SCHOOL OF LIBERAL ARTS
FACULTY SHOWCASE RECEPTION

Celebrating Major Accomplishments of 2015

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2015
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A Message from Dean Haber

Welcome to the 8th annual School of Liberal Arts faculty showcase. This year, the thirty-one works of scholarship, creative, and performing arts come from faculty members across thirteen of our departments. In their range of approaches and foci, they vividly reflect the breadth of the school. Yet, despite their differences in methodology, theme, and medium, the works are uniform in their ability to illustrate the importance of the liberal arts. Whether in the form of a book, an exhibition, or a concert, they serve to inform, to engage, and to challenge our understanding of ourselves and the world in which we live.

Although the showcase officially identifies the items described in this booklet as the achievements of 2015, in truth each reflects an endeavor that goes well beyond the recent calendar. By the time the book is published, the show is completed, or the audience has risen for their seats, the work is the culmination of years of effort. Speaking for the entire school, therefore, I am pleased to commend the celebrated faculty members for their creativity, intelligence, and perseverance. We are proud to recognize their accomplishments and the contributions to Tulane and the School of Liberal Arts.
In recent decades countries around the world have seen a wide diversity of tax reforms, both in major systematic changes and through more specific areas of tax, such as value-added and income tax. The results of these reforms, however, have been unequal and many issues remain unresolved. With advances in globalization, technology and regional integration, the issue of adapting tax systems in developing countries to new economic environments is becoming ever more pressing.

This collection combines the best research from the past three decades on tax reform in developing countries to highlight the state of knowledge of tax reform, analyze useful policy options and present new and critical approaches to this critical issue.
Still Failing: The Continuing Paradox of School Desegregation is a significantly updated and revised version of Caldas and Bankston’s previous book Forced to Fail: The Paradox of School Desegregation. The book includes an analysis of the most significant Supreme Court cases that have been decided in the ten years since the first edition of the book appeared. The authors consider the important implications of these recent rulings for the future of school desegregation in America’s schools. Social capital theory is used to explain why schools and communities continue to be segregated along racial and ethnic lines. Still Failing also provides the most recent U.S. census and Department of Education statistics documenting the continuing segregation of American schools and districts. The book also continues to track the persistent racial achievement gap, using the newest ACT, SAT, and NAEP testing figures. Finally, the book considers what present segregation trends portend for future efforts to racially and ethnically integrate schools, and close achievement gaps.

William Craft Brumfield

Architecture at the End of the Earth
{Duke University Press, 2015}

Carpeted in boreal forests, dotted with lakes, cut by rivers, and straddling the Arctic Circle, the region surrounding the White Sea, which is known as the Russian North, is sparsely populated and immensely isolated. It is also the home to architectural marvels, as many of the original wooden and brick churches and homes in the region’s ancient villages and towns still stand. Featuring nearly two hundred full color photographs of these beautiful centuries-old structures, Architecture at the End of the Earth is the most recent addition to William Craft Brumfield’s ongoing project to photographically document all aspects of Russian architecture.

The architectural masterpieces Brumfield photographed are diverse: they range from humble chapels to grand cathedrals, buildings that are either dilapidated or well cared for, and structures repurposed during the Soviet era. Included are onion-domed wooden churches such as the Church of the Dormition, built in 1674 in Varzuga; the massive walled Transfiguration Monastery on Great Solovetsky Island, which dates to the mid-1550s; the Ferapontov-Nativity Monastery’s frescoes, painted in 1502 by Dionisy, one of Russia’s greatest medieval painters; nineteenth-century log houses, both rustic and ornate; and the Cathedral of St. Sophia in Vologda, which was commissioned by Ivan the Terrible in the 1560s. The text that introduces the photographs outlines the region’s significance to Russian history and culture.

The buildings Brumfield photographed, some of which lie in near ruin, are at constant risk due to local indifference and vandalism, a lack of maintenance funds, clumsy restorations, or changes in local and national priorities. Brumfield is concerned with their futures and hopes that the region’s beautiful and vulnerable achievements of master Russian carpenters will be preserved. Architecture at the End of the Earth is at once an art book, a travel guide, and a personal document about the discovery of this bleak but beautiful region of Russia that most readers will see here for the first time.
Teresa Cole
Seamless Belonging
{Solo Exhibition, Callan Contemporary, 2015}

In June of 2015, artist Teresa Cole presented her fourth solo exhibition at Callan Contemporary Gallery in New Orleans, LA, entitled Seamless Belonging. The exhibition included 17 new works of paper and two installations created while on sabbatical.

About the show:
Language is the inherent but ultimately partial material of our lived experience. Every traveler knows this, but is reminded anew when confronted with a dialect beyond her own understanding. In an absence of linguistic comprehension, one’s remaining capacities for sensation and understanding are amplified: the traveler moves through foreign lands composed entirely of sight, sound, and scent in a physicality of knowing made manifest through an incapacity for words.

Seamless Belonging explores this phenomenon through installation projects as well as ongoing contributions to this internationally respected artist’s growing body of work in handmade paper. Cole has for several years made pattern a subject of her sustained visual scrutiny. Her investigations have lead her research around the globe: to South Africa, Belgium, India, and most recently Japan, where the artist explored traditional papermaking techniques at the Awagami Factory.

Seep, Cole’s large-format installation piece, represents not only a culmination of this immersion in a traditional Japanese craft, but explores indigo dye as tool of markmaking and meaning: “My investigation of traditional handicrafts and the impeccable skill in which they are executed exposed me to a grammar of care, expertise, and perfection,” Cole writes. “The repetition of an activity until it is second nature but never taken for granted, until it is expected yet novel each time: a meditation, a prayer and a practice all at once.” Cole’s description of her process could just as easily be applied to the adoption of a new language, a reality that lies at the core of her practice. The patterns, materials, techniques and methods that compose each of her works – in paper, in dye, in ink – function as a visual grammar for the artist, who endlessly recombines her materials to form the utterance of the outsider with the introspection of the solo traveler. “The very task of language,” Barthes tells us, “is to give one and the same phrase inflections which will be forever new.”

These inflections are further developed in Cole’s handmade paper pieces, which draw from her extensive catalogue of collected and manipulated patterns, a language the artist has consistently added to for years. Created at the Dieu Donné papermaking studio in New York City, each work combines pigmented cotton and abaca pulps to extract a unique image from a larger field, crafting an occasion for deep scrutiny and meditation on meaning. The intimacy, transparency, and controlled elegance of these works contrasts sharply with the measured intensity of Seep, creating a range of emotional resonances not unlike those of a stranger in a strange land.
Christopher J. Fettweis
Making Foreign Policy Decisions
{Transaction Publishers, 2015}

It is often said that voters hold presidents responsible for two things: the economy and foreign policy. Economic performance is generally beyond presidential control, but foreign policy is defined by the president. The White House is justifiably blamed or credited for how it manages relations with the outside world.

How, then, can presidents maximize their chances to achieve successful foreign policies? What kinds of considerations should they bear in mind as they make important decisions for their country? Foreign policy begins with the process of making decisions. This briefing book examines foreign policy decision-making, and offers advice to current and future presidents drawn from fields ranging from political science and history, to psychology and economics. It identifies basic guidelines that presidents should consider when making choices. Such guidelines apply to almost any area of human endeavor, and they are certainly central to choices made in and outside of the Oval Office.

When the strong make mistakes, the weak often suffer. As the strongest country in the history of the world, the United States has a special responsibility to run a sagacious foreign policy. This briefing book will benefit students, policy makers, and the general public.

Michelle Foa
Georges Seurat: The Art of Vision
{Yale University Press, 2015}

This revelatory study of Georges Seurat (1859–1891) explores the artist’s profound interest in theories of visual perception and analyzes how they influenced his celebrated seascapes, urban, and suburban scenes. While Seurat is known for his innovative use of color theory to develop his pointillist technique, this book is the first to underscore the centrality of diverse ideas about vision to his seascapes, figural paintings, and drawings. Michelle Foa highlights the importance of the scientist Hermann von Helmholtz, whose work on the physiology of vision directly shaped the artist’s approach. Foa contends that Seurat’s body of work constitutes a far-reaching investigation into various modes of visual engagement with the world and into the different states of mind that visual experiences can produce. Foa’s analysis also brings to light Seurat’s sustained exploration of long-standing and new forms of illusionism in art. Beautifully illustrated with more than 140 paintings and drawings, this book serves as an essential reference on Seurat.
Robert M. Hill, II
Frederick S. Crocker’s Trajes of Guatemala
{MARI, 2015}

Beginning in 1940, artist and architect Frederick S. Crocker, Jr. began a series of 34 highly detailed watercolors to document the diverse and colorful clothing of 33 highland Maya communities as actually worn by the people. Most of the clothing came from the collection of a prominent American expatriate who had lived in Guatemala since 1917. Accordingly, by 1940, some items of clothing had radically changed or were no longer made, already supplanted by factory-made materials and clothing.

Crocker also visited the communities and, as an acute observer, made detailed notes on the clothing, its construction, how it was worn, and changes that were occurring at the time. Unfortunately, only twelve of the 34 images were published in Crocker’s lifetime. These were produced in the early 1950s with a color lithography process that could not capture the subtle shading and fine detail of the original watercolors.

The collection of Crocker’s paintings, notes, and photographs was donated in 2015 to Tulane’s Middle American Research Institute by his nephew, Mr. Edward E. Crocker, a Tulane anthropology major in the late 1960s. The Crocker paintings and other materials are a valuable complement to the Institute’s world-class collection of Maya textiles. As a condition of the donation, Dr. Marcello Canuto, Director of the Institute, committed to produce a limited edition portfolio of Crocker’s paintings.

Each cased portfolio contains all 34 of Crocker’s beautiful paintings of the diverse traditional clothing worn in 33 highland Maya communities, reproduced through a high-resolution giclée process in their original 16x20 format, thereby capturing all the subtleties of shade and detail of the originals. A catalog, edited by Tulane anthropologist Robert M. Hill II, accompanies each set and contains Crocker’s introduction to the collection and his notes on each community’s distinct clothing.

Mirya R. Holman
Women in Politics in the American City
{Temple University Press, 2014}

How do female municipal leaders influence policymaking in American cities? Can gender determine who gets a say in local politics or what programs cities fund? These are some of the questions raised and answered in Mirya Holman’s provocative Women in Politics in the American City.

This book provides the first comprehensive evaluation of the influence of gender on the behavior of mayors and city council members in the United States. Holman considers the effects of gender in local, urban politics and analyzes how a leader’s gender does — and does not — influence policy preferences, processes, behavior, and outcomes.

Holman effectively uses original survey data to evaluate policy attitudes, combined with observations of city council meetings and interviews with leaders and community members. In doing so, she demonstrates the importance of considering the gender of leaders in local office.

Women in Politics in the American City emphasizes that the involvement of women in local politics does matter and that it has significant consequences for urban policy as well as state and local democracy.
Brian Horowitz

Vladimir Jabotinsky’s Story of My Life
[Vladimir Jabotinsky, author; Brian Horowitz, Leonid Katsis, eds.]
{Wayne State University Press, 2015}

Jewish Studies

Vladimir Jabotinsky is well remembered as a militant leader and father of the right-wing Revisionist Zionist movement, but he was also a Russian-Jewish intellectual, talented fiction writer, journalist, playwright, and translator of poetry into Russian and Hebrew. His autobiography, Sippur yamai, Story of My Life—written in Hebrew and published in Tel Aviv in 1936—gives a more nuanced picture of Jabotinsky than his popular image, but it was never published in English. In Vladimir Jabotinsky’s Story of My Life, editors Brian Horowitz and Leonid Katsis present this much-needed translation for the first time, based on a rough draft of an English version that was discovered in Jabotinsky’s archive at the Jabotinsky Institute in Tel Aviv.

Jabotinsky’s volume mixes true events with myth as he offers a portrait of himself from his birth in 1880 until just after the outbreak of World War I. He describes his personal development during childhood and early adult years in Odessa, Rome, St. Petersburg, Vienna, and Istanbul, during Russia’s Silver Age, a period known for spiritual searching, but also political violence, radicalism, and pogroms. He tells of his escape to Rome as a youth, his return to Odessa, and his eventual adoption of Zionism. He also depicts struggles with rivals and colleagues in both politics and journalism. The editors introduce the full text of the autobiography by discussing Jabotinsky’s life, legacy, and writings in depth.

As Jabotinsky is gaining a reputation for the quality of his fictional and semi-fictional writing in the field of Israel studies, this autobiography will help reading groups and students of Zionism, Jewish history, and political studies to gain a more complete picture of this famous leader.

Dennis P. Kehoe

Law and Transaction Costs in the Ancient Economy [Dennis P. Kehoe, David M. Ratzan, Uri Yiftach-Firanko, eds.]
{University of Michigan Press, 2015}

Classical Studies

Transaction costs (TC) are the “friction” in an economic system, and their analysis is vital to understanding institutional design and economic performance. Law and Transaction Costs in the Ancient Economy is the first volume to collect specific studies from a transaction cost perspective. The volume offers models of this new way of looking at ancient evidence, and suggests ways in which traditional subject areas might inform problems in contemporary economics and legal studies.

After the editors’ methodological introduction, the contributors investigate the roles and effects of transaction costs in fourth-century Athens, Ptolemaic Egypt, the Roman Empire, and late antiquity, on the basis of legal texts, papyri, and inscriptions. Collected here are some of the leading voices on TC analysis in ancient history, as well as established scholars, including several who do not usually publish in English: Alain Bresson, Giuseppe Dari-Mattiacci, Rudolf Haensch, Dennis Kehoe, François Lerouxel, J. G. Manning, Brian Muhs, Josiah Ober, David M. Ratzan, Gerhard Thür, and Uri Yiftach.

This volume will speak to those who identify with traditional subject areas, like epigraphy or Greek law, and will also demonstrate the value of experimenting with this new way of looking at ancient evidence.
Brittany Powell Kennedy

Between Distant Modernities
{University Press of Mississippi, 2015}

For centuries, Spain and the South have stood out as the exceptional "other" within U.S. and European nationalisms. During Franco’s regime and the Jim Crow era both violently asserted a haunting brand of national “selfhood.” Both areas shared a loss of splendor and a fraught relation with modernization, and they retained a sense of defeat. Brittany Powell Kennedy explores this paradox not simply to compare two apparently similar cultures but to reveal how we construct difference around this self/other dichotomy. She charts a transatlantic link between two cultures whose performances of “otherness” as assertions of “selfhood” enact and subvert their claims to exceptionality. Perhaps the greatest example of this transatlantic link remains the War of 1898, when the South tried to extract itself from but was implicated in U.S. imperial expansion and nation-building. Simultaneously, the South participated in the end of Spain as an imperial power.

Given the War of 1898 as a climactic moment, Kennedy explores the writings of those who come directly after this period and who attempted to “regenerate” what was perceived as “traditional” in an agrarian past. That desire recurs over the century in novels from writers as diverse as William Faulkner, Camilo José Cela, Walker Percy, Eudora Welty, Federico García Lorca, and Ralph Ellison. As these writers wrestle with ideas of Spain and the South, they also engage questions of how national identity is affirmed and contested.

Kennedy compares these cultures across the twentieth century to show the ways in which they express national authenticity. Thus she explores not only Francoism and Jim Crow, but varied attempts to define nationhood via exceptionalism, suggesting a model of performativity that relates to other “exceptional” geographies.

Jana K. Lipman

Making the Empire Work [Daniel E. Bender, Jana K. Lipman, eds.]
{New York University Press, 2015}

Millions of laborers, from the Philippines to the Caribbean, performed the work of the United States empire. Forging a global economy connecting the tropics to the industrial center, workers harvested sugar, cleaned hotel rooms, provided sexual favors, and filled military ranks. Placing working men and women at the center of the long history of the U.S. empire, these essays offer new stories of empire that intersect with the “grand narratives” of diplomatic affairs at the national and international levels. Missile defense, Cold War showdowns, development politics, military combat, tourism, and banana economics share something in common—they all have labor histories.

This collection challenges historians to consider the labor that formed, worked, confronted, and rendered the U.S. empire visible. The U.S. empire is a project of global labor mobilization, coercive management, military presence, and forced cultural encounter. Together, the essays in this volume recognize the United States as a global imperial player whose systems of labor mobilization and migration stretched from Central America to West Africa to the United States itself.

Workers are also the key actors in this volume. Their stories are multi-vocal, as workers sometimes defied the U.S. empire’s rhetoric of civilization, peace, and stability and at other times navigated its networks or benefited from its profits. Their experiences reveal the gulf between the American “denial of empire” and the lived practice of management, resource exploitation, and military exigency. When historians place labor and working people at the center, empire appears as a central dynamic of U.S. history.
A bilingual children’s book, in Kaqchikel and Spanish, *Ulïk ri Oxlajuj Ajmaq’*, traces the migration of the Kaqchikel people from an ancestral home in Tullan through southern Mexico, Yucatán, and Guatemala until they arrive in their current lands in the central Highlands. Based on a sixteenth century chronicle, this children’s version is written in twenty-first century Kaqchikel and includes a Google Earth map showing the paths of the peregrination, with stickers for the children to place at each sacred site that serves as a turning point. The book was piloted by a Kaqchikel educator working for the Academia de las Lenguas Mayas de Guatemala. She found it an effective tool for teaching Kaqchikel history in particular and Maya history in general to both Maya and non-Maya children. Designed for children in their early teens, the book was used effectively with kindergarten and grade-schoolers as well.

In 2010, the Guatemalan Ministry of Education instituted a policy that required that all national schools, public and private, must teach an indigenous language. Those in the countryside would teach the language of their communities; those in the capital would be free to choose among the 22 Mayan languages, Xinca and Garífuna. However, despite over 70 years of Normal School training for “bilingual” education, no teachers were actually trained in how to teach a language to people who do not already speak it. Teachers around the nation, willing to comply, were at a loss as to how to effectively teach second-language learners.

Linguists of the Instituto de Lingüística e Interculturalidad of the Universidad Rafael Landívar with Fulbrighter Judith M. Maxwell prepared this book to offer an effective methodology. Dr. Maxwell ran a workshop at the Instituto, teaching the method and its theoretic underpinnings. The team then visited a series of schools, ranging from rural elementary schools to urban technical institutes, demonstrating the methodology. Students taught included all Maya, all non-Maya, and mixed sets. The Institute linguists then evaluated these experiences and added their reflections to the manual. At the formal presentation of the publication at the Academia de las Lenguas Mayas in Guatemala on July 30, 2015, the Vice-Minister of Education heading the Bilingual-Intercultural division, promised to put the book and the methodology in the hands of all the Ministerio personnel and, eventually, all the instructors charged with teaching indigenous languages. Following the presentation, the Instituto linguists, co-authors of this book, were invited to the Ministerio and gave a workshop on the techniques described. Only 1,000 copies of the book were run, however, so the Ministerio will have to re-issue to keep its promise.
Vicki Mayer

Production Studies, The Sequel
[Miranda Banks, Bridget Conor, Vicki Mayer, eds.]
{Routledge, 2015}

Production Studies, The Sequel is an exciting exploration of the experiences of media workers in local, global, and digital communities — from prop-masters in Germany, Chinese film auteurs, producers of children’s television in Qatar, Italian radio broadcasters, filmmakers in Ethiopia and Nigeria, to seemingly-autonomous Twitterbots. Case studies examine international production cultures across five continents and incorporate a range of media, including film, television, music, social media, promotional media, video games, publishing and public broadcasting.

Using the lens of cultural studies to examine media production, Production Studies, The Sequel takes into account transnational production flows and places production studies in conversation with other major areas of media scholarship including audience studies, media industries, and media history. A follow-up to the successful Production Studies, this collection highlights new and important research in the field, and promises to generate continued discussion about the past, present, and future of production studies.

Grant S. McCall

Before Modern Humans
{Left Coast Press, 2015}

This fascinating volume, assessing Lower and Middle Pleistocene African prehistory, argues that the onset of the Middle Stone Age marks the origins of landscape use patterns resembling those of modern human foragers. Inaugurating a paradigm shift in our understanding of modern human behavior, Grant McCall argues that this transition — related to the origins of “home base” residential site use — occurred in mosaic fashion over the course of hundreds of thousands of years. He concludes by proposing a model of brain evolution driven by increasing subsistence diversity and intensity against the backdrop of larger populations and Pleistocene environmental unpredictability. McCall argues that human brain size did not arise to support the complex patterns of social behavior that pervade our lives today, but instead large human brains were co-opted for these purposes relatively late in prehistory, accounting for the striking archaeological record of the Upper Pleistocene.
Adam Mysock

The Jetsam
{Solo Exhibition, VOLTA NY, 2014}

As part of the 2014 VOLTA NY art fair, Adam Mysock exhibited a new body of work titled The Jetsam, which explored technology as a marker of time. The work was reviewed/featured in Installation Magazine, in Posture Magazine, on HamptonsArtHub.com, on ArtLyst.com, on ArtNet.com, on ArtDaily.com and on ArtNews.com among others.

About the show:
We measure time by observing the evolution of the technologies around us. We’ve done so for generations. Think the Stone Age. The Bronze Age. The Atomic Age. But in our lifetime, the rate of technological development has accelerated so rapidly that the periods of cultural growth we describe via innovations are getting exponentially shorter. Our lives no longer take place within a distinct “age” — we’re progressing through multiple eras within a single decade, sometimes every few years.

In a sense, time moves faster because we’re devouring technology faster. No matter the pace, however, our route through these mechanized milestones is bound to generate casualties — discarded contraptions — abandoned, left to intermingle with memories in the backdrops of our past. It’s the ghosts of those devices, our interactions with them, and the shared historical contexts that populate Mysock’s work.

The paintings, viewed one-by-one, encourage an examination into the causes, actualities, or consequences of disregarding the momentous correlation between progress and its artifacts. Perhaps more importantly though, when viewed as a suite — in which we watch Ed Valigursky’s archetypal robot confronting key moments of a particularly human existence — the series of images offers a more comprehensive occasion to challenge the perspective from which we experience both time and its markers.

Adam Mysock

When Everything was Wonderful Tomorrow
{Solo Exhibition, Munich: Galerie Andreas Binder, 2015}

Between June and September of 2015, Adam Mysock presented 20 new paintings at Munich’s Galerie Andreas Binder. The works investigated the actively disconnected relationships we have with the environment and our expectations of our future. The work also traveled to Vienna, Austria where it was exhibited as part of the ViennaContemporary art fair.

About the show:
When we envision our future, the places we dream about tend to appear as pleasant as those we currently find ourselves in — perhaps even more so. But with the dire predictions about global warming that constantly fill our news cycles, our ability to foresee our ideal surroundings is being challenged by our expanding climatological science. It’s becoming increasingly hard to anticipate the environment of tomorrow in light of our historical and present misuses of nature. Essentially, the effects of our past seem to be progressively undermining our available futures.

And yet, there’s a way to look at all of this with an abundance of optimism — through the eyes of those who deny climate change is even occurring. Sure, they may be motivated by ignorance, greed, or some other undesirable impulse, but the future they propose seems to contrast only minimally with the environment of today. Any changes brought about by rising temperatures merely offer new, exciting hurdles that our grandchildren will merrily rise above!

If we think of comedy — specifically satire — as a form of language that falls between poetry and lies, it’s as if many of the loudest, most dismissive voices in the climate change conversation may be among our generation’s greatest satirists. If only they didn’t believe what they were saying. It’s this thin line between satire and delusion that inspires the paintings in When Everything was Wonderful Tomorrow.

Throughout the paintings, Mysock examines the absurdity, consequences, and realities of our actively disconnected relationship with our environment and our future. Whether highlighting the wardrobe possibilities of playing winter sports in a warmer climate or outlining the psychological strategies we use to justify repeated harm to our environments and ourselves, each piece questions how we differentiate between the sincerely absurd and the satirically critical.
Olanike Ola Orie

Current Research in African Linguistics
[Johnson F. Ilori, Olanike Ola Orie, Lendzemo Constantine Yuka, eds.]

Current Research in African Linguistics recognizes and honors Oladele Awobuluyi’s contributions to African linguistics. The contributors, an international group of scholars, represent four generations of African linguists who have been influenced by Awobuluyi’s work as a scholar and teacher. The papers are organized into three thematic sections, namely applied linguistics and sociolinguistics; phonology and morphology; and syntax and semantics and their interfaces. The wide range of topics investigated in this volume will enhance the reader’s understanding of current issues in the field of African linguistics today. Indeed, the book marks an important contribution to the expanding work on language documentation and comparative linguistics by presenting data and linguistic analysis from a number of different African languages.

Jonathan Riley

The Routledge Guidebook to Mill’s On Liberty
(Routledge, 2015)

John Stuart Mill’s On Liberty is widely regarded as one of the most influential and stirring pieces of political philosophy ever written. Ever relevant in our increasingly surveillance dominated culture, the statements made argue strongly in favour of the rights of the individual, privacy and freedom of expression. The Routledge Guidebook to Mill’s On Liberty introduces the major themes in Mill’s great book and aids the reader in understanding this key work, covering:

• The context of Mill’s work and the background to his writing
• Each separate part of the text in relation to its goals, meanings and impact
• The reception the book received when first seen by the world
• The relevance of Mill’s work to modern philosophy

With further reading included for each chapter, this text is essential reading for all students of philosophy and political theory, and all those wishing to get to grips with this classic work of political philosophy.
Christopher B. Rodning
Center Places and Cherokee Towns
{University of Alabama Press, 2015}

In *Center Places and Cherokee Towns*, Christopher B. Rodning opens a panoramic vista onto protohistoric Cherokee culture. He posits that Cherokee households and towns were anchored within their cultural and natural landscapes by built features that acted as “center places.”

Rodning investigates the period from just before the first Spanish contact with sixteenth-century Native American chiefdoms in La Florida through the development of formal trade relations between Native American societies and English and French colonial provinces in the American South during the late 1600s and 1700s. Rodning focuses particularly on the Coweeta Creek archaeological site in the upper Little Tennessee Valley in southwestern North Carolina and describes the ways in which elements of the built environment were manifestations of Cherokee senses of place.

Drawing on archaeological data, delving into primary documentary sources dating from the eighteenth century, and considering Cherokee myths and legends remembered and recorded during the nineteenth century, Rodning shows how the arrangement of public structures and household dwellings in Cherokee towns both shaped and were shaped by Cherokee culture. Center places at different scales served as points of attachment between Cherokee individuals and their communities as well as between their present and past. Rodning explores the ways in which Cherokee architecture and the built environment were sources of cultural stability in the aftermath of European contact, and how the course of European contact altered the landscape of Cherokee towns in the long run.

In this multi-faceted consideration of archaeology, ethnohistory, and recorded oral tradition, Rodning adeptly demonstrates the distinct ways that Cherokee identity was constructed through architecture and other material forms. *Center Places and Cherokee Towns* will have a broad appeal to students and scholars of southeastern archaeology, anthropology, Native American studies, prehistoric and protohistoric Cherokee culture, landscape archaeology, and ethnohistory.

Matt Sakakeeny
Keywords in Sound
{David Novak, Matt Sakakeeny, eds.}
{Duke University Press, 2015}

In twenty essays on subjects such as noise, acoustics, music, and silence, *Keywords in Sound* presents a definitive resource for sound studies, and a compelling argument for why studying sound matters. Each contributor details their keyword’s intellectual history, outlines its role in cultural, social and political discourses, and suggests possibilities for further research. *Keywords in Sound* charts the philosophical debates and core problems in defining, classifying and conceptualizing sound, and sets new challenges for the development of sound studies.
Oliver Sensen
*Kant’s Lectures on Ethics*
[Lara Denis, Oliver Sensen, eds.]
{Cambridge University Press, 2015}

This is the first book devoted to an examination of Kant’s lectures on ethics, which provide a unique and revealing perspective on the development of his views. In fifteen newly commissioned essays, leading Kant scholars discuss four sets of student notes reflecting different periods of Kant’s career: those taken by Herder (1762-4), Collins (mid-1770s), Mrongovius (1784-5) and Vigilantius (1793-4). The essays cover a diverse range of topics, from the relation between Kant’s lectures and the Baumgarten textbooks, to obligation, virtue, love, the highest good, freedom, the categorical imperative, moral motivation and religion. Together they will provide the reader with a deeper and fuller understanding of the evolution of Kant’s moral thought. The volume will be of interest to a range of readers in Kant studies, ethics, political philosophy, religious studies and the history of ideas.

David Shoemaker
*Responsibility from the Margins*
{Oxford University Press, 2015}

David Shoemaker presents a new pluralistic theory of responsibility, based on the idea of quality of will. His approach is motivated by our ambivalence to real-life cases of marginal agency, such as those caused by clinical depression, dementia, scrupulosity, psychopathy, autism, intellectual disability, and poor formative circumstances. Our ambivalent responses suggest that such agents are responsible in some ways but not others. Shoemaker develops a theory to account for our ambivalence, via close examination of several categories of pan-cultural emotional responsibility responses (sentiments) and their appropriateness conditions. The result is three distinct types of responsibility, each with its own set of required capacities: attributability, answerability, and accountability. Attributability is about the having and expressing of various traits of character, and it is the target of a range of aretaic sentiments and emotional practices organized around disdain and admiration. Answerability is about one’s capacity to govern one’s actions and attitudes by one’s evaluative judgments about the worth of various practical reasons, and it is the target of a range of sentiments and emotional practices organized around regret and pride. Accountability is about one’s ability to regard others, both evaluatively and emotionally, and it is the target of a range of sentiments and emotional practices organized around anger and gratitude. In Part One of the book, this tripartite theory is developed and defended. In Part Two of the book, the tripartite theory’s predictions about specific marginal cases are tested, once certain empirical details about the nature of those agents have been filled in and discussed.
**David Shoemaker**  
*Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility: Volume 3*  
{Oxford University Press, 2015}  

*Oxford Studies in Agency and Responsibility* is a series of volumes presenting outstanding new work on a set of connected themes, investigating such questions as:  
- What does it mean to be an agent?  
- What is the nature of moral responsibility? Of criminal responsibility? What is the relation between moral and criminal responsibility (if any)?  
- What is the relation between responsibility and the metaphysical issues of determinism and free will?  
- What do various psychological disorders tell us about agency and responsibility?  
- How do moral agents develop? How does this developmental story bear on questions about the nature of moral judgment and responsibility?  
- What do the results from neuroscience imply (if anything) for our questions about agency and responsibility?  

OSAR thus straddles the areas of moral philosophy and philosophy of action, but also draws from a diverse range of cross-disciplinary sources, including moral psychology, psychology proper (including experimental and developmental), philosophy of psychology, philosophy of law, legal theory, metaphysics, neuroscience, neuroethics, political philosophy, and more. It is unified by its focus on who we are as deliberators and (inter)actors, embodied practical agents negotiating (sometimes unsuccessfully) a world of moral and legal norms.

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**Nick Spitzer**  
*Big American Music Show*  
{Concert Series, China, 2015}  

In 2007, Nick Spitzer’s co-edited volume *Public Folklore* was translated into Mandarin. The work, widely used in critical heritage studies in the West, found a new audience among scholars in China seeking to advance theory and practice of representation of community-based expressive culture traditions. Seminars comparing public folklore and the P.R.C.’s approach to the UNESCO intangible cultural heritage protocols were subsequently held at Peking University, Chinese Academy of Social Sciences, School for Advanced Research, and the Smithsonian. Consistent with his own work linking ethnography of performance to public discourse, Spitzer created exemplary concert and workshop tours of American traditional artists in gospel, Cajun, jazz, and traditional country music across China culminating with co-sponsorship by the Chinese Cultural Ministry and U.S. Embassy and brought a Montana cowboy band, a Tex-Mex conjunto and New Orleans Tremé Brass Band to headline an American program for the annual Meet-in-Beijing Festival. Said Spitzer, “It has been uplifting to witness especially young Chinese audiences’ ecstatic reactions to these performers. My hope is that cultural exchange with an array of traditional music will have a transformative effect in shared recognition of cultural continuity, creativity, and diversity in China and the U.S.”
Raymond Taras
Fear and the Making of Foreign Policy
{Edinburgh University Press, 2015}

Can a society’s fear of foreigners engender xenophobic foreign policy?

This is a book about conflicts and fears: how domestic reasons are drawing countries in Europe into international events. There has been much research into why the U.S. and U.K. militaries intervened in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other conflict zones. But what explains France’s newfound international activism, which is taking its military to Libya, Mali and deeper into Africa? Why has Poland become deeply engaged in Ukraine’s politics? Why is Sweden, which has not fought a war since 1814, concerned with the fierce internal wars in Iraq and Syria? Can these actions be explained as countries simply protecting their national interests, or has domestic xenophobia also be playing a part?

In Fear and the Making of Foreign Policy, Raymond Taras explains the causal mechanisms propelling these three EU states to become engaged in outside conflicts and tells the story of when and why xenophobia at home is converted into xenophobia abroad.

Richard F. Teichgraeber, III
The Higher Learning in America [Thorstein Veblen, author; Richard F. Teichgraeber III, editor]
{Johns Hopkins University Press, 2015}

Since its publication in 1918, Thorstein Veblen’s The Higher Learning in America has remained a text that every serious student of the American university must confront. Intellectual historian Richard Teichgraeber brings us the first scholarly edition of Veblen’s classic, thoroughly edited, annotated, and indexed. An extensive introduction discusses the book’s composition and publishing history, Veblen’s debts to earlier critics of the American university, and the place of The Higher Learning in America in current debates about the American university.

Veblen’s insights into the American university system at the outset of the twentieth century are as provocative today as they were when first published. Insisting that institutions of higher learning should be dedicated solely to the disinterested pursuit of knowledge, he urged American universities to abandon commitments to extraneous pursuits such as athletics, community service, and vocational education. He also believed that the corporate model of governance — with university boards of trustees dominated by well-to-do businessmen and university presidents who functioned essentially as businessmen in academic dress — mandated unsavory techniques of salesmanship and self-promotion that threatened to reduce institutions of higher learning to the status of competitive business enterprises.

With a detailed chronology, suggested readings, and comprehensive notes identifying events, individuals, and institutions to which Veblen alludes, this volume is sure to become the standard teaching text for Veblen’s classic work and an invaluable resource for students of both the history and the current workings of the American university.
Producing Women examines the ways femininity is produced through new media. Michele White considers how women are constructed, produce themselves as subjects, form vital production cultures on sites like Etsy, and deploy technological processes to reshape their identities and digital characteristics. She studies the means through which women market traditional female roles, are viewed, and produce and restructure their gendered, raced, eroticized, and sexual identities. Incorporating a range of examples across numerous forms of media — including trash the dress wedding photography, Internet how-to instructions about zombie walk brides, nail polish blogging, DIY crafting, and reborn doll production — Producing Women elucidates women’s production cultures online, and the ways that individuals can critically study and engage with these practices.

The mission of the School of Liberal Arts is to nurture and promote innovative scholarship, transformative research, and creative inquiry within the arts, humanities, and social sciences. Based on a distinctive vision comprised of our interdisciplinary approach, dedication to place-based creativity, and commitment to service learning, the school provides students with an outstanding education founded on close working relationships with distinguished faculty. In our belief in interdisciplinary inquiry, our faculty reach beyond traditional academic boundaries; in our dedication to place-based learning, we engage with New Orleans and the greater Gulf region; in our pursuit of social innovation, we foster a lifelong enthusiasm for service to the community and the world.