School of Liberal Arts
FACULTY SHOWCASE RECEPTION

Celebrating Major
Accomplishments of 2014

MONDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2014
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Message from Dean Haber

In our seventh annual faculty recognition showcase, we are pleased to recognize 35 works by the faculty of the School of Liberal Arts. In their breadth and depth, these monographs, performances, and exhibitions reflect the originality and creativity that define SLA. The works that are described in the pages that follow clearly demonstrate the power of the liberal arts: they engage, they provoke, and they enlighten. Although our recognition of these works is all too brief, we are honored to celebrate the years of effort that went into creating these outstanding contributions and the lasting impact that they will have on their respective fields.
Rebecca J. Atencio

Memory’s Turn: Reckoning with Dictatorship in Brazil
{University of Wisconsin Press, 2014}

After twenty-one years of military dictatorship, Brazil returned to democratic rule in 1985. Yet over the following two decades, the country largely ignored human rights crimes committed by state security agents, crimes that included the torture, murder, and disappearance of those who opposed the authoritarian regime.

In clear and engaging prose, Rebecca J. Atencio tells the story of the slow turn to memory in Brazil, a turn that has taken place in both politics and in cultural production. She shows how testimonial literature, telenovelas, literary novels, theatrical plays, and memorials have interacted with policies adopted by the Brazilian state, often in unexpected ways. Under the right circumstances, official and cultural forms of reckoning combine in Brazil to produce what Atencio calls cycles of cultural memory. Novel meanings of the past are forged, and new cultural works are inspired, thus creating the possibility for further turns in the cycle.

The first book to analyze Brazil’s reckoning with dictatorship through both institutional and cultural means, Memory’s Turn is a rich, informative exploration of the interplay between these different modes of memory reconstruction.

Carl L. Bankston, III

Immigrant Networks & Social Capital
{Polity Press, 2014}

In recent years, immigration researchers have increasingly drawn on the concept of social capital and the role of social networks to understand the dynamics of immigrant experiences. How can they help to explain what brings migrants from some countries to others, or why members of different immigrant groups experience widely varying outcomes in their community settings, occupational opportunities, and educational outcomes?

This timely book examines the major issues in social capital research, showing how economic and social contexts shape networks in the process of migration, and assesses the strengths and weaknesses of this approach to the study of international migration. By drawing on a broad range of examples from major immigrant groups, the book takes network-based social capital theory out of the realm of abstraction and reveals the insights it offers.

Written in a readily comprehensible, jargon-free style, Immigrant Networks and Social Capital is appropriate for undergraduate and graduate classes in international migration, networks, and political and social theory in general. It provides both a theoretical synthesis for professional social scientists and a clear introduction to network approaches to social capital for students, policy-makers, and anyone interested in contemporary social trends and issues.
J.D. Salinger published his first story in *The New Yorker* at age twenty-nine. Three years later came *The Catcher in the Rye*, a novel that has sold more than sixty-five million copies and achieved mythic status since its publication in 1951. Subsequent books introduced a new type in contemporary literature: the introspective, hyperarticulate Glass family, whose stage is the Upper East Side. Yet we still know little about Salinger’s personal life and less about his character.

This was by design. In 1953, determined to escape media attention, Salinger fled to New Hampshire, where he would live until his death in 2010. Even there, privacy proved elusive: a *Time* cover story; a memoir by Joyce Maynard (who dropped out of Yale as a freshman to move in with him); and a legal battle over an unauthorized biography, which darkened his last decades. Yet he continued to write, and is rumored to have left behind a mass of work that his estate intends to publish.

Thomas Beller, a novelist who grew up in Manhattan, is the ideal guide to Salinger’s world. He gives us a sense of life at *The New Yorker* (where he was once a staff writer) and a portrait of editor Gus Lobrano, whose relationship with Salinger has rarely been written about. He visits Salinger’s summer camp and the apartment buildings where the author lived. He reads the famous works with obsessive attention, finding in them an image of his own life experience. The result is a quest biography about learning to know yourself in order to know your subject. *J.D. Salinger* is the triumph of a rare literary form: biography as work of art.

Scholars, Policymakers, and International Affairs shows how to build mutually beneficial connections between the worlds of ideas and action, analysis and policy. Drawing on contributions from top international scholars with policy experience in the United States, Europe, Asia, Canada, and Latin America, as well as senior policymakers throughout the Americas, Abraham F. Lowenthal and Mariano E. Bertucci make the case that scholars can both strengthen their research and contribute to improved policies while protecting academia from the risks of active participation in the policy process.

Many scholars believe that policymakers are more interested in processes and outcomes than in understanding causality. Many policymakers believe that scholars are absorbed in abstract and self-referential debates and that they are primarily interested in crafting theories (and impressing other scholars) rather than developing solutions to pressing policy issues.

The contributors to this book confront this gap head-on. They do not deny the obstacles to fruitful interaction between scholars and policymakers, but, drawing on their own experience, discuss how these obstacles can be and have been overcome. Clearly written and thoughtfully organized, this innovative book provides analytic insights and practical wisdom for those who want to understand how to build more effective connections between the worlds of thought and action.
Sperone Speroni was among the leading literary figures in Renaissance Italy, renowned as a theorist, essayist and author of dialogues (on love, discord, the dignity of women, and language), some of which led to problems with the Inquisition. His drama *Canace* (1542) gave rise to a polemic that resonated beyond his native country due to its controversial topic: incest. The ill-fated lovers (and siblings) Canace and Macareus are discovered by their father, Aeolus, king of the winds, who wreaks terrible vengeance on them – not realizing that Venus is the instigator of their love for each other. With a plot derived from Ovid and dramatic elements taken from Seneca, the tragedy of *Canace* raises questions about the problem of incest and its role in the debate regarding nature versus culture, a controversial topic that is still current.

Sperone Speroni, *Canace* (1542)
(Centre for Reformation & Renaissance Studies, 2013)

Smolensk: Architectural Heritage in Photographs
(Moscow: Tri Kvadrata Publishers, 2014)

Strategically situated on the upper part of the Dnieper River, Smolensk played an important role in the development of Kievan Rus. Extensive discussion is given to the city's 12th-century churches, with notes on research sources. The text then surveys the three centuries after the Mongol invasion (1237-41), when Smolensk became a border territory contested by Poland, Lithuania, and Muscovy. The taking of Smolensk by Basil III in 1514 led to the creation (1595-1602) of one of Europe's largest brick fortresses.

The retaking of Smolensk from the Poles in 1654 ushered in an era of changing architectural styles reflected in churches and monasteries during the next two centuries. The acceleration of growth in the 19th century led to eclectic styles for housing and commercial architecture. The survey of the city's history concludes with the turbulent events of the 20th century, including the devastation of the Second World War. The text section ends with an essay on the Arts and Crafts estate of Talashkino, supported by Princess Maria Tenisheva. Special attention is given to the work of Sergei Maliutin and Nicholas Roerich in the design of buildings such as the “Teremok” and the estate church.

This publication continues Brumfield’s “Discovering Russia” series, dedicated to the historic regions of Russia and their architecture. The series is intended for those interested in architecture, history, photography, and regional studies.
Taking as axiomatic the concept that artistic output does not simply reflect culture but also shapes it, the essays in this interdisciplinary collection take a holistic approach to the cultural fashioning of sexualities, drawing on visual art, theatre, music, and literature, in sacred and secular contexts. Although there is diversity in disciplinary approach, the interpretations and readings offered in each essay have a historical basis. Approaching the topic from the point of view of both visual and auditory media, this volume paints a comprehensive picture of artists’ challenges to erotic boundaries, and contributes to new historicizing thinking on sexualities. Collectively, the essays demonstrate the role played by artistic production-visual arts, literature, theatre and music-in fashioning, policing, and challenging early modern sexual boundaries, and thus help to identify the ways in which the arts contributed to both the disciplining and the exploration of a range of sexualities.

Bringing the study of early modern Christianity into dialogue with Atlantic history, this collection provides a longue durée investigation of women and religion within a transatlantic context. Taking as its starting point the work of Natalie Zemon Davis on the effects of confessional difference among women in the age of religious reformations, the volume expands the focus to broader temporal and geographic boundaries. The result is a series of essays examining the effects of religious reform and revival among women in the wider Atlantic world of Europe, the Americas, and West Africa from 1550 to 1850. Taken collectively, the essays in this volume chart the extended impact of confessional divergence on women over time and space, and uncover a web of transatlantic religious interaction that significantly enriches our understanding of the unfolding of the Atlantic World.

Divided into three sections, the volume begins with an exploration of ‘Old World Reforms’ looking afresh at the impact of confessional change in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries upon the lives of European women. Part two takes this forward, tracing the adaptation of European religious forms within Africa and the Americas. The third and final section explores the multifarious faces of the revival that inspired the nineteenth century missionary movement on both sides of the Atlantic. Collectively the essays underline the extent to which the development of the Atlantic World created a space within which an unprecedented series of juxtapositions, collisions, and collusions among religious traditions and practitioners took place. These demonstrate how the religious history of Europe, the Americas, and Africa became intertwined earlier and more deeply than much scholarship suggests, and highlight the dynamic nature of transatlantic cross-fertilization and influence.
With the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina in New Orleans his initial subject, Cooley meditates on transience and mortality as he moves through the landscape of the Gulf South, the sky, and his inner weather reflecting one another.

According to NYU professor and Pulitzer Prize winning poet Yusef Komunyakaa, “Peter Cooley’s poetry endures, with wrought lyricism and robust imagination. This new collection brilliantly underscores the spiritual dimension of his vision, buoyed by an imagistic certainty; the poems turn on grace notes that are musical and natural, tinged by the Crescent City. There’s a whole treasure of lived reflection that carries us through an urban psychological voyage in Night Bus to the Afterlife.”

Maria Diana Cupșa
Teatrul în Republica Sud Africă (The South African Theatre) [UNATC Press, 2014]

This book, although structured in a chronological order, is not a complete history of the South African theatre but rather a guide meant to inform the reader about the new and modern nature of this country’s theatre productions and the main cultural institutions affiliated with it. It must be said that we are witnessing a period during which the South African theatre has entered a process of recreating itself for the new millennium while somewhat underfinanced, undervalued, and randomly structured, but dynamic, conclusive, and extremely creative.
What does it mean when we say someone is cool? This luminous collection of portraits and film stills sheds new light on the term, its origins, and its evolution – with some surprising and provocative results. The term “cool” has become such a part of America’s modern lexicon that it seems to have lost its meaning. This stellar collection of photographs from the National Portrait Gallery and from prominent artists, museums, and archives nationwide would argue otherwise. The idea of cool is not only older than we think – it’s also constantly changing, aided by the mediums of portraiture and film. Readers will find unexpected and familiar faces here: Walt Whitman, Frederick Douglass, and Georgia O’Keeffe, as well as James Dean, Bob Dylan, and Chrissie Hynde. In perceptive essays, Joel Dinerstein investigates the evolution of cool from the 1930s to the present while Frank Goodyear explores how the mediums of film and photography have helped define the term. An extensive selection of one hundred chronologically arranged portraits, with biographical information about each subject, profiles major eras and movements of the past decades, each with its own brand of coolness. Exploring cultural icons, this volume encourages readers to find new meaning and depth in the idea of American cool.
Writing the Absent Space contributes to the discussion on the national in its cultural and political dimensions. It explicitly underscores the nostalgia of “the political” as it is conceived: a temporal and spatial absence that lays the foundation not only for an identity but a way of being in the world. Implicitly it asks what it means to “not belong” to other cultures, where the very idea of intervening in them is chimeric, and where the challenged and far-away “national” is, in the space of exile, still a valid category. Consequently, dragged out of the lowest bowels of self-criticism is the melancholy of a non-being being, of an unrooted writing, in the air as Antonio Cornejo Polar would have said of other afflictions. The anti-spatial as well as exiled feeling is just that, the tension between that other successful and distant nation and one’s own failed nation. That which belonged to the writer is now mere memory projected onto writing; the fantasy is, once again, that writing can occupy the space of the political as it criticizes the supposedly national projects, of both the Right and the Left, that expelled these writers into exile.

Crisis Cities blends critical theoretical insight with a historically-grounded comparative study to examine the redevelopment efforts following the 9/11 and Hurricane Katrina disasters. Based on years of research in the two cities, Gotham and Greenberg contend that New York and New Orleans have emerged as paradigmatic crisis cities, representing a free-market approach to post-disaster redevelopment that is increasingly dominant for crisis-stricken cities around the world. This mode of urbanization emphasizes the privatization of disaster aid, devolution of recovery responsibility to the local state, use of tax incentives and federal grants to spur market-centered redevelopment, and utopian branding campaigns to market the redeveloped city for business and tourism. Meanwhile, it eliminates “low-income” and “public benefit” standards that once underlay emergency provisions. Focusing on the pre- and post-history of disaster, Gotham and Greenberg show how this approach exacerbates the uneven landscapes of risk and resiliency that helped produce crisis in the first place, while potentially reproducing the conditions for future crisis. At the same time, they highlight the expanding coalitions that formed following 9/11 and Katrina to contest these inequities and envision a more just and sustainable urban future.
T.R. Johnson
The Other Side of Pedagogy: Lacan’s Four Discourses & the Development of the Student Writer
(State University of New York Press, 2014)

University classrooms are increasingly in crisis – though popular demands for accountability grow more insistent, no one seems to know what our teaching should seek to achieve. This book traces how we arrived at our current impasse, and it uses Lacan’s theory of the four discourses to chart a path forward via an analysis of the freshman writing class. How did we forfeit a meaningful set of goals for our teaching? T. R. Johnson suggests that, by the 1960s, the work of Bergson and Piaget had led us to see student growth as a journey into more and more abstract thought, a journey that will happen naturally if the teacher knows how to stay out of the way. Since the 1960s, we’ve come to see development, in turn, only as a vague initiation into the academic community. This book, however, offers an alternative tradition, one rooted in Vygotsky and the feminist movement, that defines the developing student writer in terms of a complex, intersubjective ecology, and then, through these precedents, proposes a fully psychoanalytic model of student development.

To illustrate his practical use of the four discourses, Johnson draws on a wide array of concepts and a colorful set of examples, including Franz Kafka, Keith Richards, David Foster Wallace, Hannah Arendt, and many others.

Michelle Kohler
Miles of Stare
(University of Alabama Press, 2014)

The strangeness of nineteenth-century poetic vision is exemplified most famously by Emerson’s transparent eyeball. That disembodied, omniscient seer is able to shed its body and transcend sight paradoxically in order to see – not to create – poetic language “manifest” on the American landscape. In Miles of Stare, Michelle Kohler explores the question of why, given American transcendentalism’s anti-empiricism, the movement’s central trope becomes an eye purged of imagination. And why, furthermore, she asks, despite its insistent empiricism, is this notorious eye also so decidedly not an eye? What are the ethics of casting a boldly equivocal metaphor as the source of a national literature amidst a national landscape fraught with slavery, genocide, poverty, and war?

Miles of Stare explores these questions first by tracing the historical emergence of the metaphor of poetic vision as the transcendentalists assimilated European precedents and wrestled with America’s troubling rhetoric of manifest destiny and national identity. These questions are central to the work of many nineteenth-century authors writing in the wake of transcendentalism, and Kohler offers examples from the writings of Douglass, Hawthorne, Dickinson, Howells, and Jewett that form a cascade of new visual metaphors that address the irreconcilable contradictions within the transcendentalist metaphor and pursue their own efforts to produce an American literature. Douglass’s doomed witness to slavery, Hawthorne’s reluctantly omniscient narrator, and Dickinson’s empty “miles of Stare” variously skewer the authority of Emerson’s all-seeing poetic eyeball while attributing new authority to the limitations that mark their own literary gazes.
In 1972, the American gangster Meyer Lansky petitions the Israeli government for citizenship. His request is denied, and he is returned to the U.S. to stand trial. He leaves behind a mistress in Tel Aviv, a Holocaust survivor named Gila Konig.

In 2009, American journalist Hannah Groff travels to Israel to investigate the killing of an Israeli writer. She soon finds herself inside a web of violence that takes in the American and Israeli Mafias, the Biblical figure of King David, and the modern state of Israel. As she connects the dots between the murdered writer, Lansky, Gila, and her own father, Hannah becomes increasingly obsessed with the dark side of her heritage. Part crime story, part spiritual quest, *I Pity the Poor Immigrant* is also a novelistic consideration of Jewish identity.

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Faina Lushtak was born and raised in the Soviet Union. A child prodigy, she began her piano and composition studies at age of six. Following her early instruction under her mother, Genya Lushtak, she went on to study and graduate from the Stolyarsky School for Musically Gifted Children under the tutelage of Eleonora Levinson. Lushtak later earned her degrees in piano performance and composition from the Moscow Tchaikovsky Conservatory.

Since her debut at age of ten, Faina Lushtak’s concert performances have inspired audiences throughout Russia, Western Europe, Canada, and the United States. She has performed both as a solo recitalist and as guest artist with numerous symphony orchestras under the batons of noted conductors including William Henry Curry, Maxim Shostakovich, and Alfred Slavia. She has also performed as a solo recitalist in major cities throughout the United States, including repeat performances at Lincoln Center.

Lushtak’s current CD, *La Poésie de la Vie*, was recorded in April 2014 on her "old but beloved Steinway." Including pieces by Tchaikowsky, Chopin, Schubert, and Debussy, among others, Lushtak "displays her remarkable artistry in each piece, playing with finely crafted phrasings and clearly defined articulation. She is a marvelous interpreter who is able to create poetry at the keyboard.”
Creating Severan Rome: The Architecture and Self-Image of L. Septimius Severus (AD 193–211) examines the topography of Severan Rome and its role in Severus’ political agenda. Although some monuments reflect the emperor’s concern for establishing his own legitimacy and the eventual succession of his sons, other aspects of the Severan program are tied to the emperor’s broader programs of legal, military, and bureaucratic reforms. This book investigates major topographical areas reshaped by Severus, e.g., the Roman Forum, the Campus Martius, and the Palatine, as well as individual monuments, such as the Septizodium, in an analysis of his building program.

From the popular legend of Pocahontas to the Civil War soap opera Gone with the Wind to countless sculpted heads of George Washington that adorn homes and museums, whole industries have emerged to feed America’s addiction to imaginary histories that cover up the often violent acts of building a homogeneous nation. In Ersatz America, Rebecca Mark shows how this four-hundred-year-old obsession with false history has wounded democracy by creating language that is severed from material reality. Without the mediating touchstones of body and nature, creative representations of our history have been allowed to spin into dangerous abstraction.

Other scholars have addressed the artificial qualities of the collective American memory, but what distinguishes Ersatz America is that it does more than simply deconstruct – it provides a map for regeneration. Mark contends that throughout American history, citizen artists have responded to the deadly memorialization of the past with artistic expressions and visual artifacts that exist outside the realm of official language, creating a counter narrative. These examples of what she calls visceral graphism are embodied in and connected to the human experience of indigenous peoples, enslaved Africans, and silenced women, giving form to the unspeakable. We must learn, Mark suggests, to read the markings of these works against the iconic national myths. In doing so, we can shift from being mesmerized by the monumentalism of this national mirage to embracing the regeneration and recovery of our human history.
Maja’il Kaqchikel: Kaqchikel Autoaprendido
Nab’ey Wuj-Nivel Básico / Nab’ey Nuwuj: Mi primer libro Kaqchikel
[Guatemala: Nawal Wuj, 2013]

Maja’il Kaqchikel: Kaqchikel Autoaprendido. Nab’ey Wuj-Nivel Básico (Easy Kaqchikel: Self-taught Kaqchikel Book One) and Nab’ey Nuwuj: Mi primer libro Kaqchikel (My First Book: My First Kaqchikel Book) are basic Kaqchikel language textbooks prepared in consultation with a working group of Mayan linguists Ixtz’ulu’Gloria Enoe Son Chonay, Ixcha’im Marliny Son Chonay and Ixim Nik’te’M. Carmela Rodríguez. These materials were designed to support a 2010 Guatemalan Ministry of Education initiative which requires all Guatemalan schools to provide instruction in the indigenous language native to their region of Guatemala. All previous Guatemalan bilingual education materials for Mayan languages were developed with an indigenous student in mind, someone who had at least passive knowledge of their heritage language. Maja’il Kaqchikel (Easy Kaqchikel) is designed to make the language, its orthography, its grammar, and its lexicon accessible to children whose native language may be Spanish rather than Kaqchikel or another Mayan language.

The accompanying workbook, Nab’ey Nuwuj (My First Book), provides a series of exercises and examples of the language in use. These two books are currently serving the Ministry of Education for Kaqchikel instruction at all levels in all nationally accredited schools, public and private, within the Kaqchikel region of Guatemala, a four department/state area. Maxwell is planning to expand on these materials, creating a sequence of textbooks, with paired texts and workbooks for each grade level.

In 2012–2013, one of the largest U.S. newspaper chains, Advance Publications, determined its main product was no longer newspapers but news, and switched from daily print publication of The Times-Picayune of New Orleans to three days a week, while upgrading its presence online (“Digital First”). More than two hundred employees, including half the newsroom, were laid off in one of the poorest U.S. cities with among the lowest literacy rates and percentages of households with Internet access. The decision raised a furor in New Orleans.

Beginning with an historical overview of The Times-Picayune, from its 1837 founding through the present, The Times-Picayune in a Changing Media World: The Transformation of an American Newspaper describes the crucial role the dailies played in the 1960 school desegregation crisis, as well as the impact of the switch on print coverage of hard news in the context of media developments, and provides a detailed analysis of specific print editions of The Times-Picayune and its digital formats conducted before and after the switch. This study of the evolution of The Times-Picayune is instructive for all concerned with what the transformation might portend for the news profession and for the traditional role of the press in the digital age.
From its earliest manifestations on the street corners of nineteenth-century Buenos Aires to its ascendancy as a global cultural form, tango has continually exceeded the confines of the dance floor or the music hall. In Tango Lessons, scholars from Latin America and the United States explore tango’s enduring vitality. The interdisciplinary group of contributors— including specialists in dance, music, anthropology, linguistics, literature, film, and fine art— take up a broad range of topics. Among these are the productive tensions between tradition and experimentation in tango nuevo, representations of tango in film and contemporary art, and the role of tango in the imagination of Jorge Luis Borges. Taken together, the essays show that tango provides a kaleidoscopic perspective on Argentina’s social, cultural, and intellectual history from the late nineteenth to the early twenty-first centuries.

Using both canonical and underappreciated texts, Alien Albion argues that early modern England was far less unified and xenophobic than literary critics have previously suggested. Juxtaposing literary texts from the period with legal, religious, and economic documents, Scott Oldenburg uncovers how immigrants to England forged ties with their English hosts and how those relationships were reflected in literature that imagined inclusive, multicultural communities. Through discussions of civic pageantry, the plays of dramatists including William Shakespeare, Thomas Dekker, and Thomas Middleton, the poetry of Anne Dowriche, and the prose of Thomas Deloney, Alien Albion challenges assumptions about the origins of English national identity and the importance of religious, class, and local identities in the early modern era.
Daniel B. Sharp

Between Nostalgia & Apocalypse: Popular Music & the Staging of Brazil
[Wesleyan, 2014]

Between Nostalgia and Apocalypse is a close-to-the-ground account of musicians and dancers from Arcoverde, Pernambuco – a small city in the northeastern Brazilian backlands. The book’s focus on samba de coco families, marked as bearers of tradition, and the band Cordel do Fogo Encantado, marketed as pop iconoclasts, offers a revealing portrait of performers engaged in new forms of cultural preservation during a post-dictatorship period of democratization and neoliberal reform. Daniel B. Sharp explores how festivals, museums, television, and tourism steep musicians’ performances in national-cultural nostalgia, which both provides musicians and dancers with opportunities for cultural entrepreneurship and hinders their efforts to be recognized as part of the Brazilian here-and-now. The book charts how Afro-Brazilian samba de coco became an unlikely emblem in an interior where European and indigenous mixture predominates. It also chronicles how Cordel do Fogo Encantado – drawing upon the sounds of samba de coco, ecstatic Afro-Brazilian religious music, and heavy metal – sought to make folklore dangerous by embodying an apocalyptic register often associated with northeastern Brazil.

Olanike Ola Orie

Linguistic Interfaces in African Languages
[Olanike Ola Orie, Karen W. Sanders, eds.]
[Cascadilla Press, 2013]

Linguistic Interfaces in African Languages is a special edition consisting of papers presented at the 43rd Annual Conference on African Linguistics held on March 15-17, 2012 at Tulane University. This volume brings together the work of leading scholars from Africa and outside experts on Africa, covering substantial theoretical and descriptive interface issues in diverse spoken, gestured, and sign languages of Africa. The papers present new experimental and analytic techniques for studying linguistic interfaces. These findings contribute to our current understanding of the nature and extent of the interaction of different linguistic modules in African languages. The papers examine topics such as:

- Empirical issues in sound, word, and sentence interfaces
- Sound, word, and sentence interfaces and theories of interfaces
- African genetic linguistics
- Migrations, language contact, language coexistence, and competition
- Language conflicts and resolution
- Official language policies and development in Africa
- African sound symbolism and gestures
- African sign languages and the typology of sign languages

A significant Lagniappe (small gift) to the reader is the presentation of data from diverse African languages, many of which are less-known and less-studied: Abo, Akan, Arabic, Bambara, Basaa, Bono, ciTonga, Ibibio, Igbo, Krachi, Lubukusu, Massai, Mushunguli, Nata, Nyagbo, Setswana, Tano, Turkana, Yoruba, gestures and sign languages of West Africa.
David Shoemaker

[David Shoemaker, Neal Tognazzini, eds.]
(Oxford University Press, 2014)

Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility is a series of volumes presenting outstanding new work on a set of connected themes in moral philosophy and philosophy of action.

This special volume in the series presents ten new papers marking the fiftieth anniversary of P. F. Strawson’s landmark essay, “Freedom and Resentment.” Some of the papers offer critical interpretation of Strawson’s essay, some expand on his insights into the nature of interpersonal relationships, and some develop his overall themes in new and challenging directions.

Randy J. Sparks

Hurricane Katrina in Transatlantic Perspective
[Romain Huret, Randy J. Sparks, eds.]
[Louisiana State University Press, 2014]

“There is no such thing as a ‘natural’ disaster,” writes Romain Huret in his introduction to this multidisciplinary study of the events and legacy of Hurricane Katrina. Though nature produced Katrina’s rising waters and destructive winds, a vast array of manmade factors shaped the scope of the storm’s impact as well as the local and national response to it. In Hurricane Katrina in Transatlantic Perspective, American and European scholars approach this infamous storm and its legacy through a variety of disciplines, from music to geography to anthropology, creating a nuanced understanding of how society reacts to and remembers times of disaster.

Richard Campanella and Romain Huret examine the particular geographical and political mix that set the stage for Katrina’s devastation, especially among the poorest populations of New Orleans and the Gulf South. Jean Kempf, James Boyden, Andrew Diamond, and Thomas Jessen Adams address the ideological biases and racial stereotypes that infused local and national commentary in the days and weeks after the storm. Finally, Bruce Raeburn, Sara Le Menestrel, Anne M. Lovell, and Randy J. Sparks explore the impact of this powerful tropical event on the city’s institutions and cultural organizations.

Hurricane Katrina in Transatlantic Perspective provides a profound and innovative collection of insights on one of the most significant environmental catastrophes in U.S. history, forcing us to examine the cultural actors that transformed a natural disaster into a humanitarian crisis.
The Beatles were the most significant cultural phenomenon of their time. This is a statement with which few people would disagree. But what precisely did they signify? This is a question which, surprisingly, virtually no one can answer. Taking advantage of the immense factual, biographical and neo-Positivistic literature written on the group, the purpose of this book is an attempt to say why – and in what manner – The Beatles’ undisputed artistic and cultural importance should be reassessed under the microscope of extended psychoanalytic interpretation. It argues that Beatlemania and the music of Lennon/McCartney highlighted the end of the Modern Age as it had been expressed in the ideals of the Enlightenment. The albums from Revolver (1966) to Abbey Road (1969) are seen collectively as the first popular post-Modern classic of Western music, and the Beatles themselves as cultural pioneers of enduring achievement.

Critical Approaches to African Cinema Discourse utilizes an interdisciplinary approach to lay bare the diversity and essence of African cinema discourse. It is an anthology of historical reflections, critical essays, and interviews by film critics, historians, theorists, and filmmakers that signifies a dialogue and engagement apropos the ideology and cultural politics of film production in Africa.

The contributors are extremely concerned, not only with the history of African cinema, but with its future and its potential. This book, then, is not limited to the expansion of the discourse on African cinema, but tries to approach the definition of the critical canon within the exigencies and manifestations of art and African sociopolitical practices. The authors view these practices as an investment in a cultural imperative stemming from the quest to delineate how critical methodologies are derived from and shape contemporary historical and cultural practices. Hence, the contributions are less about the usual constrictive method of analysis and more about illustrating manifestations of an interrogative critical methodology that is certainly an offspring of an indigenous African critical cum cinematic culture and paradigms.
African Cinema: Narratives, Perspectives, and Poetics

African Cinema: Narratives, Perspectives, and Poetics is a richly significant contribution to the study of African cinema. It offers a comprehensive exploration of African film history in relation to contemporary trends in narrative, aesthetics, themes, genre, burgeoning women directors, and the video-film revolution in Anglophone Africa, with the latter key to new modes of production as well as emerging popular film cultures on the continent. These innovations, in fiction and documentary, which assiduously engage and revise erstwhile African cinematic practices, it is demonstrated, offer audacious facets and frameworks. Similarly, the growing oeuvre of African women filmmakers, especially in documentary films, is shown to present unprecedented angles on and platforms for engaging issues of class, gender, agency, ethnicity, and society. In meticulously juxtaposing critical with contextual analyses of selected films, Nwachukwu Frank Ukadike captures not just the dynamics of transformation but, with requisite rigor and interdisciplinary flair, redraws the contours of African film scholarship.

The Linguistic Dimension of Kant’s Thought: Historical and Critical Essays

Among modern philosophers, Immanuel Kant (1724–1804) has few rivals for his influence over the development of contemporary philosophy as a whole. While the issue of language has become a key fulcrum of continental philosophy since the twentieth century, Kant has been overlooked as a thinker whose breadth of insight has helped to spearhead this advance.

The Linguistic Dimension of Kant’s Thought remedies this historical gap by gathering new essays by distinguished Kant scholars. The chapters examine the many ways that Kant’s philosophy addresses the nature of language. Although language as a formal structure of thought and expression has always been part of the philosophical tradition, the “linguistic dimension” of these essays speaks to language more broadly as a practice including communication, exchange, and dialogue.
With spears and arrows, atlatls and slings, the people of the New World fought to defend themselves against European invasion and conquest. Over a century of scholarship on warfare has substantially enhanced our understanding of the scope and scale of violent conflict in Pre-Columbian America. Yet we still struggle to understand the nuances of indigenous warfare and its importance for native politics and society. This volume sheds new light on the nature of war in Mesoamerica and the Andes. Relying on methodological and theoretical developments in anthropological archaeology, bioarchaeology, and ethnohistory, contributors highlight the particularities of warfare in indigenous societies and examine the commonalities of warfare in cross-cultural perspective. Their essays focus on place and the body, as they explore the importance of captive-taking, sacrifice, performance, and political history in the conduct of war.

Observers have debated whether the indigenous peoples of the Americas were distinctly noble or frightfully savage in their way of war. This volume shows that such polarized positions are unfounded. By focusing on the nuances of indigenous violent conflict, the contributors demonstrate that war in the Americas was much like war elsewhere in the ancient and modern world: strategic, political, bloody, socially productive, yet terribly destructive.

In four years, Jesmyn Ward lost five young men in her life – to drugs, accidents, suicide, and the bad luck that can follow people who live in poverty, particularly black men. Dealing with these losses, one after another, made Jesmyn ask the question: Why? And as she began to write about the experience of living through all the dying, she realized the truth – and it took her breath away. Her brother and her friends all died because of who they were and where they were from, because they lived with a history of racism and economic struggle that fostered drug addiction and the dissolution of family and relationships. Jesmyn says the answer was so obvious she felt stupid for not seeing it. But it nagged at her until she knew she had to write about her community, to write their stories and her own.

Jesmyn grew up in poverty in rural Mississippi. She writes powerfully about the pressures this brings, on the men who can do no right and the women who stand in for family in a society where the men are often absent. She bravely tells her story, revisiting the agonizing losses of her only brother and her friends. As the sole member of her family to leave home and pursue higher education, she writes about the place she came from with the objectivity distance provides, but with the intimacy of utter familiarity, with the love that made her ultimately return.

Men We Reaped opens up a parallel universe, and yet it points to problems whose roots are woven into the soil under all our feet. This indispensable American memoir is destined to become a classic.
In American political fantasy, the Founding Fathers loom large, at once historical and mythical figures. In The Traumatic Colonel, Michael J. Drexler and Ed White examine the Founders as imaginative fictions, characters in the specifically literary sense, whose significance emerged from narrative elements clustered around them. From the revolutionary era through the 1790s, the Founders took shape as a significant cultural system for thinking about politics, race, and sexuality. Yet after 1800, amid the pressures of the Louisiana Purchase and the Haitian Revolution, this system could no longer accommodate the deep anxieties about the United States as a slave nation.

Drexler and White assert that the most emblematic of the political tensions of the time is the figure of Aaron Burr, whose rise and fall were detailed in the literature of his time: his electoral tie with Thomas Jefferson in 1800, the accusations of seduction, the notorious duel with Alexander Hamilton, his machinations as the schemer of a breakaway empire, and his spectacular treason trial. The authors venture a psychoanalytically-informed exploration of post-revolutionary America to suggest that the figure of “Burr” was fundamentally a displaced fantasy for addressing the Haitian Revolution. Drexler and White expose how the historical and literary fictions of the nation’s founding served to repress the larger issue of the slave system and uncover the Burr myth as the crux of that repression. Exploring early American novels, such as the works of Charles Brockden Brown and Tabitha Gilman Tenney, as well as the pamphlets, polemics, tracts, and biographies of the early republican period, the authors speculate that this flourishing of political writing illuminates the notorious gap in U.S. literary history between 1800 and 1820.