transparent prose – elegant as silk, tough as steel.”
— Lisa Moore, author of the story collection Something for Everyone

“What the Oceans Remember addresses the complex and complicit question ‘Where are you from?’ by taking readers on an extraordinary trip through continents and countries, and to cities and their archives, to help us understand how the stories of our ancestors tell us something about ourselves. Boon’s exploration of the seductive spaces of the archives and the crossing of various kinds of borders brings to mind the work of Saidiya Hartman (Lose Your Mother), Maggie Nelson (The Argonauts), and complements the work of writers like Sara Ahmed as well.”
— Minelle Mahtani, University of British Columbia, author of Mixed Race Amnesia: Resisting the Romanticization of Multiraciality, host and creator of Acknowledgements and Sense of Place

“Timely, compelling and illuminating in equal measure, What the Oceans Remember, which scrutinizes the lives and legacies of several generations of slaves and indentured labourers in Suriname, also confronts the rights and responsibilities we bear in relation to our ancestors. In this ever-questioning memoir, Sonja Boon maps emotional registers and bureaucratic statistics as honestly as she navigates theoretical currents and ethical anxiety. Weaving desire, dreams, and personal memory into the historical record, Boon succeeds admirably in making silences speak and fragments cohere in a fine example of creative non-fiction.”
— Lydia Syson, author of Mr Peacock's Possessions
Prison Life Writing
Conversion and the Literary Roots of the U.S. Prison System
Simon Rolston

Paperback | 301 pp.
978-1-77112-517-8
2021
$39.99 USD
Life Writing
Rights Available: World
Thema: JKVP  DNC
Penology & punishment, Memoirs

The first full-length study of prison life writing, this book shows how the autobiographical literature of incarcerated people is consistently based on a conversion narrative, the same narrative that underpins prison rehabilitation.

By demonstrating how prison life writing interlocks with institutional power, the book challenges conventional preconceptions about writing behind bars. And yet, imprisoned people often use the conversion narrative like they repurpose other objects in prison: much like the radio motor retooled into a tattoo gun, the conversion narrative is often redefined to serve subversive purposes like questioning the supposed emancipatory role of prison writing, critiquing white supremacy, and reconfiguring what can be said in autobiographical discourse.

An interdisciplinary work that brings life writing scholarship into conversation with prison studies and law and literature studies, Prison Life Writing theorizes how life writing works in prison, explains literature’s complicated entanglements with institutional power, and demonstrates the political and aesthetic innovations of one of America’s most controversial literary genres.

“Prison Life Writing is a valuable study that continues the vital work of scholars in many disciplines to interrogate the practice of incarceration while also expanding our understanding of life writing.”
—D. Quentin Miller, biography vol. 45, no. 1, 2022

Simon Rolston specializes in American literature. His work has been published in journals like American Studies, Critical Survey, and MELUS, and his article, “Shame and the Ex-Convict,” was awarded the Canadian Association of American Studies’ Ernest Redekop prize for 2018. He teaches at Langara College, in British Columbia.
Scratching River

Michelle Porter

Scratching River braids the voices of mother, brother, sister, ancestor, and river to create a story about environmental, personal, and collective healing.

This memoir revolves around a search for home for the author’s older brother, who is both autistic and schizophrenic, and an unexpected emotional journey that led to acceptance, understanding and, ultimately, reconciliation. Michelle Porter brings together the oral history of a Métis ancestor, studies of river morphology, and news clippings about abuse her older brother endured at a rural Alberta group home to tell a tale about love, survival, and hope. This book is a voice in your ear, urging you to explore your own braided histories and relationships.

Michelle Porter’s Scratching River is both a reckoning and an elegy; a scathing, powerful roar against social injustice, the scars of trauma, climate crisis, environmental damage and, at the very same time, a love song to the power of family, Métis history, rivers, Bison, burdock, and the Métis storyteller and musician, Louis Goulet, who is her great-great-grandfather’s brother. Porter artfully braids together a portrait of her brother, Brendon Porter, who was horrifically brutalized in an institution for mentally disabled adults, with a rich understanding of the lives and habits of rivers, grassland, bison, and the threatened ecosystems of the prairies — to profound effect. Here also are wisdom and tenderness, stories full of dancing, hunting, travelling by ox-drawn cart, or Greyhound bus, and sleeping under the stars. Porter roves gracefully through the past, present, and future and proves herself a consummate writer for our times. Scratching River is a rare gift.

—Lisa Moore, author of This Is How We Love

Michelle Porter’s first novel will be published by Penguin Canada in 2023. Her first book of poetry, Inquiries, was shortlisted for the Pat Lowther Memorial Award in 2019 and was a finalist for the E.J. Pratt Poetry Award in 2021. Her previous non-fiction book, Approaching Fire (2020), in which she embarks on a quest to find her great-grandfather, the Métis fiddler and performer Léon Robert Goulet, was shortlisted for the Indigenous Voices Awards 2021. She is a citizen of the Métis Nation and member of the Manitoba Métis Federation.
Catastrophe
Stories and Lessons from the Halifax Explosion
T. Joseph Scanlon and Roger Sarty

Paperback | 400 pp.
978-1-77112-371-6
2020
Illus. 20
$39.99 USD
Rights Available: World
Theme: NHK  JKSW  RPC
    History of the Americas, Emergency services, Urban & municipal planning

Catastrophe weaves together compelling stories and potent lessons learned from the calamitous Halifax explosion—the worst non-natural disaster in North America before 9/11.

On December 6, 1917, the Canadian city of Halifax, Nova Scotia, was shattered when volatile cargo on the SS Mont-Blanc freighter exploded in the bustling wartime harbour. More than nineteen hundred people were killed and nine thousand injured. Across more than two square kilometres some 1200 homes, factories, schools and churches were obliterated or heavily damaged.

Written from a scholarly perspective but in a journalistic style accessible to the general reader, this book explores how the explosion influenced later emergency planning and disaster theory. Rich in firsthand accounts gathered in decades of research in Canada, the US, the UK, France and Norway, the book examines the disaster from all angles. It delivers an inspiring message: the women and men at “ground zero” responded speedily, courageously, and effectively, fighting fires, rescuing the injured, and sheltering the homeless. The book also shows that the generous assistance that later came from central Canada and the US also brought some unhelpful intrusions by outside authorities. Unable to imagine the horror of the initial crisis, they ignored or even vilified a number of the first responders.

This book will be of particular interest to disaster researchers and emergency planners along with journalists, and scholars of history, Maritime studies, and Canadian studies.

Winner, Canadian Nautical Research Society Keith Matthews Best Book Award 2020

T. Joseph Scanlon was an accomplished Canadian journalist who became renowned internationally as a disaster researcher and scholar. He served as president of the International Research Committee and was awarded the Charles Fritz award for a lifetime contribution to the sociology of disaster. He died in May 2015.

Roger Sarty, history professor at Wilfrid Laurier University, was in previous careers senior historian at the Department of National Defence and deputy director at the Canadian War Museum. His other books on the Canadian Army in the Maritimes include Saint John Fortifications (2003, with Doug Knight) and Guardian of the Gulf: Sydney Cape Breton and the Atlantic Wars (2012, with Brian Tennyson).
1930
Europe in the Shadow of the Beast
Arthur Haberman

Paperback | 266 pp.
978-1-77112-361-7
2018
Illus.
$24.99 USD
Rights Available: World
Thema: NHTB NHD
Social & cultural history, European history

The year 1930 can be seen as the dawn of a period of darkness, the beginning of a decade that Auden would style “low, dishonest.” That year was one of the most reflective moments in modernity. After the optimism of the nineteenth century, the West had stumbled into war in 1914. It managed to survive a conflagration, but it failed in the aftermath to create something valued.

In 1930, Europe was questioning itself and its own viability. Where are we heading? a number of public intellectuals asked. Who are we and how do we build moral social and political structures? Can we continue to believe in the insights and healing quality of our culture? Major thinkers—Mann, Woolf, Ortega, Freud, Brecht, Nardal, and Huxley—as well as a number of artists, including Picasso and Magritte, and musicians, such as Weill, sought to grapple with issues that remain central to our lives today:

• the viability of a secular Europe with Enlightenment values
• coming to terms with a darker view of human nature
• mass culture and its dangers; the rise of the politics of irrationality
• identity and the “other” in Western civilization
• new ways to represent the postwar world
• the epistemological dilemma in a world of uncertainty; and
• the new Fascism—was it a new norm or an aberration?

Arthur Haberman sees 1930 as a watershed year in the intellectual life of Europe and with this book, the first to see the contributions of the public intellectuals of 1930 as a single entity, he forces a reconsideration and reinterpretation of the period.

1930 is that rare study that is expert, readable, insightful, and fascinating. In a series of short chapters on Mann, Woolf, Ortega, Freud, Brecht, Nardal, and Huxley, Haberman captures for us the zeitgeist of the interwar years. His understanding of literary and cultural modernism during this period is a gift to cultural historians and general readers alike. Modernism isn’t finished with us, and this book goes a long way to explaining why.

— Tim Blackmore, University of Western Ontario

Arthur Haberman is University Professor of History and Humanities at York University. He is the author of 1930: Europe in the Shadow of the Beast (WLU Press, 2018) and The Making of the Modern Age, and the co-author of The West and the World: Contacts, Conflicts, Connections.
Gorgeous War
The Branding War between the Third Reich and the United States
Tim Blackmore

Hardback | 380 pp.
978-1-77112-420-1
2019
Illus. 23
$32.99 USD
Rights Available: World, ex. Korea
Thema: NHWR7  JBTC  KJSC
   Second World War, Media studies, Brands & branding

Gorgeous War argues that the Nazis used the swastika as part of a visually sophisticated propaganda program that was not only modernist but also the forerunner of contemporary brand identity. When the United States military tried to answer Nazi displays of graphic power, it failed. In the end the best graphic response to the Nazis was produced by the Walt Disney Company.

Using numerous examples of US and Nazi military heraldry, Gorgeous War compares the way the American and German militaries developed their graphic and textile design in the interwar period. The book shows how social and cultural design movements like modernism altered and were altered by both militaries. It also explores how nascent corporate culture and war production united to turn national brands like IBM, Coca-Cola, and Disney into multinational corporations that had learned lessons on propaganda and branding that were being tested during the Second World War.

What is the legacy of apparently toxic signs like the swastika? The answer may not be what we hoped. Inheritors of the post-Second World War world increasingly struggle to find an escape from an intensely branded environment—to find a place in their lives that is free of advertising and propaganda. This book suggests that we look again at how it is our culture makes that struggle into an appealing Gorgeous War.

“Gorgeous War, a highly readable book, shows that the US of Walt Disney and the Third Reich of Goebbels were two variants not just of modernity but of hypermodernity, no matter how glaringly different their surface ‘styles’ and their human consequences. It shows we cannot afford to demonize and ‘other’ Nazism too hastily because there is greater affinity between Nazi Germany and aspects of modern America than we might like to admit to ourselves.”
   — Roger Griffin, Oxford Brookes University

For readers in cultural or media studies and those with advertising or marketing backgrounds, Gorgeous War will serve as a well-written text that should prompt questions about the motives of the advertising industry, specifically regarding the origins and uses of branding as a means of consumer enticement.
   — Megan Moore Burns, Quill and Quire

Gorgeous War is a tour de force through the worlds of design and propaganda—both military and corporate—in the United States and Germany. Filled with fascinating details, the book makes creative connections between worlds that were (and are) more closely connected than they first appear.
   — Alexander L. Fattal, Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly, 2020

Tim Blackmore is a professor in the Faculty of Information and Media Studies, Western University, Ontario Canada. His previous book, War X was published in 2005. He has written extensively about war, war technology, and popular culture.
Music-Making in U.S. Prisons
Listening to Incarcerated Voices

Mary L. Cohen and Stuart P. Duncan

978-1-77112-571-0
2022
$39.99 CAD
Rights Available: World
Theme: AVLC | LNFX7 | JNP
  Choral music | Prison law | Adult education, continuous learning

The U.S. incarceration machine imprisons more people than in any other country. Music-Making in U.S. Prisons looks at the role music-making can play in achieving goals of accountability and healing that challenge the widespread assumption that prisons and punishment keep societies safe.

The book’s synthesis of historical research, contemporary practices, and pedagogies of music-making inside prisons reveals that, prior to the 1970s tough-on-crime era, choirs, instrumental ensembles, and radio shows bridged lives inside and outside prisons. Mass incarceration had a significant negative impact on music programs. Despite this setback, current programs testify to the potency of music education to support personal and social growth for people experiencing incarceration and deepen social awareness of the humanity found behind prison walls.

Cohen and Duncan argue that music-making creates opportunities to humanize the complexity of crime, sustain meaningful relationships between incarcerated individuals and their families, and build social awareness of the prison industrial complex. The authors combine scholarship and personal experience to guide music educators, music aficionados, and social activists to create restorative social practices through music-making.

“Music-Making in U.S. Prisons is an important work that demonstrates the power of collaborative musical art-making within prisons with an illustrative collection of examples from many locations and across timespans. This book is grounded in humanity, both an incarcerated individual’s understanding of their own humanity, and society’s perception of it within incarcerated people. I believe it will spark the imagination of many practitioners and could encourage more dramatic change in the prison-industrial complex through the mechanisms described: connecting people inside to the community outside and reinforcing the humanity and dignity of everyone involved.”
—Robert Pollock, Prison Writing Program Manager, PEN America


Stuart P. Duncan holds a DMA from Cornell University and a PhD from Yale University. While at Cornell, Stuart also taught at Auburn Correction Facility, which was a profound experience that has fueled a passion for creating powerful educational experiences, both musical and more broadly. Stuart currently works at the University of Connecticut as a Director of Programming and Diversity Recruitment.
This original and insightful book establishes a reciprocal relationship between Ludwig Wittgenstein's notion of ethics and the experience of war. It puts forth an interpretation of Wittgenstein's early moral philosophy that relates it to the philosopher's own war experience and applies Wittgenstein's ethics of silence to analyze the ethical dimension of literary and artistic representations of the Great War.

In a compelling book-length essay, the author contends that the emphasis on “unsayability” in Wittgenstein's concept of ethics is a valuable tool for studying the ethical silences embedded in key cultural works reflecting on the Great War produced by Mary Borden, Ellen N. La Motte, Georges Duhamel, Leonhard Frank, Ernst Friedrich, and Joe Sacco. Exploring their works through the lens of Wittgenstein’s moral philosophy, this book pays particular attention to their suggestion of an ethics of war and peace by indirect means, such as prose poetry, spatial form, collage, symbolism, and expressionism. This cultural study reveals new connections between Wittgenstein’s philosophy, his experience during the First World War, and the cultural artifacts produced in its aftermath. By intertwining ethical reflection and textual analysis, Wittgenstein’s Ethics and Modern Warfare aspires to place Wittgenstein's moral philosophy at the centre of discussions on war, literature, and the arts.

“In keeping with Wittgenstein's famous last proposition of the Tractatus, ‘Whereof one cannot speak, thereof one must be silent,’ Santiáñez's readings of … a constellation of First World War texts take us beyond the era’s general ethical retreat into formal logic, where some ethical understanding may yet be possible in ‘the figuration of silence itself’. The premise of ethical silence … dovetails exactly with much of the theory of PTSD narrative, in which the unspeakable—war trauma, rape, child or spousal abuse, wounding, torture—becomes quite unsayable and unwriteable. The essay is comprehensive and impeccable and has changed my thinking acutely on representations of war,”
— Philip Beidler, Margaret and William Going Professor of English, University of Alabama

“An eloquent and incisive analysis of the impact of war on Wittgenstein's ethical and linguistic thinking. Most important, this study locates in Wittgenstein a central point of reference for a wide range of literary fiction from the war, for which it reveals a new and powerful coherence.”
— Vincent Sherry, Washington University in St. Louis, author of The Great War and the Language of Modernism

“a gut-wrenching book...”
— J. Churchill, CHOICE, 2018 April 1

Nil Santiáñez is a professor of Spanish and International Studies at Saint Louis University. He is the author of Topographies of Fascism, Goya/Clausewitz, Investigaciones literarias, Ángel Ganivet: Una bibliografía anotada (1892–1995), De la Luna a Mecanópolis, and Ángel Ganivet, escritor modernista.
Sporting Justice
The Chatham Coloured All-Stars and Black Baseball in Southwestern Ontario, 1915-1958
Miriam Wright

978-1-77112-584-0
2023
$39.99 CAD
Rights Available: World
Thema: SFC | SCX | JBSL1
   Baseball | History of sport | Ethnic groups and multicultural studies

Although many know about Jackie Robinson’s experiences breaking major league baseball’s colour barrier in 1947, few are familiar with the Chatham Coloured All-Stars, a Black Canadian team from 1930s Ontario who broke racial barriers in baseball even earlier. In 1933, the All-Stars began playing in the primarily white world of organized amateur baseball. The following year, the All-Stars became the first Black team to win a provincial championship.

Sporting Justice begins with a look at a vibrant Black baseball network in southwestern Ontario and Michigan in the 1920s, which fostered the emergence of the Chatham Coloured All-Stars in the 1930s. It follows the All-Stars’ eight years as a team (1933-1940) as they navigated the primarily white world of amateur baseball, including their increasing resistance to racism and unfair treatment. After the team disbanded, Chatham Coloured All-Stars players in the community helped to racially integrate local baseball and supported new Black teams in the 1940s and 1950s. While exploring the history of Black baseball in one southwestern Ontario community, this book also provides insights into larger themes in Canadian Black history and sport history including gender, class, social justice, and memory and remembrance.

Miriam Wright is an Associate Professor of History at University of Windsor in Windsor, Ontario, Canada. She researches and teaches 20th-century Canadian history. Her recent work has focussed on race and sport in Canada, and on Chinese immigration to Newfoundland and Labrador.
The H Factor of Personality
Why Some People are Manipulative, Self-Entitled, Materialistic, and Exploitive—And Why It Matters for Everyone
Michael Ashton; Kibeom Lee

People who have high levels of H are sincere and modest; people who have low levels are deceitful and pretentious. The “H” in the H factor stands for “Honesty-Humility,” one of the six basic dimensions of the human personality.

It isn’t intuitively obvious that traits of honesty and humility go hand in hand, and until very recently the H factor hadn’t been recognized as a basic dimension of personality. But scientific evidence shows that traits of honesty and humility form a unified group of personality traits, separate from those of the other five groups identified several decades ago.

This book, written by the discoverers of the H factor, explores the scientific findings that show the importance of this personality dimension in various aspects of people’s lives: their approaches to money, power, and sex; their inclination to commit crimes or obey the law; their attitudes about society, politics, and religion; and their choice of friends and spouse. Finally, the book provides ways of identifying people who are low in the H factor, as well as advice on how to raise one’s own level of H.

Kibeom Lee is a professor of psychology at the University of Calgary. Originally from Seoul, South Korea, he received his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario and was formerly a lecturer at the University of Western Australia. He is the author of many scientific articles in personality and industrial/organizational psychology.

Michael C. Ashton is a professor of psychology at Brock University in St. Catharines, Ontario. He received his Ph.D. from the University of Western Ontario. He is the author of the textbook Individual Differences and Personality and of many scientific articles in personality psychology.
PRAISE FOR THE H FACTOR OF PERSONALITY

“The H Factor is a tour de force. Anchored in solid scientific research, it offers fascinating insights into how previously neglected aspects of personality influence people’s strategies about power, social hierarchies, money, and sex. And it offers sound practical advice for navigating the social world of some unsavory characters. It’s a ‘must-read.’”


“A timely addition to the growing volume of literature that aims to present a more thorough picture of human behaviour. With its focus on the newly discovered Honesty-Humility (H) factor of personality, as subsumed by the HEXACO model and defined by traits such as deceitfulness, pretentiousness, and boastfulness at the low end, it tackles the complex theme of sub-clinical social malevolence in a manner that is ultimately accessible to most readers. By blending narrative and anecdotal content with summaries of statistical methodology, the authors deliver a comprehensive yet concise introduction to personality’s latest newcomer—the H factor.... [The presentation] proves helpful for researchers interested in the breadth of influence of the new H factor, as well as for laypeople curious about the impact and expression of the H-factor tendencies in their own lives.... An indispensable resource for those looking for a comprehensive introduction to the HEXACO model, those curious about the direction of personality research, or those seeking a meaningful dissection of antisocial behaviour. In contrast to the depth and sometimes gravity of the subject matter discussed, the authors’ familiar tone and casual style allow for an effortless learning experience. As a result, the book is a refreshing and welcome addition to the ongoing debate regarding universal language in the study of human personality.”

— Livia Veselka, University of Western Ontario, Personality and Individual Differences, 2013, 2013 July

“Kibeom Lee and Michael Ashton, two leading figures in the science of personality, reveal some surprising facts about Honesty-Humility, a profound but misunderstood aspect of personality. Everyone from the sincere and scrupulous to the sly and duplicitous will look at themselves—and most certainly at other people—in a new light.”

— Paul Silvia, University of North Carolina at Greensboro, author of How to Write A Lot, 2012 November
Making Eco-logical
Locating Canadian Arts in Environmental Humanities
Elysia French, Amanda White, editors

Paperback | 300 pp.
2024
$ TBD CAD
Rights Available: World
Environmental Humanities
Thema: JBCC | RN
  Cultural studies | The environment

The contributors to this book, including visual artists and writers, engage variously with the pressing and increasingly destructive relationship between human beings and the environment, calling attention to the importance of taking the arts into account when theorizing about this ongoing relationship.

Ring Around the Maple
Settler Children in Canada, 19th & 20th Centuries
Cynthia Commachio

Paperback | 300 pp.
2024
$ TBD CAD
Rights Available: World
Thema: NHTB | JKS1
  Social & cultural history | Child welfare and youth services

Engaging new archival finds and interview material, this is a wide-ranging study of settler children and childhood across Canada over two centuries. It explores the ways in which childhood was experienced and how it was represented in communities, by institutions and government policies, and by relations between communities, including settler communities’ relationships with Indigenous communities.