



We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books

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Contents

November 2021	1
Art & Photography / Painting / Workbook.....	3
The Landscape Painter's Workbook: Essential Studies in Shape, Composition, and Color by Mitchell Albala (For Artists Series: Rockport Publishers)	3
Biographies & Memoirs.....	5
The Bushman's Lair: On the Trail of the Fugitive of the Shuswap by Paul McKendrick (Harbour Publishing)	5
Culture / Gender / Politics	7
Trans: When Ideology Meets Reality by Helen Joyce (Oneworld Publications).....	7
Education / Early Childhood / Case Study / Literacy.....	10
Writing the School House Blues: Literacy, Equity, and Belonging in a Child's Early Schooling by Anne Haas Dyson, with a foreword by William Trent (Language and Literacy Series: Teachers College Press)	10
Education & Teaching / Health.....	14
Core Teaching Practices for Health Education, 1 st edition by Phillip Ward & Shonna Snyder (Human Kinetics)	14
History / Art / Politics	15
Sensation: The Madonna, The Mayor, The Media, and the First Amendment by Arnold Lehman (Merrell Publishers)	15
History / Biographies & Memoirs / WWII	16
All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler by Rebecca Donner (Little, Brown and Company)	16
Literature & Fiction / YA / Mystery	18

As Good as Dead: The Finale to A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (<i>A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Series, Book 3</i> : Delacorte Press).....	18
Outdoors & Nature / Climate / Healing / Biographies & Memoirs.....	20
Guardians of the Trees: A Journey of Hope Through Healing the Planet: A Memoir by Kinari Webb M.D. (Flatiron Books)	20
Philosophy / Ethics	22
From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas: Natural Law, Practical Knowledge, and the Person, 1 st edition by Fulvio Di Blasi (St. Augustine's Press)	22
Politics / Sociology	24
The End of Illusions: Politics, Economy, and Culture in Late Modernity, 1 st edition by Andreas Reckwitz, translated by Valentine A. Pakis (Polity Press)	24
Religion & Spirituality.....	27
Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism, Volume 16 , edited by Stanley E. Porter, Matthew Brook O'Donnell & Wendy J. Porter (Pickwick Publications)	27
Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism.....	28
Middle Beyond Extremes: Maitreya's <i>Madhyāntavibhāga</i> with Commentaries by Khenpo Shenga and Ju Mipham by Arya Maitreya, Jamgon Mipham, translated by The Dharmachakra Translation Committee (Snow Lion).....	28
Religion & Spirituality / Occult / Folklore	30
The Vampire Almanac: The Complete History by J. Gordon Melton (Visible Ink Press)	30
Bibliography	32
Art & Photography / Painting / Workbook.....	32
The Landscape Painter's Workbook: Essential Studies in Shape, Composition, and Color by Mitchell Albala (For Artists Series : Rockport Publishers).....	32
Biographies & Memoirs.....	32
The Bushman's Lair: On the Trail of the Fugitive of the Shuswap by Paul McKendrick (Harbour Publishing)	32
Culture / Gender / Politics	32
Trans: When Ideology Meets Reality by Helen Joyce (Oneworld Publications).....	32
Education / Early Childhood / Case Study / Literacy.....	32
Writing the School House Blues: Literacy, Equity, and Belonging in a Child's Early Schooling by Anne Haas Dyson, with a foreword by William Trent (Language and Literacy Series : Teachers College Press)	32
Education & Teaching / Health.....	32
Core Teaching Practices for Health Education, 1st edition by Phillip Ward & Shonna Snyder (Human Kinetics) History / Art / Politics.....	32

Sensation: The Madonna, The Mayor, The Media, and the First Amendment by Arnold Lehman (Merrell Publishers)	32
History / Biographies & Memoirs / WWII	33
All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days: The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler by Rebecca Donner (Little, Brown and Company)	33
Literature & Fiction / YA / Mystery	33
As Good as Dead: The Finale to A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Series, Book 3: Delacorte Press).....	33
Outdoors & Nature / Climate / Healing / Biographies & Memoirs.....	33
Guardians of the Trees: A Journey of Hope Through Healing the Planet: A Memoir by Kinari Webb M.D. (Flatiron Books)	33
Philosophy / Ethics	33
From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas: Natural Law, Practical Knowledge, and the Person, 1st edition by Fulvio Di Blasi (St. Augustine's Press)	33
Politics / Sociology	33
The End of Illusions: Politics, Economy, and Culture in Late Modernity, 1st edition by Andreas Reckwitz, translated by Valentine A. Pakis (Polity Press)	33
Religion & Spirituality.....	33
Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism, Volume 16 , edited by Stanley E. Porter, Matthew Brook O'Donnell & Wendy J. Porter (Pickwick Publications)	34
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The Vampire Almanac: The Complete History by J. Gordon Melton (Visible Ink Press)	34

Bibliography

Art & Photography / Painting / Workbook

[The Landscape Painter's Workbook](#): Essential Studies in Shape, Composition, and Color by Mitchell Albala (For Artists Series: Rockport Publishers)

[The Landscape Painter's Workbook](#) is a hands-on guide to the time-honored techniques and essential elements of landscape painting.

Written by celebrated landscape artist, instructor, and author Mitchell Albala, this

informative and beautifully illustrated volume leads readers step by step through his approach to the genre.

Albala is a workshop instructor, whose semi-abstract and atmospheric landscapes have been exhibited nationally, is the author of two books: *The Landscape Painter's Workbook: Essential Studies in Shape, Composition, and Color* (Rockport Publishers) and *Landscape Painting: Essential Concepts and Techniques for Plein Air and Studio Practice*.

[**The Landscape Painter's Workbook**](#) shows readers how to approach painting, from establishing a composition using basic shapes to applying time-tested color strategies, with all-new lessons, practical exercises, and special topics, including:

- The Complete Color Strategy. What are the three aspects of color contrast that guide a painting's strategy?
- Notan. Readers explore this special type of compositional study, which identifies the underlying shapes and patterns of a composition.
- Picture Formats. How does the picture format – horizontal, vertical, or square – affect the composition? What are the pros and cons of each?
- Color Grouping. A full chapter details this special practice, which helps maintain harmony by organizing colors into a limited number of groups.
- Composition. This section includes an in-depth review of variation, movement, and active negative space, with illustrations that diagram the action in each example.
- Workshop Exercises. Instead of demonstrations that show how the author paints, [**The Landscape Painter's Workbook**](#) includes 10 skill-building workshop exercises to help readers work through essential lessons on their own.

With examples of work by 45 contemporary landscape painters – more than 80 paintings in all – in oil, acrylic, pastel, and watercolor, the lessons are suitable for all media. Each painting is thoroughly analyzed in terms of shape, composition, or color, with supporting diagrams, thumbnails, and photographs.

[**The Landscape Painter's Workbook**](#) inspires and informs all artists, from aspiring to accomplished, on how to successfully portray the majesty and subtlety of the natural world. It is a serious companion for those getting started in landscape, as well as instructors and more experienced painters who want to improve their skills and explore new perspectives.

The book is part of the *For Artists Series*, which guides and instructs artists at all skill levels who want to develop their classical drawing and painting skills and create realistic and representational art. <>

Biographies & Memoirs

The Bushman's Lair: On the Trail of the Fugitive of the Shuswap by Paul McKendrick (Harbour Publishing)

The Bushman's Lair is a biography of a fugitive with intriguing connections to a top-secret US military program and the infamous Bre-X mining scandal.

In the summer of 2002, the discovery of a cave on Shuswap Lake in British Columbia by a group of houseboaters made headlines across the country. It had been the hideout of a fugitive known as the Bushman – real name John Bjornstrom – who had been arrested the previous winter after raiding cabins in the area for supplies.

Shortly after the cave was discovered, and before it was imploded by local authorities, author Paul McKendrick was able to explore the nine-hundred-square-foot bachelor pad. Its elaborate construction left the impression that the occupant was more than just a common thief with a preference for uncommon living arrangements.

Intrigued by the ingenuity of the fugitive's lair and sensing that there was more to the story than what had been reported by the media, nearly two decades later, McKendrick set out to better understand what led the Bushman to the cave. He began reaching out to people who knew the man.

While some mysteries remain unsolved, McKendrick's exploration of Bjornstrom's story is an unexpectedly moving and unforgettable account of a man who decided to pursue a quest with boundless commitment.

The Bushman of the Shuswap made national headlines while on the lam in the wilderness around Shuswap Lake in southern British Columbia during the turn of the millennium. For several years he played cat and mouse with the police, raiding summer cottages for supplies and giving media interviews at the edge of the bush only to vanish like smoke.

McKendrick says he became obsessed with this story after a group of houseboaters discovered a doorway built into a rocky outcrop above a remote arm of Shuswap Lake. It opened into an elaborately excavated nine-hundred-square-foot home, complete with electricity and other amenities – the Bushman's long-sought hideout.

The Bushman's Lair is the culmination of numerous interviews, reviews of RCMP and police and court transcripts, declassified US government files and McKendrick's own adventures in the Shuswap. The book follows Bjornstrom's circuitous path: a child of Romani refugees raised by nature lovers from Norway; a bizarre, top-secret US government program that recruited individuals with supposed psychic abilities, an

investigation into the infamous Bre-X mining scandal that led to an alleged hit list, and an ardent mission to safeguard vulnerable youth from abuse.

The Bushman's Lair is a sometimes sensational true crime account of the adventures of an extraordinary cipher. – Foreword Reviews

In this stranger-than-fiction, intrigue-packed story, Paul McKendrick sets out to unwrap and understand the complicated and colorful tale of this enigmatic figure... – Vancouver Sun

The Bushman's Lair is a riveting, fast-paced, and suspenseful account of one of BC's most notorious and fascinating fugitives. Just as the Bushman carved out his own cave somewhere in the thick of woods along Shuswap Lake, author Paul McKendrick skillfully carves out the Bushman's engrossing story onto the page. The deeper McKendrick digs, the stranger the truth becomes. – Grant Lawrence, CBC personality and author of *Adventures in Solitude*

A fine telling of an irresistible wilderness tale. McKendrick is just as dogged in unearthing the Bushman's hidden trail and motives as the Bushman was in evading his pursuers. – Alex Hutchinson, columnist for The Globe and Mail and Outside Magazine, author of Endure: Mind, Body, and the Curiously Elastic Limits of Performance

At a time when modern communications and GPS technology have made it unlikely you will find a blank spot on the map, reading Paul McKendrick's fascinating book is a rare treat. To say stranger-than-fiction is not enough; this story is stranger than most any reality we might imagine. Crack open this book, sit down in a comfortable chair, or somewhere with a view of the water lapping on the shore of a lake, and be prepared to settle in for a disquieting and mysterious read. – Stephen Legault, author of the Cole Blackwater and Durrant Wallace mystery series

A footloose misfit? A psychic in training for the US military? A private investigator for one of the principals in the Bre-X gold mining scandal? A fugitive fleeing an alleged death contract? A crusader for justice? A deluded thief and burglar? Who was the real John Bjornstrom? Paul McKendrick wanted answers, and his quest to unravel the mysteries of Bjornstrom's life artfully wends together an improbable historical backstory, recollections of friends and family, and police records to tell the tale of the enigmatic and curious "Bushman of the Shuswap." – Stephen R. Bown, author of The Company: The Rise and Fall of the Hudson's Bay Empire

A must read. You won't be disappointed. – Sage Birchwater, *The Ormsby Review*

McKendrick's writing is lucid and workmanlike, and the narrative pulls you along nicely. – *Winnipeg Free Press*

Reminiscent of John Vaillant's *The Golden Spruce* and Jon Krakauer's *Into the Wild*, [The Bushman's Lair](#) portrays a far-from-ordinary fugitive and makes for a page-turning read. The fascinating story is as full of twists and surprises as any reader could hope for. <>

Culture / Gender / Politics

[Trans](#): When Ideology Meets Reality by Helen Joyce (Oneworld Publications)

Gender identity ideology is about more than twitter storms and using the right pronouns. In just ten years, laws, company policies, school and university curricula, sport, medical protocols, and the media have been reshaped to privilege self-declared gender identity over biological sex.

According to Helen Joyce in [Trans](#), people are being shamed and silenced for attempting to understand the consequences of redefining 'man' and 'woman'. While compassion for transgender lives is well-intentioned, it is stifling much-needed inquiry into the significance of our bodies. But if people recommit to their liberal values of freedom of belief, freedom of speech and robust debate, they can deescalate this most vicious of culture wars.

Joyce is *The Economist's* Britain editor, where she has held several senior positions, including Finance editor and International editor. Before joining *The Economist* in 2005 she edited *Plus*, an online magazine about mathematics published by the University of Cambridge.

[Trans](#) is a book about an idea. The idea is that people should count as men or women according to how they feel and what they declare, instead of their biology. It's called gender self-identification, and it is the central tenet of a fast-developing belief system which sees everyone as possessing a gender identity that may or may not match the body in which it is housed. When there is a mismatch, the person is 'transgender' – *trans* for short – and it is the identity, not the body, that should determine how everyone else sees and treats them.

More and more people are coming out as trans, usually without undergoing any sort of medical treatment. [Trans](#) explains why this has happened, and how it happened so fast.

Developments in academia played a central role. In academic fields, which developed on American campuses out of 1960s French postmodernism, a man or woman came to mean someone who performed manhood or woman-hood, which were sets of stereotypes – matters of self-presentation, such as clothing and hairstyle, and behaviors, such as choice of hobbies and career – that were meaningful simply because they were performed over and over again. In the past decade, even the tenuous link with objective reality provided by those stereotypes has been severed. In the simplistic version of the new creed that has hardened into social-justice orthodoxy, gender is no longer even something that is performed. It is innate and ineffable: something like a sexed soul.

When the only people who identified out of their sex were the tiny number of post-operative transsexuals, they had little impact on others. But the gender identity that is posited by today's ideology is subjective, and the group of trans people is far larger. It includes part-time cross-dressers and even people who present as a typical member of their sex, but identify to the contrary – or declare a novel identity, such as non-binary or gender-fluid. What is being demanded is no longer flexibility, but a redefinition of what it means for anyone to be a man or woman – a total rewrite of societal rules.

According to [Trans](#), most people are in the dark about what is being demanded by transactivists. They understand the call for 'trans rights' to mean compassionate concessions that enable a suffering minority to live full lives, in safety and dignity.

Underlying Joyce's objections to gender self-identification is a scientific fact: that biological sex has an objective basis lacked by other socially salient categories, such as race and nationality. The distinction between the sexes is not likely to be at all amenable to social engineering, no matter how much some people want it to be.

[Trans](#) is not a book about trans people. Joyce presents the scientific research into what causes gender dysphoria and cross-sex identification. But she does not seek to balance stories of those for whom transition has been a success, and those for whom it has been a failure. Whether or not transition makes people happier is an important question for individuals and clinicians, especially when it involves irreversible hormonal or surgical interventions. But it is irrelevant to evaluating the truth of gender-identity ideology, and to whether self-declared gender should replace sex across society.

[Trans](#) is a book about transactivism. It is a story of policy and institutional capture; of charitable foundations controlled by billionaires joining forces with activist groups to pump money into lobbying behind the scenes for legal change. They have won over big political parties, notably America's Democrats, and big businesses, including tech giants. They are backed, too, by academics in gender studies, queer theory and allied fields, and by the pharmaceutical and health-care industries, which have woken up to the fortunes to be made from 'gender-affirmative' medicine.

Joyce says that what finally pushed her to write [Trans](#) was meeting some of gender-identity ideology's most poignant victims. They are detransitioners: people who took hormonal and sometimes surgical steps towards transition, only to realize that they had made a catastrophic mistake.

A frighteningly necessary book: well-written, thoroughly-researched, passionate and very brave. – Richard Dawkins

A courageous, intelligent and important work, rooted in good science and common sense. – Jenni Murray

I'm off the fence... This rigorous and brave book nails the absurd idea that sex is just a "social construct". – David Aaronovitch, *The Times*

A superlative critical analysis... With this fact-filled, humane, and brave book, a grown-up has entered the room. – *The Telegraph*

Reasonable, methodical, sane, and utterly unintimidated by extremist orthodoxy, [Trans](#) is also a riveting read. – Lionel Shriver

Thank goodness for Helen Joyce... [Trans](#) is a searing and at times devastating analysis of an ideological shift that has had a profound influence on many institutions in the West... With the rigour of an investigative journalist, she looks at the history of the trans movement over the past century. – Christina Patterson, *Sunday Times*

A tour de force. With a fine eye for detail, she brings all the elements of gender ideology together with clarity and precision...simply a must-read – *Evening Standard*

An intelligent, thorough rejoinder to an idea that has swept across much of the liberal world seemingly overnight. Even those outraged by Joyce's positions would benefit from understanding them... Open conversation about such fraught issues is the only realistic path forward. – Jesse Singal, *New York Times*

A passionate defence – *Financial Times*

Incisive, compassionate and nuanced... In the first decade of this century, it was unthinkable that a gender-critical book could even be published by a prominent publishing house, let alone become a bestseller. – Louise Perry, *New Statesman*

A sane, humane book. – Danie Dennett, author of *Consciousness Explained*

There are few subjects which need treatment that is at once delicate, thoughtful and brave. Helen Joyce manages all of these things in [Trans](#). Anyone looking to understand this most fraught of issues should start here. – Douglas Murray, author of *The Madness of Crowds: Gender, Race, Identity*

Helen Joyce has written a very important, enlightened and powerfully-argued book on one of the most controversial issues of our times. For

anyone who wants to understand the spirit of the age, its complexities and challenges, and how to map a truly progressive way forward.

Riveting from start to finish. – Matthew d'Ancona, Editor and Partner, Tortoise Media

This is the book every woman should read. It explains how we're being erased, how our arguments are being distorted, and the cost of standing up... Brilliant, coruscating, brave. – Joan Smith, author of *Misogynies*

The author brave enough to take on the trans lobby – Mail Online

Well-researched, compelling...a deeply compassionate reminder that there are real trade-offs to be made in human rights activism. – Ayaan Hirsi Ali

[Joyce] is sharp, lucid and brilliant in analysing how the recent surge of sexual 'transitioning' and insistence on self-declared 'gender identity', has undermined feminism's achievements. – Spiked

The book I wish I'd had the foresight to pitch and the insight to write. – Jo Bartosch, *The Critic*

An ambitious, wide-ranging, yet incredibly economical book... [Trans](#) is an enormously readable and widely accessible book, full of righteous anger and common-sense feminism. – *The Radical Notion*

Passionate, a tour de force, [Trans](#) offers hope that a recommitment to the liberal values of freedom of belief, freedom of speech and robust debate, can deescalate the culture wars. Maybe the book will help facilitate the de-escalation, or at least get the conversation going. <>

Education / Early Childhood / Case Study / Literacy

[Writing the School House Blues](#): Literacy, Equity, and Belonging in a Child's Early Schooling by Anne Haas Dyson, with a foreword by William Trent (Language and Literacy Series: Teachers College Press)

Anne Haas Dyson in [Writing the School House Blues](#) confronts race and racism head-on with this ethnographic study of a child's efforts to belong – to be a child among children. Dyson is a professor of education policy, organization, and leadership at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her books include (with Celia Genishi) *Children, Language, and Literacy: Diverse Learners in Diverse Times* and *ReWRITING the Basics: Literacy Learning in Children's Cultures*.

Readers follow the journey of a small Black child, Ta'Von, as he moves from a culturally inclusive preschool through the early grades in a school located in a majority white

neighborhood. They see Ta'Von encountering obstacles but finding agency and joy through writing and music-making, especially his love of the blues. Most attempts at desegregating schools are studied by reducing individual children to demographic statistics and test scores. This book, instead, provides a child's perspective on challenges to classroom inclusion. Ta'Von's journey demonstrates that it is within children's peer worlds – formed in response to institutional policies and practices like desegregation initiatives, standardized testing, and a curricular focus on so-called 'basic literacy skills' – that inequity becomes part of the experience of childhood.

[**Writing the School House Blues**](#) examines policies about literacy testing and teaching, including the potential power of the written word and of the arts.

[**Writing the School House Blues**](#) features:

- A fresh approach to issues of inclusion, equity, and learning opportunities as seen through a child's eye.
- Narrative vignettes that bring to life the equity issues of everyday school experiences.
- An overview of the kinds of challenges to inclusion that may be faced by minoritized children in majority-dominated schools.
- Details about changing institutional literacy policies and practices over time and grade level, emphasizing their impact on relationships and learning.
- Examples of teachers and children enacting inclusive communities.

[**Writing the School House Blues**](#) is impressive because of Dyson's conceptualization of the study. She says that a child cannot be understood within a frame that cuts that child off from the social world, as happens when readers only know children in terms of marked social categories or test score reports. Children are social beings; their lives, including their school lives, are constructed with others and in certain times and spaces.

The story in [**Writing the School House Blues**](#) carries readers into Ta'Von's Village, his neighborhood, his relationships with his preschool and kindergarten classmates and teachers. Thanks to Ta'Von, and the trusting, sharing relationship he and Dyson develop and enjoy, Ta'Von introduces Dyson to everyone in his social world as his 'friend from preschool.' Ta'Von wanted her to know and to be known by his friends, his mother, and his grandmother, all key members of his Village. Dyson writes and acknowledges in one passage that "Ta'Von thus shaped this study of a child's efforts to belong and the role of composing in that effort. Without Ta'Von's graciousness to the ever-writing, rather quiet, but always interested me, the project would never have happened."

In Dyson's journey, she sees and describes the impact of race and class operating in the public schools where she accompanied Ta'Von, and she describes how he navigated and negotiated these spaces. She experiences how strongly Ta'Von sought a sense of belonging in his schools, and how much that sense often escaped him. Dyson's thoroughness in telling Ta'Von's story succeeds in illustrating both how and why race,

class, teaching practices, and education policies frustrate the efforts of a student like Ta'Von in securing the sense of belonging so critical to healthy human development.

Dyson illustrates the classroom and school practices that identify the 'Smart Kids' or the 'Bright Kids' and why it matters. Fortunately, Dyson reports, Ta'Von knew he was a bright kid because, as he said, "I know I'm smart 'cause I don't copy." Dyson's study centered on Ta'Von is rich in highlights and examples of how saturated kindergarten and elementary schools are with an emphasis on 'smartness' and how those often subtle but no less searing moments shape the spaces in which young children seek a comfortable space, one in which they feel they belong.

What readers learn from [Writing the School House Blues](#) are the multiple ways in which kindergarten and elementary school children internalize schooling practices and how they negotiate to secure their place in these spaces.

The grand message of [Writing the School House Blues](#) – that it is in the world of children, situated in the academic hierarchy of school, that inequity may become part of the experience of childhoods. The pervasive discourse of the 'achievement gap' – and the policies and practices of school that privilege those children who fit most easily into the test-worn academic slots – seemed to teach some children that they had nothing to learn from Ta'Von, which was their loss. Dyson says that ultimately, teachers must work against neoliberal times and toward an inclusive community, a school community with a sense of sharing a classroom, a city, a country, and a planet with others.

Part I of [Writing the School House Blues](#) (Chapters 1 and 2), lays the groundwork for the story, providing a more thorough introduction to the nature of the project and the sociohistorical backdrop of the city and the district that frame Ta'Von's journey. Then Dyson provides a more formal introduction to Ta'Von, the classroom places in which he found himself, and, moreover, how she became someone he referred to as his 'good friend... from preschool.' A backdrop now built, in Part II Ta'Von's story of being a student unfolds over Chapters 3, 4, 5, and 6. He moves along, learning official and unofficial lessons about academic learning and about the social world of school.

Chapter 7 considers the lessons Ta'Von's story has on offer. For teachers, concerned about grade-level skills, sometimes separated from the functions that orchestrate their use, Ta'Von's story suggests they consider the lessons they do not mean to be teaching about learning and living together. It reminds readers to make space and time for children to voice their responses to the world around them; they need to do more than keep places safe in a pandemic – they need to keep children safe with one another. Children may voice concerns about respect, dignity, and humility; they may need to experience the limits of any one person's knowledge and, thus, their need for one another. And, through the expressive, artful Ta'Von, teachers may recommit to the power of purpose-driven writing and soul-serving music and other art forms to anchor

them to experienced worlds and open them to others' worlds. This, too, is a message of Ta'Von, whose troubles did not defeat him but who, like the blues music he came to love, found joy in literally giving voice.

Dyson makes it clear in [Writing the School House Blues](#) that she does not want children to learn their place in the world from an anemic, misleading academic ladder that positions them hierarchically vis-à-vis one another. She wants them to learn that humanity's collective survival demands that people respect and care about one another, a human family.

Anne Haas Dyson's classroom fieldwork sits right alongside children: heart, mind, and soul. Few researchers have had a career so embedded inside the lives of children in a classroom context. Ta'Von, a key figure in her research, has been a fundamental part of her research over many decades. [Writing the School House Blues](#) tells the story of his educational journey. This book should be on every literacy researcher's shelf. It is a culmination of years of Dyson's relentless fight against deficit framings of children and the deep inequalities that continue to persist in the world. – Jennifer Rowsell, professor of literacies and social innovation, University of Bristol

Anne Haas Dyson's pulse for a Black boy's experiences, perspectives, and realities resulting from inequitable treatment inside the school urge readers to humanize and reimagine what it means to belong, become, and be a brilliant Black boy. – Brian L. Wright, associate professor, The University of Memphis

Anne Haas Dyson's latest book is a unique contribution to understanding how young children make meaning. An insightful read. – Barbara Comber, University of South Australia

[Writing the School House Blues](#) is impressive because of Dyson's conceptualization of the study. Key details are very helpful and informative, and useful insights enable readers to grow in understanding of Ta'Von and of the myriad ways in which the teaching of literacy and the role of assessed literacy competencies shape children's sense of belonging in school. Ultimately, Ta'Von's story can help everyone work toward inclusive communities of children. <>

Education & Teaching / Health

Core Teaching Practices for Health Education, 1st edition by Phillip Ward & Shonna Snyder (Human Kinetics)

Core practices – content-specific practices that offer strategies to support student learning – are common in many subject areas but have been curiously missing for health educators... until now.

Core Teaching Practices for Health Education is a compact and precise book that serves up core teaching practices for preservice and practicing health educators as well as for health teacher educators. Teachers can apply the evidence-based practical tips and strategies the minute they step into their classrooms; even veteran instructors will discover new teaching tactics that will be useful.

Authors are Phillip Ward and Shonna Snyder. Ward, a leading scholar in the area of core practices for health education, is a professor of kinesiology in the department of human sciences at The Ohio State University. Snyder is an associate professor and past program coordinator of health and physical education at Gardner-Webb University in North Carolina. She has been teaching health education methodology courses in higher education since 2005.

Core Teaching Practices for Health Education offers the following:

- Twenty-first-century teaching skills that are specific to health education.
- Practices that are highly transferable across the spectrum of health education and applicable across grade levels.
- Fifteen practical chapters, each of which details a core practice in action, explains the practice, gives additional examples of the practice, and provides clear guidance on how to use the practice in health classrooms.

Core Teaching Practices for Health Education is a resource for aspiring teachers as they embark on their student teaching semester and as they prepare for teaching assessments such as the edTPA, increasingly required in many states. They will learn how to design lesson plans, unit plans, and complete health education curricula to effectively teach health concepts and skills; this directly relates to the video portion of the edTPA. In addition, the book's final two chapters directly relate to the Analyzing Teaching portion of the edTPA.

Core Teaching Practices for Health Education is organized into three parts. Part I introduces the idea of core practices and focuses on planning to teach health education (e.g., big ideas, enduring understandings, essential questions, sequencing health content, assessment). Part II explores the pedagogy of health education, including organizational routines and procedures, building a safe and caring environment that is focused on learning, and adapting instruction to meet the needs of students. Part III guides readers through reflective practices on teaching and lesson improvement. Each core practice has its own chapter.

This guide is a perfect companion to *Essentials of Teaching Health Education, Second Edition*, by Sarah Benes and Holly Alperin and *Health Education edTPA Online Preparation Guide* by Stacy Furness. For future teachers in states that require the edTPA, these three resources supply everything they need to become successful health educators.

Preservice teachers, current teachers, and health teacher educators will find [Core Teaching Practices for Health Education](#) to be of lasting value as they use the book's health-education-specific teaching practices to improve teaching and learning.

In addition, [Core Teaching Practices for Health Education](#) is ideal for teachers who are charged with creating health curricula for middle and high school programs – and for other teachers who are thrust into the role of health educators with little or no health education background. <>

History / Art / Politics

[Sensation](#): The Madonna, The Mayor, The Media, and the First Amendment by Arnold Lehman (Merrell Publishers)

Death and bomb threats over an art exhibition! A major battle with the mayor of New York City and the *New York Times*! Looking back, Arnold Lehman, director of the Brooklyn Museum, and his colleagues were not prepared for what was to happen. No one could have anticipated that *SENSATION: Young British Artists from the Saatchi Collection* would become the biggest art story in the history of art history.

It has taken him two decades to fully absorb and clearly reflect on what happened at the Brooklyn Museum in 1999–2000. This is the story told in [Sensation](#) by Arnold Lehman, Director Emeritus of the Brooklyn Museum of Art and Senior Advisor at Phillips auction house.

The intense controversy swept the exhibition, the museum, and Chris Ofili's *The Holy Virgin Mary* painting to international attention for six months. While 175,000 people saw the exhibition and millions read and heard about it daily, they never knew of the threats and challenges that kept the museum staff awake at night. Mayor Rudy Giuliani, who never saw the painting, focused his rage at *The Holy Virgin Mary*; rescinded the museum's municipal funding to force it to close the exhibition; and attempted to evict it from its hundred-year-old landmark. The city's most conservative media and ultra-religious groups inflamed the conflict.

SENSATION, selected from controversial collector Charles Saatchi's contemporary British art collection, was first shown at London's Royal Academy in 1997, to an outcry over the portrait of child murderer Myra Hindley. Its opening at the Brooklyn Museum in 1999 drew tabloid headlines such as "B'klyn gallery of horror – Gruesome museum show,"

and “Butchered animals, a dung-smearred Mary and giant genitalia.” *The New York Times* accused the museum of wrongdoing in high-profile but often false and inaccurate investigative reports, most dismissed earlier by the court.

Looking back at one of the most important contemporary exhibitions ever, Lehman's book is filled with the excitement and anxiety of the moment. I know. I was there. – Chuck Close, Artist

Whether works of art inspire, move, challenge, or offend us, freedom of artistic expression is always worth defending. Arnold Lehman's [Sensation](#) reminds us that the Brooklyn Museum's fight was for a principle at the core of our democracy. – Michael Bloomberg, Founder of Bloomberg LP and Bloomberg Philanthropies, and Mayor of New York, 2002-2013.

Arnold Lehman opens the door beyond the hushed museum galleries to witness a political maelstrom – a must-read. – Maxwell Anderson, Director, Whitney Museum of American Art, 1998-2003

As told in [Sensation](#), in a story as gripping as a fictional thriller, the mayor and city eventually settled with the museum, awarding it a permanent injunction, the restoration of city money, and substantial funds for its new entrance. <>

History / Biographies & Memoirs / WWII

[All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days](#): The True Story of the American Woman at the Heart of the German Resistance to Hitler by Rebecca Donner (Little, Brown and Company)

[All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days](#) is the ‘highly evocative, deeply moving’ true account of the extraordinary life and brutal death of Mildred Harnack, the American leader of one of the largest underground resistance groups in Germany during World War II. The book is a *New York Times* bestseller and a *New York Times* Book Review Editors’ Choice.

Author Rebecca Donner's essays, reportage and reviews have appeared in numerous publications. She was a 2018-2019 fellow at the Leon Levy Center for Biography, and has been awarded residencies at Yaddo, Ucross Foundation, Virginia Center for the Creative Arts, and Vermont Studio Center. Donner has taught writing at Wesleyan University, Columbia University, and Barnard College.

As told in [All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days](#), born and raised in Milwaukee, Harnack was twenty-six when she enrolled in a PhD program in Germany and witnessed the meteoric rise of the Nazi party. In 1932, she began holding secret meetings in her

apartment – a small band of political activists that by 1940 had grown into the largest underground resistance group in Berlin. She recruited working-class Germans into the resistance, helped Jews escape, plotted acts of sabotage, and collaborated in writing leaflets that denounced Hitler and called for revolution. Her coconspirators circulated through Berlin under the cover of night, slipping the leaflets into mailboxes, public restrooms, phone booths. When the first shots of the Second World War were fired, she became a spy, couriering top-secret intelligence to the Allies. On the eve of her escape to Sweden, she was ambushed by the Gestapo. At a Nazi military court, a panel of five judges sentenced her to six years at a prison camp, but Hitler overruled the decision and ordered her execution. On February 16, 1943, she was strapped to a guillotine and beheaded.

Historians identify Harnack as the only American in the leadership of the German resistance, yet her remarkable story has remained almost unknown until now.

Harnack's great-great-niece Rebecca Donner in [All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days](#) draws on her extensive archival research in Germany, Russia, England, and the U.S. as well as newly uncovered documents in her family archive to produce this astonishing work of narrative nonfiction.

Extraordinarily intimate... Wilder and more expansive than a standard-issue biography... a real-life thriller with a cruel ending – not to mention an account of Hitler's ascent from attention-seeking buffoon to genocidal Führer. – Jennifer Szalai, New York Times

A powerful book... Ms. Donner's use of the present tense increases the feeling of inevitability as she unfolds her story to its horrific conclusion... A nonfiction narrative with the pace of a political thriller, it's imbued with suspense and dread... a deeply affecting biography, meticulously researched and illustrated... Ms. Donner evocatively brings to life the giddy feeling of freedom under the Weimar regime in Berlin and how swiftly it eroded. Her account of the decline of liberties is harrowing. – Moira Hodgson, Wall Street Journal

A deeply moving act of recovery... In a photo of those pages reproduced in the book, Mildred Harnack's cramped yet careful handwriting crystallizes Donner's goal: to write her heroic forebear back into history, to bring her back to life. – Bethanne Patrick, Los Angeles Times

A tour de force of investigation... The story unfolds in fragments... but as the pieces cohere, the couple's story becomes gripping... The abiding impression is of virtuous, extraordinarily brave people caught up in tragic horror. – The Economist

Donner quotes passages from her sources at length, letting the reader dwell on facts rather than galloping through them. She does this stylishly... The archival quality of the book, its enumeration and cataloging of sources, is both surprising for a biography – too rarely the site of literary

innovation – and affecting. It gives a sense of the warped timeline of crisis, how life can shift overnight without moving at all, the way in which change can ricochet from the political sphere to the smallest and most mundane details of a person's life. – Madeleine Schwartz, New York Times Book Review

[A] compelling book, which reads like a tragic novel where we wish we didn't know the ending... Yet knowing her terrible fate from the onset shouldn't dissuade you from reading this page-turner about Harnack's perilous journey... Donner's descriptive style takes us inside Nazi Germany and makes the book hard to put down. – Laura McCallum, Minneapolis Star Tribune

A gorgeous collage of history and family lore, a revelatory window onto a Götterdämmerung that transformed the world forever. – Oprah Daily Gripping... Donner brings her ancestor to life through artful use of documents and interviews... and she tells Harnack's story with dramatic pace and vision. As the story unfolds in time, Harnack and her resistance comrades become like a small cluster of white blood cells targeting the seemingly overwhelming infection that was Nazism. – Jim Higgins, Milwaukee Journal Sentinel

Rebecca Donner has written a beautifully rich portrait of a very brave woman. While never less than scrupulously researched, this biography explodes the genre of 'biography': experimental but achieved, Donner's story reads with the speed of a thriller, the depth of a novel, and the urgency of an essay, like some deeply compelling blend of Alan Furst and W.G. Sebald. – James Wood

Fusing elements of biography, real-life political thriller, and scholarly detective story, in [All the Frequent Troubles of Our Days](#) Donner brilliantly interweaves letters, diary entries, notes smuggled out of a Berlin prison, survivors' testimony, and a trove of declassified intelligence documents into a powerful, epic story, reconstructing the moral courage of an enigmatic woman nearly erased by history. <>

Literature & Fiction / YA / Mystery

[As Good as Dead](#): The Finale to A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson (A Good Girl's Guide to Murder Series, Book 3: Delacorte Press)

[As Good as Dead](#) is the highly anticipated finale to the Young Adult A Good Girl's Guide to Murder series, the instant bestsellers that read like a favorite true crime podcast or show.

Author Holly Jackson is the #1 *New York Times* bestselling author of the series. She started writing stories at a young age, completing her first attempt at a novel when she was fifteen. Jackson graduated from the University of Nottingham, where she studied literary linguistics and creative writing, with a master's degree in English.

In [As Good as Dead](#), Pip is about to head to college, but she is still haunted by the way her last investigation ended. She's used to online death threats in the wake of her viral true-crime podcast, but she can't help noticing an anonymous person who keeps asking her: "Who will look for you when you're the one who disappears?" Soon the threats escalate and Pip realizes that someone is following her in real life. When she starts to find connections between her stalker and a local serial killer caught six years ago, she wonders if maybe the wrong man is behind bars. Police refuse to act, so Pip has only one choice: find the suspect herself – or be the next victim. As the deadly game plays out in [As Good as Dead](#), Pip discovers that everything in her small town is coming full circle... and if she doesn't find the answers, this time she will be the one who disappears...

Twisty, surprising, and absolutely enthralling from page one, there's no better way to end a series. – B&N Reads

[As Good as Dead](#) is a phenomenal YA mystery that deserves to be one of the books of the year and provides a stellar finale to a knockout series. – *The Nerd Daily*

Praise for the *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* series:

The book pulled me into it so hard that I forgot everything going on around me, I just needed to solve the murder with Pip. – PopSugar

This is a great, twisty read for fans of YA. – Book Riot

A taut, compulsively readable, elegantly plotted thriller. – The Guardian

The perfect nail-biting mystery. – Natasha Preston, #1 New York

Times bestselling author

I loved Pip – her relatable quirks, her inventive investigative approach, and her willingness to step outside of her safe world in search of the truth.

– Emily Arsenault, author of All the Pretty Things

Dark, dangerous and intricately plotted – my heart literally pounded. –

Laura Steven, author of The Exact Opposite of Okay

So so clever. – Savannah Brown, author of The Truth About Keeping Secrets

Well-executed.... A treat for mystery readers who enjoy being kept in suspense. – Kirkus Reviews

Fans of true crime will be hooked by the hunt for a killer, but there's more to this Guide than just a whodunit. It's a story of families, community and

the ways a crisis can turn them against one another in the blink of an eye.
– BookPage

Gripping, suspenseful, [As Good as Dead](#) will not disappoint. By the end of this mystery series, readers will never think of good girls the same way again... <>

Outdoors & Nature / Climate / Healing / Biographies & Memoirs

[Guardians of the Trees](#): A Journey of Hope Through Healing the Planet: A Memoir by Kinari Webb M.D. (Flatiron Books)

[Guardians of the Trees](#) is a memoir about a woman spearheading a global initiative to heal the world's rainforests and the communities who depend on them

When author Kinari Webb first traveled to Indonesian Borneo at 21 to study orangutans, she was both awestruck by the beauty of her surroundings and heartbroken by the rainforest destruction she witnessed. As she got to know the local communities, she realized that their need to pay for expensive healthcare led directly to the rampant logging, which in turn imperiled their health and safety even further. Webb realized her true calling was at the intersection of medicine and conservation.

Webb, MD, is the founder of Health In Harmony, an international nonprofit dedicated to reversing global heating, understanding that rainforests are essential for the survival of humanity, and a cofounder of Alam Sehat Lestari (ASRI).

As told in [Guardians of the Trees](#), after graduating with honors from the Yale School of Medicine, Webb returned to Borneo, listening to local communities about their solutions for how to both protect the rainforests and improve their lives. Founding two non-profits, Health in Harmony in the U.S. and ASRI in Indonesia, Webb and her local and international teams partnered with rainforest communities, building a clinic, developing regenerative economies, providing educational opportunities, and dramatically transforming the region. But just when everything was going right, Webb was stung by a deadly box jellyfish and would spend the next four years fighting for her life, a fight that would lead her to rethink everything. Was she ready to expand her work to a global scale and take climate change head on?

Inspiring... In a compelling narrative, the author shares the details of her journey and the cultural nuances of the region... A unique perspective that offers immense hope and direction for humanity in the face of climate change. – Kirkus, starred review

[Webb's] devotion to fighting for the health of the world and its people remains unflagging, as evidenced in her galvanizing and hopeful story. Those looking for a jolt of inspiration would do well to pick this up. –

Publishers Weekly, starred review

This really is a journey of hope, told with an observant eye and an open heart. – Booklist

*In my experience, only a few people have really earned the right to ask us to hope. As this magnificent volume makes clear, Kinari Webb is the exception. Her life is an inspiration, and her openness and vulnerability helps the rest of us make full empowering use of that remarkable story. Stay away from these pages unless you're prepared to be jolted into useful action! – Bill McKibben, New York Times bestselling author of *The End of Nature**

In [Guardians of the Trees](#), Kinari Webb tells the story of how she fell in love with a rainforest in Indonesia and how she worked to save it by listening to and involving the local people and improving their lives by providing medical facilities. People, animals and the environment – all are interconnected. Her courage and perseverance through a series of setbacks and a life-threatening encounter with a deadly jellyfish fill one with admiration. A wonderful book. – Dr. Jane Goodall, DBE, Founder of the Jane Goodall Institute and U.N. Messenger of Peace

*This book is a wonder. An astonishing story, a page-turner, beautifully written, that will transport you deep into the rainforest and out again, transformed. Through her own remarkable journey, Kinari Webb has found a brilliant way to unite the healing of people and planet, to save both human lives and wild nature. So abundant is her passion and commitment that one can't help but emerge from her riveting story deeply affected, inspired, and flooded with hope. – Jennifer Ackerman, New York Times bestselling author of *The Genius of Birds* and *The Bird Way**

*[Guardians of the Trees](#) is a completely captivating story rich with lessons about the potential for personal and planetary transformation. Kinari Webb brings us along on her inspiring journey and we emerge infused with hard won and realistic hope for the entwined futures of humans, forests and the world we inhabit together. – David Grinspoon, author of *Earth in Human Hands**

*With Borneo as backdrop as well as foreground, Kinari Webb compellingly shows us how public health and planetary health are one and the same. – Christiana Figueres, co-author of *The Future We Choose* and co-founder of Global Optimism*

*Reading [Guardians of the Trees](#) left me, at turns, stunned and elated. At last, a vision for addressing climate change that rests not on the promise of more technology, but a return to the most basic tool: listening to the communities that know the world's forests best. – Katherine Standefer, author of *Lightning Flowers**

Full of hope and optimism, Webb in [Guardians of the Trees](#) takes readers on an exhilarating, galvanizing journey across the world, sharing her passion for the natural world and for humanity. In the current moment of crisis, the book is an essential roadmap for moving forward and the inspiring story of one woman's quest to heal the world. <>

Philosophy / Ethics

[From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#): Natural Law, Practical Knowledge, and the Person, 1st edition by Fulvio Di Blasi (St. Augustine's Press)

Saint Thomas Aquinas is an Aristotelian and he is the most important author in the entire history of natural law theory. Yet, there is no natural law theory in Aristotle. Even the concept of person, which is so important in Aquinas' ethics, seems to be foreign to Aristotle's culture and thought. How can Aquinas' ethics be called Aristotelian? How can his natural law theory?

In [From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas: Natural Law, Practical Knowledge, and the Person](#), Fulvio Di Blasi argues that Aquinas' concept of natural law, his personalism, and his overall approach to moral theory are deeply rooted in the very heart of Aristotle's ethics: in his concepts of practical knowledge, *proairesis* (moral choice), and practical syllogism, as well as in his account of the moral agency, the ultimate end and human social nature.

Di Blasi is an Italian attorney and an international scholar expert in moral philosophy and natural law theory. He is the Director of the Thomas International Center. He has a Ph.D. in Philosophy of Law from the University of Palermo, and has taught in several universities both in Europe and in America.

[From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#) develops a line of thought that was already sketched in Di Blasi's previous book, *God and the Natural Law*. He engages several authors and critics, including John Finnis, Martin Rhonheimer, Germain Grisez, and Robert George.

The main topic in [From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#) is the knowledge of the good, which is strictly connected to the concepts of practical reason and practical reasoning.

The first three chapters primarily clarify, from an Aristotelian-Thomistic point of view, the exact meanings of 'knowledge of the good,' 'practical knowledge,' and 'practical reason.' They are arranged in a sort of ascending order that reaches its most precise definition in Chapter III, 'Law as Act of Reason' and 'Command.' The precision of his methodology depends on the attempt to consistently apply analogy as an

interpretative tool for Thomistic concepts. He explains these implications of the concept of analogy especially in the first section of Chapter III.

The first chapter, "Knowledge of the Good as Participation in God's Love," is perhaps the most metaphysical in the entire book. It aims at reaching the core of Aquinas' concept of good and its intrinsic relationship with the question of God. The most important concept that he uses and explains to this purpose is participation, which is in his opinion an extraordinary example of how Aquinas was able to harmoniously merge the apex of Plato's thought and the most refined metaphysics of Aristotle. This chapter is the most suitable introduction to the main themes of [From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#). Chapter II, on the other hand, "Practical Syllogism, Proairesis, and the Virtues: Toward a Reconciliation of Virtue Ethics and Natural Law Ethics," is crucial to understanding Di Blasi's way of interpreting the relationship between Aristotle's ethics and Aquinas' natural law theory.

Chapter IV, "Spirit or Digital Self? The Concept of Person in Philosophy and Contemporary Science," recovers a more metaphysical and less, so to speak, emotional concept of person, which involves something that we may call spirit or soul. Di Blasi shows how the concept of person was implicitly born in Greek philosophy, and technically discovered and explained in Medieval Christian thought, and arrives at the detailed analysis offered by Aquinas. He addresses the concept of person first by engaging contemporary science and the concept of artificial intelligence. In fact, he believes that due in part also to so many sci-fi movies today, science offers a wonderful battleground for anybody who claims that there is something more to the person than just digital codes, neuronal electrical impulses, or a sequence of nucleotides or genetic code.

To the concept of ultimate end and beatitude is committed chapter V, "Ultimate End, Human Freedom, and Beatitude: A Critique of Germain Grisez", which was originally presented at the 2001 Natural Law Conference organized by the Natural Law Institute of the Notre Dame Law School.

Since his book *God and the Natural Law*, Di Blasi has always claimed that several modern and contemporary natural law theories – especially today the so called new natural law theory – even when trying to recover Aquinas' approach, have been missing both 'nature' and the 'legislator', so practically nullifying the very term 'natural law'. In Chapter IX, he goes back from slightly different angles, on the way in which modern natural law theories have slowly pushed God out of the picture. However, what he had not done at all in *God and the Natural Law* was to show how these misunderstandings of the concept of nature can damage natural law reasoning in approaching specific moral issues. This is what he tries to do in Chapter VI, "What Nature? Whose Nature? Reflecting on Some Recent Arguments in Natural Law Ethics." He does so by going through some arguments on contraception and marriage as

developed by the new natural law theorists and by Martin Rhonheimer. While criticizing them, he also shows how a sound ethical reasoning grounded on the knowledge of nature should work.

Chapter VII of [From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#), "Natural Law as Inclination to God," both because of chronological reasons and because of its structure, could have been an excellent introduction to the main themes of this book. On the other hand, it offers a synthesis and an overall view that may be of a greater benefit to those who have already dealt with the previous chapters.

Di Blasi's studies of friendship have been intrinsically linked to his studies of the concept of person, and they ground a sound understanding of political theory. There is a weakness in contemporary human rights culture as it looks too much at the concept of equality and too little at the concepts of friendship and the person. This is what he shows in Chapter VIII, "Friendship or Equality? Notes towards an Ideal of Political Personalism."

Chapter VIII and Chapter IX of [From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#), "Natural Law, Democracy, and the Crisis of Authority" directly address the contemporary debate in political philosophy. Chapter IX focuses on the subtle and insidious ideology that in modern and contemporary political thought tries to ground liberal democracy not on fundamental truths about the human being – not on nature, that is – but on some kind of moderate relativism, which undermines both the concept of authority and the concept of natural law.

Every student of Aristotle's ethics and politics, and of Aquinas' thought will find [From Aristotle to Thomas Aquinas](#) extremely revealing and stimulating. <>

Politics / Sociology

[The End of Illusions](#): Politics, Economy, and Culture in Late Modernity, 1st edition by Andreas Reckwitz, translated by Valentine A. Pakis (Polity Press)

We live in a time of great uncertainty about the future. Those heady days of the late twentieth century, when the end of the Cold War seemed to be ushering in a new and more optimistic age, now seem like a distant memory. During the last couple of decades, we've been battered by one crisis after another and the idea that humanity is on a progressive path to a better future seems like an illusion.

It is only now that people can see clearly the real scope and structure of the profound shifts that Western societies have undergone over the last 30 years. Classical industrial society has been transformed into a late-modern society that is molded by polarization

and paradoxes. The pervasive singularization of the social, the orientation toward the unique and exceptional, generates systematic asymmetries and disparities, and hence progress and unease go hand in hand.

Andreas Reckwitz in [The End of Illusions](#) examines this dual structure of singularization and polarization as it plays itself out in the different sectors of society and, in so doing, outlines the central structural features of the present: the new class society, the characteristics of a postindustrial economy, the conflict about culture and identity, the exhaustion of the self resulting from the imperative to seek authentic fulfillment, and the political crisis of liberalism.

Reckwitz is Professor of Social Theory and Cultural Sociology at Humboldt University, Berlin.

The first chapter – "Cultural Conflicts as a Struggle over Culture: Hyperculture and Cultural Essentialism" – discusses the ways in which late-modern societies are defined by conflicts over culture and identity. Reckwitz shows that, across the globe, there are now two fundamentally oppositional ways of dealing with culture. One approach – that of hyperculture – allows for individual self-development and provides space for diversity on global markets, while the other approach – that of cultural essentialism – understands culture as a fixed entity or as the medium of a given community's collective identity.

The second chapter of [The End of Illusions](#) – "From the Leveled Middle-Class Society to the Three-Class Society: The New Middle Class, the Old Middle Class, and the Precarious Class" – investigates the new differentiation that presently characterizes the social structure in Western nations. Over the course of post-industrialization and the expansion of education, the formerly all-encompassing middle class of industrial modernity gave way to a new, tripartite class structure. On one end, a highly educated and urban new middle class has risen to the fore – the new leading milieu of late modernity – while on the other end, there is a new precarious class comprised primarily of working-class employees in the service industry. Between these two, there remains the traditional middle class, which is oriented toward order and sedentariness.

"Beyond Industrial Society: Polarized Post-Industrialism and Cognitive-Cultural Capitalism," the third chapter, is devoted to the structural transformation of Western capitalism. In the West, the industrial economy has lost its structural and formational significance. But what does it mean to say that we live in a post-industrial society? This chapter explains the transformation from the industrial to the post-industrial economy as a response to a dual crisis of saturation and productivity. Here Reckwitz identifies the features of cognitive capitalism, which is based on intangible assets, knowledge, and scalability, and he also examines the mechanisms of cultural capitalism, whose markets

depend on the variable reputation that its symbolic goods happen to acquire in the eyes of consumers.

The fourth chapter of [The End of Illusions](#) – “The Weariness of Self-Actualization: The Late-Modern Individual and the Paradoxes of Emotional Culture” – examines the culturally dominant lifestyle of the late-modern self, and particularly its everyday practices and psychological dynamics. What does it mean to lead a life that aims to combine the ‘Romantic’ aspiration of self-development with the ‘bourgeois’ goal of social success? This chapter identifies the dilemmas of a late-modern way of life in which subjective experience and psychological contentment have become fragile measures of a success.

The final chapter – “The Crisis of Liberalism and the Search for the New Political Paradigm: From Apertistic to Regulatory Liberalism” – is concerned with the current political crisis, in which liberalism and populism stand in opposition to one another. It presents an alternative interpretation of political developments since 1945. Rather than being defined by mere shifts between the left and the right, these developments have been shaped above all by a transformation of the overarching political paradigms of social regulation and dynamization. The current crisis of liberalism – which has been dominant since the 1980s as a synthesis of neoliberalism and progressive liberalism – can thus be interpreted as a ‘crisis of excessive dynamization.’ Finally, Reckwitz asks what would be needed to establish a form of ‘regulatory liberalism,’ which could replace the present paradigm and also offer an alternative to the rising wave of populism.

This is a fascinating read, truly imaginative and remarkably wide-ranging. Andreas Reckwitz presents a compelling, novel outlook on the global challenges ahead. – Patrick Baert, University of Cambridge

In [The End of Illusions](#), Reckwitz conducts a ‘socio-analysis’ of a patient known as late modernity and reveals the contradictions, paradoxes, and anomalies that characterize contemporary society. The hard work involved in this sobering analysis pays off: while pathways toward a better society are neither obvious nor linear, embracing today’s ambiguities opens up spaces to reimagine our shared futures. – Urs Gasser, Harvard University

Building on Reckwitz’s path-breaking work *The Society of Singularities*, [The End of Illusions](#) will be of great interest to students and scholars in sociology, politics, and the social sciences generally and to anyone concerned with the great social and political issues of our time. <>

Religion & Spirituality

Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism, Volume 16, edited by Stanley E. Porter, Matthew Brook O'Donnell & Wendy J. Porter (Pickwick Publications)

Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism, Volume 16 is the sixteenth volume of the hard-copy edition of a journal that has been published online (www.jgrchj.net) since 2000. As they appear, the hard-copy editions replace the online materials. The scope of JGRChJ is the texts, language and cultures of the Greco-Roman world of early Christianity and Judaism. The papers published in JGRChJ pay special attention to the larger picture of politics, culture, religion and language, engaging as well with modern theoretical approaches.

Contents of **Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism, Volume 16** with authors are:

Andrew R. Talbert

The Synonymous Rendering of Aristotelian φίλεω with ἀγαπήάω in the Gospel of John

Andrew Simmonds

'His Blood on Us and on Our Children' (Mt. 27.25) is Modeled on Oedipus's Unwitting Kinship Oath to His Father in Sophocles' *Oedipus Tyrannus*

Michael J.G. Gray-Fow

Pomponia Graecina: How Could She Have Heard about Christians and What Did 'Christian' Mean?

Doosuk Kim

Romans 14 and Impurity in the Mishnah

Stuart Squires

Jerome's View of the Connection between the Priscillianists and Pelagians

Jeffrey M. Hubbard

Flipped Scripts in Hermas's Erotic Dreams: A Reading of the Shepherd's Virgins in Light of Roman Oneiric Literature

Christopher M. Hansen

Lord Raglan's Hero and Jesus: A Rebuttal to Methodologically Dubious Uses of the Raglan Archetype

Nathan Nadeau

The First Pauline Chronologist? Probably not: A Review of Ryan Schellenberg's 'The First Pauline Chronologist' from a Bayesian Perspective

Sanghwan Lee

Defending Multilingual Galilee from its Literary and Archaeological Objections

Craig S. Keener

Wedding Torches

An index of ancient sources and an index of modern authors conclude the volume.

The editors of [Journal of Greco-Roman Christianity and Judaism, Volume 16](#) include: Stanley E. Porter, Matthew Brook O'Donnell and Wendy J. Porter. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Buddhism

Middle Beyond Extremes:

Maitreya's *Madhyāntavibhāga* with Commentaries by Khenpo Shenga and Ju Mipham by Arya Maitreya, Jamgon Mipham, translated by The Dharmachakra Translation Committee (Snow Lion)

[Middle Beyond Extremes](#) contains a translation of the Buddhist masterpiece *Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*. This famed text, often referred to by its Sanskrit title, *Madhyāntavibhāga*, is part of a collection known as the *Five Maitreya Teachings*. Maitreya is held to have entrusted these profound and vast instructions to the master Asaṅga in the heavenly realm of Tuṣita.

Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes employs the principle of the three natures to explain the way things seem to be as well as the way they actually are. It is presented in [Middle Beyond Extremes](#) alongside commentaries by two outstanding masters of Tibet's nonsectarian Rimé movement, Khenpo Shenga and Ju Mipham.

Trulshik Rinpoche in his foreword says that the Regent Maitreyanatha, lord of the ten grounds, granted five treatises to the master Asaṅga in the divine realm of Tuṣita, two of which are concerned with 'distinguishing.' [Middle Beyond Extremes](#) contains an English

translation of one of these two treatises, namely *Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*.

Accompanying Maitreya's teaching are two commentaries: The first, composed by Khenchen Shenga, was created by means of a classic Indian source. The book also contains the explanations by Mipham Nampar Gyalwa, the loving protector and king of Dharma. In this way, it contains, as it were, both Indian and Tibetan commentaries.

[Middle Beyond Extremes](#) contains one among the protector Maitreya's five treatises, *Distinguishing the Middle from Extremes*. It is accompanied by two commentaries: Khenchen Shenga's elucidations, which are all drawn from a classical Indian source, and the explanations of the supreme scholar, Mipham Chokley Nampar Gyalwa. These English translations were prepared under the auspices of the Dharmachakra Translation Committee. The translators are headed by his student, Thomas Doctor, who is devoted, committed, and knowledgeable. The translators followed a series of lectures on the texts, and they have worked hard to clarify their understanding with the help of several scholars. The Dharmachakra Translation Committee draws its inspiration from the vision, commitment, and magnificent achievements of past Buddhist translators. Directed by Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche, the Committee is dedicated to making Buddhist classics available to modern readers in their native languages.

To those who read **[Middle Beyond Extremes](#)** Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche recommends following a program of lectures, since this is the best way to meet these texts. In any case, it is important that one actively seek to gain a clear understanding of these teachings. Whoever practices them will before long accomplish the stage of great enlightenment and, by relying on factors such as the six transcendences, arise as a great captain to guide all wandering beings.

In his Five Teachings the protector Maitreya, the Regent who has mastered the ten grounds, reveals fully and flawlessly the view, meditation, conduct, and fruition that are accomplished through the Great Vehicle. With utmost profundity his teachings reach far and wide; they are a treasury of scripture, reasoning, and oral instruction. – Chökyi Nyima Rinpoche

Unraveling the subtle processes that condition people's thinking and experience, Maitreya's teaching in **[Middle Beyond Extremes](#)** reveals a powerful path of compassionate vision and spiritual transformation. <>

The Vampire Almanac: The Complete History by J. Gordon Melton (Visible Ink Press)

What accounts for the undying fascination people have for vampires? How did encounters with death create centuries-old myths and folklore in virtually every culture in the world? When did the early literary vampires – as pictured by Goethe, Coleridge, Shelly, Polidori, Byron, and Nodier as the personifications of man's darker side – transform from villains into today's cultural rebels?

Readers are advised to grab a stake, a fistful of garlic, a crucifix and holy water as they enter the dark, blood-curdling world of the original pain in the neck in **The Vampire Almanac**, a collection of vampire facts and fiction.

Showing how vampire-like creatures organically formed in virtually every part of the world, **The Vampire Almanac: The Complete History** by renowned religion expert and vampire authority J. Gordon Melton, Ph.D., examines the historic, societal, and psychological role the vampire has played – and continues to play – in understanding death, man's deepest desires, and human pathologies. It analyzes humanity's lusts, fears, and longing for power and the forbidden.

Melton, a nationally known author, lecturer, and scholar, is the Distinguished Professor of American Religious History at Baylor University and serves as the director of the Institute for the Study of American Religion.

Today, the vampire serves as a powerful symbol for the darker parts of the human condition, touching on death, immortality, forbidden sexuality, sexual power and surrender, intimacy, alienation, rebellion, violence, and a fascination with the mysterious. The vampire is often portrayed as a symbolic leader advocating an outrageous alternative to the demands of conformity.

Readers meet all of the villains, anti-heroes, and heroes of myths, legends, books, films, and television series across cultures and today's pop culture in **The Vampire Almanac**. The book assembles and analyzes hundreds of vampiric characters, people, and creatures, including *Buffy the Vampire Slayer*, Vlad the Impaler, Edward Cullen and *The Twilight Saga*, Bram Stoker, Lestat De Lioncourt and *The Vampire Chronicles*, Lon Chaney, *True Blood*, Bela Lugosi, *Dracula*, *Dark Shadows*, Lilith, Vampire Weekend, Batman, and Nosferatu.

There is a lot of material in this deep exhumation of the undead. [The Vampire Almanac](#) is a gruesomely thorough book of vampire facts, with a helpful bibliography, an extensive index, and numerous photos, adding to its usefulness. <>

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