Notable Books

2015 Independent Publisher Book Award winner for Best Regional Non-Fiction

"Fanny Seward: A Life"

"A compelling story of the undeniable power of the muse." — Booklist

Featured on ArchitecturalDigest.com

2015 Arab American Book Awards honorable mention for poetry

"And the time is Poems, 1958-2015"

Winner of the 2015 Society for American Baseball Research Award

"The Travels of Benjamin Zuskin"

"A breath of fresh air."
— Dara Horn, Jewish Review of Books
32
Sahar Mandour
Translated from the Arabic by Nicole Fares

Paper $18.95 978-0-8156-1069-4
Ebook 978-0-8156-5370-7
5 x 8, 160 pages, glossary
Series: Middle East Literature in Translation
March 2016

“32 is a fascinating page-turner; universal in its coming of age anxieties and everyday activities of a young woman and her friends, and yet specific to post-war Beirut in context, ambiance and sensitivity.”

—Nadje Al-Ali, author of What Kind of Liberation? Women and the Occupation of Iraq

“Sahar Mandour is the voice of Beirut. She captures its wistful contradictions. 32 is a Beiruti novel. Such joy, such sorrow, but more than anything, such wonderful characters.”

—Vijay Prashad, George and Martha Kellner Chair in South Asian History at Trinity College and author of The Karma of Brown Folk

In this finely observed novel, five young Lebanese women navigate their professional and social lives in a city interrupted by random explosions. It is not a war zone, but there is no peace either; Beirut stands at the edge of both. These women, much like their country, have been shaped by the events of a long civil war, their childhood spent in shelters, their adolescence in an unrecognizable city under rapid reconstruction. And here they are now, negotiating the details of their adult lives, fighting to protect their identities, voices, and relationships in a society constantly under questioning.

Talk of politics and gossip by the young and old animate the coffee shops. Heated debates and power dynamics unfold in bars and on the streets. Mandour’s funny and defiant style invites an intimacy, giving readers a glimpse into the absurdities and injustices of everyday life in Lebanon. With empathy and a deep honesty, Mandour narrates the lives of these women who struggle to create their own destiny while at the same time coming to terms with the identity of their Mediterranean city.

Sahar Mandour is a Lebanese Egyptian author who has written four novels. She is a television host and the editor of Shabab, the youth pages of Al Safir, Lebanon’s left-wing newspaper.

Nicole Fares is a translator and is currently completing her PhD in comparative literature and theory. Her translations have appeared in Jadaliyya, the Alchemist Journal of Translation, and World Literature Today.
Shahaama
Five Egyptian Men Tell Their Stories

Nayra Atiya
Foreword by Andrea Rugh
Afterword by Roger Allen

Cloth $49.95 978-0-8156-3434-8
Ebook 978-0-8156-5356-1
Paper $19.95 978-0-8156-1061-8

5 1/2 x 8 1/2, 184 pages
Series: Contemporary Issues in the Middle East
March 2016

“Together, these stories provide deep insight into Egyptian culture, especially the details of domestic and work life that few westerners are able to access.”
—Pauline Kaldas, professor of English and creative writing, Hollins University

Between the late 1970s and the early 1980s, Nayra Atiya gathered the oral histories of five Egyptian men: a fisherman, an attorney, a scholar, a businessman, and a production manager. Through personal interviews over the course of several years, Atiya intimately captured the everyday triumphs and struggles of these young men in a rapidly changing Egyptian society. These tender stories of childhood experiences in the rural countryside, of the rigors of schooling, and of the many challenges in navigating adulthood shed light on both the rich diversity of Egyptian society and the values and traditions that are shared by all Egyptians. The concept of shahaama—a code of honor that demands loyalty, generosity, and a readiness to help others—is threaded throughout the narratives, reflecting its deeply rooted presence in Egyptian culture. Moving beyond leaden stereotypes of the oppressive Middle Eastern male, these candid self-portraits reveal the complexity of male identity in contemporary Egyptian society, highlighting the men’s desires for economically viable lives, the same desires that fuel the many Egyptians today working toward revolutionary change.

Nayra Atiya is an American oral historian, writer, and translator born in Egypt. Her book Khul-Khaal: Five Egyptian Women Tell Their Stories won a UNICEF prize in 1990 and has been widely translated.
Felâtun Bey and Râkım Efendi
An Ottoman Novel

Ahmet Midhat Efendi
Translated from the Turkish by Melih Levi and Monica M. Ringer
Afterword by A. Holly Shissler

Paper $14.95 978-0-8156-1064-9
Ebook 978-0-8156-5363-9
6 x 9, 176 pages, notes
Series: Middle East Literature in Translation
March 2016

“Ahmet Midhat, among other things, invented the East-West novel, which later became a genre in Istanbul. This is his most humorous, strange, and interesting book.”

—Orhan Pamuk, Nobel Prize–winning author of My Name Is Red

“Felâtun Bey and Râkım Efendi is a seminal work by one of the most prolific first wave Tanzimat writers.”

—Iclal Vanwesenbeeck, associate professor of renaissance and Middle Eastern literature, SUNY Fredonia

Ahmet Midhat Efendi’s famous 1875 novel Felâtun Bey and Râkım Efendi takes place in late nineteenth-century Istanbul and follows the lives of two young men who come from radically different backgrounds. Râkım Efendi is an erudite, self-made man, one who is ambitious and cultivated enough to mingle with a European crowd. In contrast, Felâtun Bey is a spendthrift who lacks intellectual curiosity and a strong work ethic. Squandering his wealth and education, he leads a life of decadence.

The novel traces Râkım and Felâtun’s relationships with multiple characters, charting their romances and passions, as well as their foibles and amusing mishaps as they struggle to find and follow their own path through the many temptations and traps of European culture. The author creates a rich portrait of stratified Ottoman life through a diverse and colorful cast of characters—from a French piano teacher and an Arab nanny, to a Circassian slave girl—each deftly navigating the shifting mores of their social class. Written during the Ottoman Empire’s uneasy transition to modernity, the novel’s protagonists embody both the best and worst elements of two worlds, European and Ottoman. The novel provides readers with an elegant yet powerful appeal for progressive reforms and individual freedoms. Levi and Ringer’s fluid translation of this Ottoman classic stands as a landmark in the history of Turkish literature in translation.

Ahmet Midhat Efendi (1844–1912) was a journalist, novelist, playwright, translator, and social critic who authored more than two hundred original works. He wrote for and edited the Tercümani Hakikat, the most influential and longest-running Ottoman newspaper.

Melih Levi received his BA from Amherst College, where he studied English literature.

Monica M. Ringer is professor of Middle Eastern history at Amherst College. She is the author of Pious Citizens: Reforming Zoroastrianism in India and Iran.

“One of the first novels written in Turkish. Lots of fun to read. Midhat dominated the literary scene in Istanbul towards the end of the nineteenth century. This is his most symptomatic novel about people caught between two cultures, east and west.”

—Nüket Esen, Bogazici University

“Ahmet Midhat was the initiator and the popularizer of the novel in Turkey. Felâtun Bey and Râkım Efendi illustrates the author’s reformist zeal as the guardian of traditional morals and manners at a time of cultural and epistemological transition.”

—Jale Parla, Istanbul Bilgi University
“The personal record of a major black activist and public intellectual, Loguen’s memoir attests to black leadership on the Underground Railroad and among the increasingly radical foes of slavery on the eve of the Civil War.”

—William L. Andrews, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
Who Are These People Anyway?
Chief Irving Powless Jr. of the Onondaga Nation
Edited by Lesley Forrester

Cloth $45.00s 978-0-8156-3449-2
Paper $19.95 978-0-8156-1070-0
6 x 9, 160 pages, notes
Series: The Iroquois and Their Neighbors
March 2016

“In this fascinating book, Powless writes of his experiences living for over eighty years on traditional Onondaga territory. He tells of the teachings passed down through generations and shares traditional knowledge of environmental challenges and sustainability. This book not only provides a better understanding of the Onondaga people, it creates a bridge between the Onondaga and non-Onondaga communities and promises to enhance knowledge of the historical and contemporary issues concerning both communities.”

—Brian Rice, associate professor of education, University of Winnipeg

In the rich tradition of oral storytelling, Chief Irving Powless Jr. of the Beaver Clan of the Onondaga Nation reminds us of an ancient treaty. It promises that the Haudenosaunee people and non-Indigenous North Americans will respect each other’s differences even when their cultures and behaviors differ greatly.

Powless shares intimate stories of growing up close to the earth, of his work as Wampum Keeper for the Haudenosaunee people, of his heritage as a lacrosse player, and of the treaties his ancestors made with the newcomers. He also pokes fun at the often-peculiar behavior of his non-Onondaga neighbors, asking, “Who are these people anyway?” Sometimes disarmingly gentle, sometimes caustic, these vignettes refreshingly portray mainstream North American culture as seen through Haudenosaunee eyes. Powless illustrates for all of us the importance of respect, peace, and, most importantly, living by the unwritten laws that preserve the natural world for future generations.

Irving Powless Jr. has been a chief of the Beaver Clan of the Onondaga Nation since 1964. An historian, statesman, actor, musician, and veteran, he has lectured about Indigenous culture and sovereignty, and has been a key spokesperson for the Haudenosaunee nations.

Lesley Forrester is the editor of And Grandma Said . . . Iroquois Teachings: as passed down through the oral tradition.

“The narrative of Chief Powless provides unique insights into contemporary Haudenosaunee life from one of the most respected Native leaders of our time. His book is entertaining, informative, and essential if one is to know who we are.”

—Doug George-Kanentiio, Akwesasne Mohawk and author of Iroquois on Fire

“Chief Irving Powless Jr. is one of the most eloquent and earth-based speakers I have ever known. It is with great honor I recommend this book, which takes you through his life with stories and belief systems of the Iroquois. A must read!”

—Joanne Shenandoah, PhD, Oneida Iroquois
Because of Eva
A Jewish Genealogical Journey
Susan J. Gordon

“Because of Eva is a book of inspiration . . . a Jewish celebration, and a universally human book. It is a profoundly moving story, and also a story within a story. . . . With the talents of a gifted storyteller, Gordon uses language to approach the indescribable, and the window she offers readers is very real, often painful, and amazingly generous.”

—Arthur Kurzweil, author of From Generation to Generation: How to Trace Your Jewish Genealogy and Family History

“In Because of Eva, an American Jewish woman travels to Eastern Europe and Israel to solve mysteries in her family’s past by delving into World War II and Holocaust history. What began as a seemingly simple search for “Eva,” the elderly relative who had signed Gordon’s grandfather’s death certificate in New York long ago, became a journey of discovery when Gordon found her in Tel Aviv. There, she heard Eva’s stories of survival during the Holocaust, especially in Nazi-occupied Budapest. Eventually, Gordon would retrace Eva’s steps in Budapest and visit ancestral towns in Ukraine to bear witness to the slaughter of entire populations of Jews. Amid remnants of loss and destruction in the small town where her grandfather was born, Gordon also uncovered details of her family’s world before relatives immigrated to America. Gordon’s journey into her past provided the deep sense of connection and belonging she needed as an adult child of divorce and abuse. Gaining insight about her family’s history, Gordon reconciles issues of betrayal and loyalty, and finally finds her place in Judaism. Part memoir, part detective story, Because of Eva is an intimate tale of one woman’s history within the epic sweep of world events in the twentieth century.”

Susan J. Gordon is an author and freelance writer. She is a member of the American Jewish Press Association and the American Society of Journalists and Authors.
The Salome Ensemble
Rose Pastor Stokes, Anzia Yezierska, Sonya Levien, and Jetta Goudal
Alan Robert Ginsberg

"The Salome Ensemble reads like a novel. Ginsberg has written a thoroughly absorbing work of cultural and feminist history that restores to vivid life the lives and intertwined careers of four compelling and indomitable women."

—Ross Posnock, author of Color and Culture: Black Writers and the Making of the Modern Intellectual

"In four movements, an overture, and a coda, Ginsberg imaginatively blends into a single cultural analysis a novel by Anzia Yezierska, the story of Rose Pastor Stokes, which was one of Yezierska’s sources, the playscript by Sonya Levien, and the performance of Jetta Goudal, who acted the part of Salome of the Tenements on screen. Based on extensive research and accompanied by portraits, screen shots, and other illustrations, The Salome Ensemble retraces versions of an intermarriage story that was, paradoxically, both a Salome and a Cinderella tale."

—Werner Sollors, author of The Temptation of Despair: Tales of the 1940s

The Salome Ensemble probes the entangled lives, works, and passions of a political activist, a novelist, a screenwriter, and a movie actress who collaborated in 1920s New York City. Together they created the shape-shifting, genre-crossing Salome of the Tenements, first a popular novel and then a Hollywood movie. The title character was a combination Cinderella and Salome like the women who conceived her. Rose Pastor Stokes was the role model. Anzia Yezierska wrote the novel. Sonya Levien wrote the screenplay. Jetta Goudal played her on the silver screen.

Ginsberg considers the women individually and collectively, exploring how they shaped and reflected their cultural landscape. These European Jewish immigrants pursued their own versions of the American dream, escaped the squalor of sweatshops, knew romance and heartache, and achieved prominence in politics, fashion, journalism, literature, and film.

Alan Robert Ginsberg is a visiting scholar and board member at the Center for American Studies at Columbia University. He has contributed as a freelance writer to periodicals, including the Columbia Journalism Review; worked as a research analyst in financial institutions in New York, Los Angeles, and London, and served as a program director at a United Nations nongovernmental organization promoting women’s rights in developing countries.
From Where We Stand
Recovering a Sense of Place

Deborah Tall
Foreword by Stephen Kuusisto
Introduction by William Kittredge

Paper $19.95 978-0-8156-1072-4
Ebook 978-0-8156-5376-9
6 x 9, 248 pages, notes
April 2016

“In the literature of place, Deborah Tall’s book stands out for its
delicacy, range of learning, and refreshing frankness.”
—Phillip Lopate

“A worthy contribution to the growing field of landscape studies.
. . . Like Thoreau, who claimed to have travelled much in Con-
cord, the author of From Where We Stand has travelled much—
widely and deeply—in the Finger Lakes.”
—New York History

“There has been a spate of books nominally about finding a sense
of place but more accurately described as quests for community,
or for home. . . . The best of the lot is Tall’s book about putting
down roots in Geneva, New York.”
—Utne Reader

Why does a particular landscape move us? What is it that attaches us to a
particular place? Tall’s From Where We Stand is an eloquent exploration of
the connections we have with places—and the loss to us if there are no such
connections. A typically rootless child of several American suburbs, Tall set out
to make a true home for herself in the landscape that circumstance had brought
her—the Finger Lakes region of upstate New York. In a mosaic of personal an-
cedotes, historical sketches, and lyrical meditations, she interweaves her own
story with the story of this place and its people—from the Seneca Nation of
the Iroquois, to European settlers, to the many utopians who sensed and were
inspired by a spiritual resonance here. This edition includes an introduction by
William Kittredge and a foreword by Stephen Kuusisto, both highlighting the
book’s significance and Tall’s exquisite skill in tracing the relationship between
homelands and storytelling.

Deborah Tall (1951–2006) taught writing and literature at Hobart and William Smith Colleges.
She is the author of three books of poems and a memoir, The Island of the White Cow, about
the five years she lived in rural Ireland in the 1970s.
From “Gilgamesh’s Snake” . . .

Gilgamesh.
He’s alone now.
Snow covers him.
He’s all at sea.
Swaddled in lushness,
he looks to the grass of life for help
but there’s no one there
to hear him.
Uruk is an empty ruin,
all its people fled.
Such devastation; the streets
shimmer in a cauld of silence.
He wanders alone—
not a single tree shades his scorched soul,
no wine to quench his longing.
All alone, he cries,
and because victory for him is a defeat that never
ends
till the ends of his life, he must
ride the magic palm frond.
Ode to Joy
The Art of Mark Davis

Essay by Jeanne V. Koles

Cloth $50.00 978-1-879985-31-5
5½ x 11, 108 pages, 100 color illustrations
Distributed for Pucker Art Publications
April 2016

A mobile artist who lives and works in Boston, Mark Davis was drawn
to the act of creating as a young boy. The discovery of Alexander
Calder’s work at the age of fourteen had a deep influence on Davis’s
early work, which consisted of stylized jewelry pieces, and has had
a consistent presence throughout his career. In this lavishly illustrated
volume, plants, animals, humans, and landscapes develop within the
brightly colored and abstracted shapes that make up Davis’s body
of work today. Vibrant palettes and abstracted sheets of metal are
composed to create self-contained, kinetic narratives. Davis explores
the three-dimensional spaces his work exists within, as well as his own
internal dialogue through these kinetic scenes. Tapping into the joyful
and childlike side of his audience allows Davis to convey a personal
philosophy about his life: you can experience heavy and difficult chal-
lenges but eventually transform them to achieve balanced and uplifting
results.

Born in New Haven, Connecticut, and educated at Goddard Col-
lege in Vermont, Davis’s dexterous metalwork is entirely self-taught. In
addition to moderate scale pieces of movement, color, and grace, Da-
vis also creates large-scale public and private commissions, including
Healing Waters, an outdoor installation at the Ann & Robert H. Lurie
Children’s Hospital in Chicago, Illinois.

Jeanne V. Koles is an independent writer and consultant who manages research
and design projects for museums and the cultural sector in New England.
Distributed Titles

**Fiddle Dreams**
Poems and Lyrics
John Sheahan

Sheahan is one of Ireland’s best-known musicians, the last surviving member of the legendary band The Dubliners, and an accomplished poet. *Fiddle Dreams* is a collection of heartfelt, light-footed verses, offering rare insight into the mind of a musician.

**Paper $14.95** 978-1-910251-10-2
5½ x 8, 96 pages
Distributed for Dedalus Press

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**Coloured Handprints**
20 German-Language Poets
Edited by Anatoly Kudryavitsky

This wide-ranging bilingual anthology introduces twenty contemporary poets from Germany, Austria, and Switzerland to an English-language audience.

**Paper $15.50** 978-1-910251-11-9
5½ x 8, 174 pages
Distributed for Dedalus Press

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**The Glen : An Gleann**
Recollections from a Lost World
Séamas Ó Maolchathaigh

This vivid memoir chronicles life in a small Gaeltacht area in Munster that has remained largely immune to outside influences because of its isolated location. Ó Maolchathaigh is an astute observer of people and place. His recollections of a “lost world” are unique and searing in their honesty.

**Paper $29.95** 978-1-851321-91-9
5½ x 8¾, 368 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

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**80**
A Memoir
Pauline Bewick

Ireland’s best-known artist celebrates her eightieth birthday with a refreshingly honest memoir of an extraordinary life. From growing up in County Kerry to becoming an internationally successful artist, Bewick remains an integral part of Ireland’s cultural legacy.

**Paper $29.95** 978-1-851321-91-9
5½ x 8¾, 400 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

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**Irish Feminisms**
Past, Present and Future
Edited by Clara Fischer and Mary McAuliffe

*Irish Feminisms: Past, Present and Future* is a collection of multidisciplinary essays from leading academics and activists that interrogates the various waves of Irish feminist activism over the last one hundred years.

**Paper $34.95** 978-1-851321-18-6
5½ x 8¾, 352 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

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**Maiden Names**
Second Edition
Martin Dyar

*Maiden Names* won the Patrick Kavanagh Award for Poetry. It was a book of the year selection in both the *Guardian* and the *Irish Times* and was shortlisted for the Pigott Poetry Prize.

**Paper $19.95** 978-1-851321-23-0
5½ x 8¾, 64 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

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**Stone Dress**
Shirley McClure

The second poetry collection from acclaimed Dublin writer Shirley McClure, *Stone Dress* is a homage to the female body, in its strengths and vulnerabilities, its beauty and its blemishes.

**Paper $19.95** 978-1-851321-37-7
5½ x 8¾, 64 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

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**Dambatheanga : Damlanguage**
Micheál Ó Ruairc

A bilingual collection of Irish- and English-language poems from one of the major writers in modern Irish literature, *Damlanguage* reveals the poet’s take on Ireland in the twenty-first century.

**Paper $22.95** 978-1-851321-04-9
5½ x 8, 144 pages
Distributed for Arlen House
Distributed Titles

**Berryman’s Fate**
A Centenary Celebration in Verse
Edited by Philip Coleman
Gathering together poems by over fifty poets, Berryman’s Fate is at once a testament to John Berryman’s living presence in contemporary poetic culture and a gift on the occasion of the centenary of his birth. Contributors include Paul Muldoon, John Montague, Paula Meehan, and Martin Dyar.

*Paper* $22.95 978-1-851321-07-0
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**Grim**
Kate Newmann
A haunting collection based on the author’s visit to a Nazi concentration camp in Germany.

“A profound realisation of suffering unequalled in Irish poetry. This volume of emotionally courageous poems is destined to find an enduring place in the canon of Holocaust literature.”—Cathal Ó Searcaigh, author of *Out in the Open*

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Connie Roberts
Winner of the Patrick Kavanaugh Award
“Roberts, through her soaring language and big-hearted vision, achieves poetic art. This is the poetry of rock-hard experience. It will skin your soul.”—Dan Barry, author of *Pull Me Up: A Memoir*

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Rawley, born in Dublin in 1942, has written across a wide range of poetic forms. She is a four-time winner of the Epic Award in the Scottish International Open Poetry Competition and has published six poetry collections since the 1980s.

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Ger Reidy
“There is a quietness, a poetic reserve, at the heart of this book that draws you slowly but assuredly into a world of poetic gentle asides. The images are fresh and the emotions uncompromisingly honest. Buy the book.”—Dermot Healy, author of *A Fool’s Errand*

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Clemency Emmet
Artwork by Elizabeth Cope
Fireseed is the debut collection of poetry from Clemency Emmet, a member of the famous family descended from revolutionary Robert Emmet. It includes full-color artwork from Elizabeth Cope, one of Ireland’s most acclaimed artists.

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In this wide-ranging bilingual collection, Ní Ghallchóir’s poetry is translated by such leading writers as Maire Mhac an tSaoi, Nuala Ni Dhomhnaill, Joan Newmann, Kate Newmann, Frank Sewell, Celia de Fréine, and Gabriel Rosenstock.

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*Paper* $22.95 978-1-851321-02-5
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Distributed Titles

An Fear Glas: The Green Man
Cathal Ó Searcaigh

“Ó Searcaigh mixes the open-singing eroticism of Whitman with a sharp eye for the profound minutiae of the physical world.”—Billy Collins
Cloth $29.95 978-1-851321-21-6
5½ x 8¼, 256 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

Fur
Grace Wells

“A poet of depth and wisdom, of sparkling intuition and studied formality. Grace Wells is one of the twelve apostles at the feast of poetry. Her work will endure for its beautiful seriousness, its style, and its sense of purpose.”—Thomas McCarthy, author of The Last Geraldine Officer
Paper $13.50 978-1-910251-12-6
5½ x 8, 102 pages
Distributed for Dedalus Press

Out of Order
Susan Knight

Darkly humorous and surreal, the unsettling stories in Out of Order will entertain but have you looking at the world, and over your shoulder, with new eyes.
Paper $22.95 978-1-851321-45-2
5½ x 8¼, 160 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

Staying Thin for Daddy
Deirdre Brennan

Staying Thin for Daddy is the debut English-language short story collection from Brennan, one of Ireland’s leading writers in both the Irish and English languages. The book was long-listed for the Frank O’Connor International Short Story Collection Award.
Paper $22.95 978-1-851321-09-4
5½ x 8¼, 192 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

Clemency Browne Dreams of Gin
Órlaith Foyle

"Foyle’s stories are like long, sustained electric shocks: they won’t let you go until they’ve made pretty damn sure they’ve changed you.”
—Wales Arts Review
Paper $22.95 978-1-851321-09-4
5½ x 8¼, 128 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

Growing a New Tail
Lisa C. Taylor

“These stories will move you with their honesty and sustain you with their compassionate and fierce commitment to human resilience. The writing here is exquisite, the observations nearly preternatural, the intelligence incandescent.”
—Richard Hoffman, author of Love and Fury: A Memoir
Paper $22.95 978-1-851321-28-5
5½ x 8¼, 156 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

Duilleoga Tae
Seáin Mac Mathúna

AN IRISH LANGUAGE TEXT
Set in the early 1920s in County Kerry during the Civil War, this play tells the story of the Dillon family, who give refuge to Republican soldiers. Things get more complicated when a Free State soldier comes to them for refuge and the daughters fall in love with him.
Paper $19.95 978-1-851321-29-2
5½ x 8¼, 154 pages
Distributed for Arlen House

The McGowan Trilogy
Séamus Scanlon

This set of interrelated one-act noir plays are set in Ireland in the 1980s. Premiering in New York during the 1st Irish Theatre Festival in 2014, it received awards for Best Director, Best Actress, and Best Design.
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A highly informative analysis of the origins of the uprisings in Syria.”—Middle East Policy

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2012 Winner of the Herbert H. Lehman Prize for Distinguished Scholarship

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“A highly informative analysis of the origins of the uprisings in Syria.”—Middle East Policy
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An Oral History of the Greatest Construction Show on Earth
Claire Puccia Parham

Paper $24.95 978-0-8156-1073-1
Ebook 978-0-8156-5102-4
6 x 9, 392 pages, 40 black-and-white illustrations, 1 map, notes, bibliography, index
January 2016

“[Parham] resurrects the story of one of the greatest construction projects of the mid–twentieth century, an engineering and building feat that had nearly disappeared from memory.” —Melvyn Dubofsky, Binghamton University, SUNY

In this book, Claire Puccia Parham reveals the human side of the project in the words of its engineers, laborers, and carpenters. Drawing on firsthand accounts, she provides a vivid portrait of the lives of the men who built the seaway and the women who accompanied them. On the fiftieth anniversary of the dedication of the power dam and waterway, this book is a fitting tribute to the hard work and dedication of the project’s 22,000 workers.

Claire Puccia Parham is an instructor in the History Department at Siena College in Loudonville, New York. She is the author of From Great Wilderness to Seaway Towns: A Comparative History of Cornwall, Ontario, and Massena, New York, 1784–2001.

Dreaming of Columbus
A Boyhood in the Bronx
Michael Pearson

Paper $16.95 978-0-8156-0636-9
6 x 9, 218 pages
March 2016

“A poignant and insightful account.” —New York Times

“Pearson’s stories . . . have about them not only the cherished patina of memory but also the wry recollection that the things we remember aren’t always the way things were. . . . His language is sure and supple.” —Booklist

In this memoir, Pearson renders time and place vividly through lyrical narrative and generous spirit toward his characters, juxtaposing descriptions of adolescent escapades with the grim discipline of parochial schools. In this Bronx, dreams of escape fuse with bittersweet memories.

Michael Pearson teaches creative nonfiction and American literature at Old Dominion University. He is the author of several books, including Shohola Falls: A Novel.
In the Shadow of Kinzua
The Seneca Nation of Indians since World War II
Laurence Marc Hauptman

Paper $29.95s 978-0-8156-3462-1    Ebook 978-0-8156-5238-0
6 x 9, 456 pages, 39 black-and-white illustrations, 6 maps, 1 chart, notes, bibliography, index
Series: The Iroquois and Their Neighbors
January 2016

2014 Award of Merit winner from the American Association for State and Local History

The Kinzua Dam has cast a long shadow on Seneca life since World War II. The project, formally dedicated in 1966, broke the Treaty of Canandaigua of 1794, flooded approximately 10,000 acres of Seneca lands in New York and Pennsylvania, and forced the relocation of hundreds of tribal members. Hauptman offers both a policy study, detailing how and why Washington, Harrisburg, and Albany came up with the idea to build the dam, and a community study of the Seneca Nation in the postwar era. Although the dam was presented to the Senecas as a flood control project, Hauptman persuasively argues that the primary reasons were the push for private hydroelectric development in Pennsylvania and state transportation and park development in New York.

This important investigation, based on forty years of archival research as well as on numerous interviews with Senecas, shows that these historically resilient Native peoples adapted in the face of this disaster. Unlike previous studies, In the Shadow of Kinzua highlights the federated nature of Seneca Nation government, one held together in spite of great diversity of opinions and intense politics. In the Kinzua crisis and its aftermath, several Senecas stood out for their heroism and devotion to rebuilding their nation for tribal survival. They left legacies in many areas, including two community centers, a modern health delivery system, two libraries, and a museum. Money allocated in a “compensation bill” passed by Congress in 1964 produced a generation of college-educated Senecas, some of whom now work in tribal government, making major contributions to the Nation’s present and future. Facing impossible odds and hidden forces, they motivated a cadre of volunteers to help rebuild devastated lands. Although their strategies did not stop the dam’s construction, they laid the groundwork for a tribal governing structure and for managing other issues that followed from the 1980s to the present, including land claims litigation and casinos.

Laurence Marc Hauptman is SUNY Distinguished Professor Emeritus of History. He is the author, coauthor, or coeditor of numerous books on the Iroquois, including Seven Generations of Iroquois Leadership: The Six Nations since 1800, which was awarded the 2012 Herbert Lehman Book prize from the New York Academy of History.

“Well written, with insights gleaned from dozens of interviews, the book will appeal to scholars and students of modern Iroquois and American Indian politics.”
—Journal of American History

“The author’s narrative is enhanced by his forty years of experience as scholar and participant. Two themes dominate: the ‘diversity of existence’ that characterizes Seneca adaptability and the perfidiousness of American disregard.”
—Choice
“Rice’s book is a fascinating and instructive examination of the Rotinonshonni. . . . The text encapsulates the vast scope of the Rotinonshonni belief system and poses oral history as a valid and essential method for understanding their culture.”

—New York History

The Rotinonshonni
A Traditional Iroquoian History through the Eyes of Teharonhia:wa:ko and Sawiskera

Brian Rice

Paper $24.95 978-0-8156-1067-0
Ebook 978-0-8156-5227-4
6 x 9, 320 pages, 10 black-and-white illustrations, notes, bibliography, index
Series: The Iroquois and Their Neighbors
April 2016

“Rice adds another unique voice to ongoing discussions and exploration of the Haudenosaunee cosmological narrative. . . . Highly recommended.”

—Choice

“The breadth and depth of the knowledge within this relatively brief account of Rotinonshonni history is amplified by Rice’s ability to capture the lyrical quality of the oral tradition in his writing.”

—The Hudson River Valley Review

In this book, Rice offers a comprehensive history based on the oral traditions of the Rotinonshonni “Longhouse People,” also known as the Iroquois. As a participant in a nearly 700-mile walk following the story of the Peacemaker, who confederated the original five warring nations that became the Rotinonshonni, Rice traces the historic sites located in what are now known as the Mississippi River Valley, Upstate New York, southern Quebec, and Ontario.

He draws upon a wide variety of sources including J. N. B. Hewitt’s translation of the creation story; the oral presentations of Cayuga Elder Jacob Thomas; oral traditions written down by William Beauchamp and William Fenton; the Code of Handsome Lake in Lewis Henry Morgan’s League of the Iroquois; and other sources where oral traditions were recorded. In doing so, Rice chronicles the Iroquois creation story, the origin of Iroquois clans, the Great Law of Peace, the European invasion, and the life of Handsome Lake. The Rotinonshonni creates from oral traditions a history that informs the reader about events that happened in the past and how those events have shaped and are still shaping Rotinonshonni society today.

Brian Rice (Natoway) is associate professor in the Department of Education at the University of Winnipeg and adjunct professor in the Arthur V. Mauro Centre for Peace and Justice at the University of Manitoba. A Mohawk scholar, Rice received his doctorate from the Native Traditional Knowledge Program at the California Institute of Integral Studies.
“Off the Straight Path”
Illicit Sex, Law, and Community in Ottoman Aleppo

Elyse Semerdjian

Paper $24.95s 978-0-8156-3463-8
6 x 9, 288 pages, 10 black-and-white illustrations, 4 maps, 7 tables, notes, bibliography, index
Series: Gender, Culture, and Politics in the Middle East
February 2016

“This groundbreaking study raises a number of important questions and is a major step toward opening the path for further research in this area by legal, social, and gender historians.”
—International Journal of Middle East Studies

“This work could easily become standard reading for any number of courses on gender, law, Middle East studies, and Ottoman history.”
—The Historian

The legal treatment of sexual behavior is a subject that receives little scholarly attention in the field of Middle East women’s studies. Important questions about the relationship between sexuality and the law and about the societies enforcing that relationship are rarely addressed in current literature. Semerdjian’s “Off the Straight Path” takes a bold step toward filling that gap by offering a fascinating look at the historical progression of the treatment of illicit sex under Islamic law.

Semerdjian provides a comprehensive review of the concept of zina, that is, sexual indiscretion, by exploring the diverse interpretation of zina as presented in a variety of sources from the Qur’an and hadith to legal literature. She then delves into the history of legal responses to zina within the specific community of Aleppo, Syria. Drawing on a wealth of shari’a court records, Semerdjian provides a realistic view of Syrian society during the Ottoman period. With vivid detail, she describes specific women’s lives and experiences as their cases are presented before the court. Semerdjian argues that the actual treatment of zina crimes in the courts differs substantially from sentences prescribed by codified Islamic jurisprudence. In contrast to the violent corporal punishments dictated in the Islamic legal code, the courts often punished crimes of sexual indiscretion with nonviolent sentences, such as removal from the community. Employing exceptional insight, “Off the Straight Path” presents a powerful challenge to the traditional view of Islamic law, enabling a richer understanding of Islamic society.

Elyse Semerdjian is associate professor of Islamic World/Middle Eastern history and director of Global Studies at Whitman College. A Fulbright Scholar, her articles have appeared in Hawwa. She is a contributor to Beyond the Exotic: Women’s Histories in Islamic Societies, also published by Syracuse University Press.
Disability Rhetoric
Jay Timothy Dolmage

Paper $27.95s 978-0-8156-3445-4
Ebook 978-0-8156-5233-5
6 x 9, 368 pages, 13 black-and-white illustrations, notes, bibliography, index
Series: Critical Perspectives on Disability
February 2016

2015 PROSE Award winner in the Language and Linguistics category

“Disability Rhetoric is well-crafted, intricately assembled, and carefully presented. Through it Dolmage establishes a long heritage of rhetorical crafters, people whose extraordinary bodies enabled the cultivation of rhetorical skill.”
—Rhetoric Review

“Dolmage deepens rhetorical studies’ understanding of the ways bodies are inevitably tied up with meaning-making and how disability may extend the ways we understand embodiment, embodied rhetoric, and rhetoric itself.”
—Rhetoric Society Quarterly

Disability Rhetoric is the first book to view rhetorical theory and history through the lens of disability studies. Traditionally, the body has been seen, at best, as a rhetorical distraction. At worst, those whose bodies do not conform to a narrow range of norms are disqualified from speaking. Yet, Dolmage argues that communication has always been obsessed with the meaning of the body and that bodily difference is always highly rhetorical. Following from this rewriting of rhetorical history, he outlines the development of a new theory, affirming the ideas that all communication is embodied, that the body plays a central role in all expression, and that greater attention to a range of bodies is therefore essential to a better understanding of rhetorical histories, theories, and possibilities.

The engine and the theme of Disability Rhetoric is mētis, the classical concept of cunning and adaptive intelligence, a central but since neglected epistememe in Greek myth and rhetoric. Dolmage suggests that mētis demands a focus on embodied rhetoric and, specifically, demands a view of the body and the thinking of the body as being double and divergent. The concept calls for the use of embodied strategies to transform rhetorical situations. Through his deployment of mētis in analyzing the rhetorical positions of differing bodies, Dolmage prompts a transformation of rhetoric, one that would lead to positive conceptions of disability.

Jay Timothy Dolmage is associate professor of English at the University of Waterloo. He is the founding editor of the Canadian Journal of Disability Studies.
Books for the Scholar

Notable Books

Mahmoud Darwish
The Poet’s Art and His Nation
Khaled Mattawa

Finalist for the Poetry Foundation’s Pegasus Award for Criticism

2014 Arab American Book Award for Non-Fiction

“We are Iraqis
Aesthetics and Politics in a Time of War
Nade Al-Ali and Deborah Al-Najjar, eds.

“Now, gathered together in this comprehensively annotated, well-produced volume . . . seven female voices create together a real force.” — The Times Literary Supplement

Irish Women Dramatists
1908–2001
Edited by Eileen Kearney and Charlotte Hendrick

Winner of the 2015 Albert Hourani Book Award

Syria from Reform to Revolt, Volume 1
Political Economy and International Relations
Edited by Raymond Hinnebusch and Tina Zilt

“A must-read.” — Middle East Policy

Social Concern and Left Politics in Jewish American Art
1880–1940
Matthew Baigell

“Examines how and why Jewish artists and art critics cared about social upheavals in American life.” — The Forward

Madeinizing Marriage
Family, Ideology, and Law in Nineteenth- and Early Twentieth-Century Egypt
Kenneth M. Cino
“The authors have meticulously documented an in-depth survey of the entire world of TV trends and programming from the industry’s beginnings, presenting along the way some very judicious critical analyses.”

—Library Journal

“An honest but affectionate chronicle that never loses sight of the more serious side of television while, thankfully, not taking itself too seriously.”

—Atlanta Constitution

Watching TV
Eight Decades of American Television
Third Edition

Harry Castleman and Walter J. Podrazik

Paper $49.95s 978-0-8156-3438-6
8½ x 11, 576 pages, 146 black-and-white illustrations, tables, index
Series: Television and Popular Culture
January 2016

“Castleman and Podrazik have put together a well-researched, tightly written documentary on the development of the television industry and the individuals involved.”

—Publishers Weekly

Castleman and Podrazik present a sweeping season-by-season story, capturing the essence of television from its inception to the contemporary era of anytime access and online streaming, including every prime time fall schedule since 1944. The authors have dug through the mounds of obscure facts, offbeat anecdotes, and corporate strategies that have made television a multibillion-dollar industry. Watching TV provides a fascinating history of how the personalities, popular shows, and coverage of key events have evolved across eight decades.

Full of facts, firsts, insights, and exploits, as well as rare and memorable photographs, Watching TV is the standard history of American television. This third edition includes coverage up through the mid-2010s and looks ahead to the next waves of change.

Harry Castleman practices law in Boston and has written seven other popular culture books with Podrazik. He has worked as a media producer and consultant for a number of political organizations and campaigns. He has also been a guest lecturer on TV history at Boston University’s College of Communication.

Walter J. Podrazik is a communications and logistics consultant. He also serves as television curator at the Museum of Broadcast Communications in Chicago and is regularly quoted in media articles. As an adjunct lecturer at the University of Illinois at Chicago, he teaches television history and analyzes the role of media in politics.
“The stakes, the scope, and the thrust of this book are exemplary, explaining how travel literature exemplifies the acts of cultural transfer that are so much at the heart of Jewish literary modernity. . . . Frieden lays out in admirably clear detail the linguistic pieces of the puzzle.”

—Jeremy Dauber, director of the Institute of Israel and Jewish Studies at Columbia University

For centuries before its “rebirth” as a spoken language, Hebrew writing was like a magical ship in a bottle that gradually changed design but never voyaged out into the world. Isolated, the ancient Hebrew ship was torpid because the language of the Bible was inadequate to represent modern life in Europe. Early modern speakers of Yiddish and German gave Hebrew the breath of life when they translated dialogues, descriptions, and thought processes from their vernaculars into Hebrew. By narrating tales of pilgrimage and adventure, Jews pulled the ship out of the bottle and sent modern Hebrew into the world.

In Travels in Translation, Frieden analyzes this emergence of modern Hebrew literature after 1780, a time when Jews were moving beyond their conventional Torah- and Zion-centered worldview. Enlightened authors diverged from pilgrimage narrative traditions and appropriated travel narratives to America, the Pacific, and the Arctic. The effort to translate sea travel stories from European languages—with their nautical terms, wide horizons, and exotic occurrences—made particular demands on Hebrew writers. They had to overcome their tendency to introduce biblical phrases at every turn in order to develop a new, vivid, descriptive language.

As Frieden explains through deft linguistic analysis, by 1818, a radically new travel literature in Hebrew had arisen. Authors such as Moses Mendelsohn-Frankfurt and Mendel Lefin published books that charted a new literary path through the world and in European history. Taking a fresh look at the origins of modern Jewish literature, Frieden launches a new approach to literary studies, one that lies at the intersection of translation studies and travel writing.

Ken Frieden is B. G. Rudolph Professor and director of the Judaic Studies Program at Syracuse University. He has published numerous books and essays on Yiddish and Hebrew literature. He is the editor of Classic Yiddish Stories of S. Y. Abramovitch, Sholem Aleichem, and I. L. Peretz and Who Will Die Last: Stories of Life in Israel by David Ehrlich.
“Jonatan Meir portrays the career of one of the most ambivalent characters of the Haskalah, or Jewish Enlightenment, Michael Levi Rodkinson, and his move from the propagation of popular Hasidism to his more grandiose attempts to reframe and restructure the entire Jewish canon. This look into the world of the late nineteenth-century Jewish Enlightenment will be an eye-opener.”

—Pinchas Giller, Ziegler School of Rabbinic Studies, American Jewish University

“Meir has taken the relatively neglected figure of Rodkinson and created a detailed and fascinating portrait. He ably demonstrates that the boundaries between Hasidism and Haskalah were frequently crossed, and this markedly improves our understanding of the dynamics of Jewish intellectual history in the crucial period of the late nineteenth century.”

—Ira Robinson, Concordia University

Michael Levi Rodkinson (1845–1904) was a journalist, author, and publisher whose literary projects spanned numerous countries and continents. Hero to some and scoundrel to others, Rodkinson was a polemical figure whose beliefs underwent many transformations over the course of his life, most significantly from Hasidism to combative Haskalah to eventually anticipating the neo-Romantic trends of the early twentieth century. Throughout his career, Rodkinson’s writing challenged the familiar genres of the literature of Hasidism and the Haskalah, shaping the religious realities of his readers and articulating a spiritual and community life among Jews, who took his ideas to heart in surprising ways.

Today, Rodkinson is frequently referred to as a minor Hasidic author and publisher, a characterization based on the criticism of his opponents rather than on his writings. In Literary Hasidism, Meir draws upon those writings and their reception to present a completely different picture of this colorful and influential writer. Examining Rodkinson’s lifelong role as a catalyzing agent of different cultural phenomena, his diverse publishing activities, and his writings in their respective stages, Meir grants readers a provocative new vantage point from which to consider this divisive, enigmatic figure.

Jonatan Meir is associate professor at Ben-Gurion University of the Negev. He is the author of Imagined Hasidism: The Anti-Hasidic Writings of Joseph Perl and editor of Sefer Megale Temerin by Joseph Perl.
Seamus Heaney as Aesthetic Thinker
A Study of the Prose
Eugene O’Brien

“O’Brien uses his wide-ranging knowledge of critical theory to illuminate Heaney’s positions on ideological and aesthetic issues, and to put Heaney’s writing in the context of the European intellectual tradition.”

—Henry Hart, Mildred and J. B. Hickman Professor of Humanities, College of William and Mary

“Establishes a new and much richer paradigm for understanding this crucial dimension of Heaney’s oeuvre.”

—Andrew J. Auge, author of A Chastened Communion: Modern Irish Poetry and Catholicism

Seamus Heaney’s unexpected death in August 2013 brought to completion his body of work, and scholars are only now coming to understand the full scale and importance of this extraordinary career. The Nobel Prize–winning poet, translator, and playwright from the North of Ireland is considered the most important Irish poet after Yeats and, at the time of his death, arguably the most famous living poet. For this reason, much of the scholarship to date on Heaney has understandably focused on his poetry. O’Brien’s new work, however, focuses on Heaney’s essays, book chapters, and lectures as it seeks to understand how Heaney explored the poet’s role in the world. By examining Heaney’s prose, O’Brien teases out a clearer understanding of Heaney’s sense of the function of poetry as an act of public intellectual and ethical inquiry. In doing so, O’Brien reads Heaney as an aesthetic thinker in the European tradition, considering him alongside Heidegger, Derrida, Lacan, and Adorno. Studying Heaney within this theoretical and philosophical tradition sheds new and useful light on one of the greatest creative minds of the twentieth century.

Eugene O’Brien is a senior lecturer and head of the Department of English Language and Literature at Mary Immaculate College, University of Limerick. He is the author of numerous books, including Seamus Heaney and the Place of Writing.
The Book of Khalid
A Critical Edition

Ameen Rihani
Edited and with an Introduction by Todd Fine

Cloth $75.00L 978-0-8156-3418-8
Ebook 978-0-8156-5332-5
Paper $49.95s 978-0-8156-3404-1

6 x 9, 488 pages, 6 black-and-white illustrations, notes, glossary, bibliography, index
February 2016

“The essays about Rihani and his novel are all important and offer varied readings. . . . Fine’s introduction is terrific: detailed, contextual, and rigorous.”
—Steven Salaita, author of Modern Arab American Fiction: A Reader’s Guide

First published in 1911, Ameen Rihani’s Book of Khalid is widely considered the first Arab American novel. The semiautobiographical work chronicles the adventures of two young men, Khalid and Shakib, who leave Lebanon for the United States to find work as peddlers in Lower Manhattan. After mixed success at immersing themselves in American culture, the two return to the Middle East at a time of turmoil following the Young Turk Revolution in the Ottoman Empire. Khalid attempts to integrate his Western experiences with Eastern spiritual values, becoming an absurd, yet all too serious, combination of political revolutionary and prophet. The Book of Khalid offers readers a heady mix of picaresque, philosophical dialogue, and immigrant story.

In this critical edition, Fine includes the text of the original 1911 edition, a substantial glossary, and supplemental essays by leading Rihani scholars. Demonstrating the reach and significance of the work, these essays address a variety of themes, including Rihani’s creative influences, philosophical elements, and the historical context of the novel. Attracting a new generation of readers to Rihani’s innovative work, this edition reveals his continued resonance with contemporary Arab American literature.

Ameen Rihani (1876–1940) was a poet, writer, political activist, and intellectual who wrote in both English and Arabic. Born in Lebanon, he immigrated to New York as a child, where, along with Kahlil Gibran, he became part of the literary and artistic community.

Todd Fine is the president of the Washington Street Historical Society, an organization dedicated to the history and literature of the Little Syria neighborhood of Manhattan. He is a PhD student in history at the Graduate Center of the City University of New York.
Minorities and the Modern Arab World

New Perspectives

Edited by Laura Robson

“Over the past century and a half, numerous Middle Eastern Muslim, Christian, and Jewish communities have experienced marginalization, violence, and ultimately displacement. These conflicts have led many to the mistaken conclusion that an endemic, immutable religious intolerance plagues the region. By contextualizing a selection of local experiences, the essays included in this book offer an important corrective.”

Joshua Schreier, associate professor of history, Vassar College

In the wake of recent upheavals across the Arab world, a simplistic media portrayal of the region as essentially homogenous has given way to a new though equally shallow portrayal, casting it as deeply divided along ethnic, linguistic, and religious lines. The essays gathered in Minorities and the Modern Arab World seek to challenge this representation with a nuanced exploration of the ways in which ethnic, religious, and linguistic commitments have intersected to create “minority” communities in the modern era.

Bringing together the fields of history, political science, anthropology, sociology, and linguistics, contributors provide fresh analyses of the construction and evolution of minority identities around the region. They examine how the category of “minority” became meaningful only with the rise of the modern nation-state and find that Middle Eastern minority nationalisms owe much of their modern self-definition to developments within diaspora populations and other transnational frameworks.

The first volume to upend the conceptual frame of reference for studying Middle Eastern minority communities in nearly two decades, Minorities and the Modern Arab World represents a major intervention in modern Middle East studies.

Laura Robson is associate professor of history at Portland State University. She is the author of Colonialism and Christianity in Mandate Palestine.
Resistance, Revolt, and Gender Justice in Egypt

Mariz Tadros

“Tadros’s study of the Egyptian women’s movement following 2011 explains its ‘red lines’ while providing rich and nuanced empirical analysis of the women’s movement’s organizational, ideological, and legal challenges.”

—Diane Singerman, editor of Cairo Contested: Governance, Urban Space, and Global Modernity

“An important contribution to the literature on women’s movements in the Arab world as well as to theoretical debates about transitions to democracy and collective action.”

—Hoda Elsadda, author of Gender, Nation, and the Arabic Novel: Egypt, 1892–2008

On December 20, 2011, Egyptian women of all ages and backgrounds—urban and rural, working class and upper class—came out in force to Cairo’s Tahrir Square in one of the largest uprisings in the country’s history. The demonstrators gathered as citizens and likewise as women demanding social change and the right to gender equality. The size and impact of that uprising underscore the vital importance of women activists to what became known as the Arab Spring.

In Resistance, Revolt, and Gender Justice in Egypt, Tadros charts the arc of the Egyptian women’s movement, capturing the changing dynamics of gender activism over the course of two decades. She explores the interface between feminist movements, Islamist forces, and three regime ruptures in the battle over women’s status in Egyptian society and politics. Parsing the factors that contribute to the success and failure of activist movements, Tadros provides valuable insight on sustaining social change and a vitally important perspective on women’s evolving status in a contemporary authoritarian context.

Mariz Tadros is a research fellow at the Institute of Development Studies, University of Sussex. She is the author of The Muslim Brotherhood in Contemporary Egypt: Democracy Redefined or Confined?
Interpreters of Occupation
Gender and the Politics of Belonging in an Iraqi Refugee Network

Madeline Otis Campbell

“The role of interpreters in the US occupation of Iraq has come to the attention of cultural studies scholars in the past few years. Few, however, have tackled them in the multi-faceted manner that Campbell does. Her contribution is a significant one.”

—Rochelle Davis, associate professor at the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University

“An extremely important topic . . . The book tells stories of individual Iraqis negotiating lives between Iraq and the US within the context of families, societal norms, economic needs, gendered expectations, nationalist feelings, responsibilities to others, and individual desires.”

—Dina Khoury, professor of history and international affairs, George Washington University

During the Iraq War, thousands of young Baghdadis worked as interpreters for US troops, becoming the front line of the so-called War on Terror. Deployed by the military as linguistic as well as cultural interpreters—translating the “human terrain” of Iraq—members of this network urgently honed identification strategies amid suspicion from US forces, fellow Iraqis, and, not least of all, one another. In Interpreters of Occupation, Campbell traces the experiences of twelve individuals from their young adulthood as members of the Ba’thist generation, to their work as interpreters, through their navigation of the US immigration pipeline, and finally to their resettlement in the United States. Throughout, Campbell considers how these men and women grappled with issues of belonging and betrayal, both on the battlefield in Iraq and in the US-based diaspora.

A nuanced and richly detailed ethnography, Interpreters of Occupation gives voice to a generation of US allies through their diverse and vividly rendered life histories. In the face of what some considered a national betrayal in Iraq and their experiences of otherness within the United States, interpreters negotiate what it means to belong to a diasporic community in flux.

Madeline Otis Campbell is assistant professor of urban studies and director of the Center for Human Rights at Worcester State University.
Civil Society, Conflict Resolution, and Democracy in Nigeria
Darren Kew

“This is a well-written, carefully researched study of civil society, democratization, and conflict in Africa’s most populous state. Kew examines a significant case and offers an original addition to our conception of democratic development.”

—Peter M. Lewis, associate professor and director of the African Studies Program, Johns Hopkins University

African nations have watched the recent civic dramas of the Arab Spring and Occupy Wall Street asking if they too will see similar civil society actions in their own countries. Nigeria—Africa’s most populous nation—has long enjoyed one of the continent’s most vibrant civil society spheres, which has been instrumental in political change. Initially viewed as contributing to democracy’s development, however, civil society groups have come under increased scrutiny by scholars and policymakers. Do some civil society groups promote democracy more effectively than others? And if so, which ones, and why?

By examining the structure, organizational cultures, and methods of more than one hundred Nigerian civil society groups, Kew finds that the groups that best promote democratic development externally are themselves internally democratic. Specifically, the internally democratic civil society groups build more sustainable coalitions to resist authoritarian rule; support and influence political parties more effectively; articulate and promote public interests in a more negotiable fashion; and, most importantly, inculcate democratic norms in their members, which in turn has important democratizing impacts on national political cultures and institutions. Further, internally democratic groups are better able to resolve ethnic differences and ethnic-based tensions than their undemocratically structured peers.

This book is a deeply comprehensive account of Nigerian civil society groups in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries. Kew blends democratic theory with conflict resolution methodologies to argue that the manner in which groups—and states—manage internal conflicts provides an important gauge as to how democratic their political cultures are. The conclusions will allow donors and policymakers to make strategic decisions in their efforts to build a democratic society in Nigeria and other regions.

Darren Kew is associate professor and chair of the Department of Conflict Resolution, Human Security, and Global Governance, and executive director of the Center for Peace, Democracy, and Development at the University of Massachusetts, Boston.
Bridging the High School–College Gap

The Role of Concurrent Enrollment Programs

Edited by Gerald S. Edmonds and Tiffany M. Squires

“Concurrent enrollment is entering a new era of greater visibility and popularity. However, concurrent enrollment programs exist in an astounding variety. If we are to make certain that the ideals of quality and equity are not lost in this rich but wild diversity, we need big-picture overviews of the field. This book tackles our current need by addressing a myriad of issues that a program could face, presenting the reader with diverse perspectives, instructive models, and pertinent research.”

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Concurrent enrollment programs offer high-achieving high school students the opportunity to take college credit-bearing courses taught by college-approved high school teachers. This low-cost, scalable model brings accelerated coursework to urban, suburban, and rural students. In this book, scholars explore the function of concurrent enrollment programs in addressing the gap between high school preparation and readiness for the academic and social demands of college. Experts in the education field map out the foundation for programs offering concurrent enrollment courses, including best practices and necessary elements for a sustainable, viable program that contributes to student success in higher education. Providing research-based evidence of the overwhelming benefits of such partnerships between high schools and colleges, this book is a vital tool for all educators considering adopting a concurrent enrollment program.

Gerald S. Edmonds is assistant provost of academic programs at Syracuse University and executive director of Syracuse University Project Advance.

Tiffany M. Squires is a research and evaluation assistant at Syracuse University Project Advance.
The Thomas Indian School and the “Irredeemable” Children of New York
Keith R. Burich

“Burich’s exhaustive history significantly contributes to the history of settler colonial schooling by documenting a distinctively different kind of Indian School: non-federal, state run, horrifically committed to the idea of the “irredeemable” Indian child.”

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“Burich’s book fills a glaring gap in the fields of Indian education and Haudenosaunee history. It is accessible for undergraduate students and will add significantly to classroom explorations of Indian education by including state-mandated education in discussions that usually revolve around the Carlisle Industrial School and the federal system.”

—Holly Rine, associate professor of history, Le Moyne College

The story of the Thomas Indian School has been overlooked by history and historians even though it predated, lasted longer, and affected a larger number of Indian children than most of the more well-known federal boarding schools. Founded by the Presbyterian missionaries on the Cattaraugus Seneca Reservation in western New York, the Thomas Asylum for Orphan and Destitute Indian Children, as it was formally named, shared many of the characteristics of the government-operated Indian schools. However, its students were driven to its doors not by Indian agents, but by desperation. Forcibly removed from their land, Iroquois families suffered from poverty, disease, and disruptions in their traditional ways of life, leaving behind many abandoned children.

The story of the Thomas Indian School is the story of the Iroquois people and the suffering and despair of the children who found themselves trapped in an institution from which there was little chance for escape. Although the school began as a refuge for children, it also served as a mechanism for “civilizing” and converting native children to Christianity. As the school’s population swelled and financial support dried up, the founders were forced to turn the school over to the state of New York. Under the State Board of Charities, children were subjected to prejudice, poor treatment, and long-term institutionalization, resulting in alienation from their families and cultures. In this harrowing yet essential book, Burich offers new and important insights into the role and nature of boarding schools and their destructive effect on generations of indigenous populations.

Keith R. Burich is professor of history at Canisius College in Buffalo, New York.
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