



SirReadaLot.org | 1289 Fordham Blvd, Suite 500 | Chapel Hill
NC 27514 | USA

ph 9199292249 | fx 9199321508 | www.sirreadalot.org

April 2022

We Review the
Best of the Latest
Books

ISSN 1934-6557

April 2022

Contents

Month Year.....	1
Business & Economics / Management.....	4
<i>Frontiers in Social Innovation: The Essential Handbook for Creating, Deploying, and Sustaining Creative Solutions to Systemic Problems edited by Neil Malhotra (Harvard Business Review Press)</i>	4
Computers & Internet / Virtual Reality.....	6
<i>Designing Immersive 3D Experiences: A Designer's Guide to Creating Realistic 3D Experiences for Extended Reality, 1st edition by Renée Stevens (Voices That Matter Series: New Riders)</i>	6
Education & Teaching / Preschool, Pre-K.....	8
<i>Principals as Early Learning Leaders: Effectively Supporting Our Youngest Learners (Early Childhood Education Series) by Julie Nicholson, Helen Maniates, Serene Yee, Thomas Williams, Jr., Veronica Ufoegbune, & Raul Erazo-Chavez (Teachers College Press)</i>	8
Health / Psychology / Self-Help.....	10
<i>The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction: A Guide to Coping with the Grief, Stress, and Anger that Trigger Addictive Behaviors, 2nd edition by Rebecca E. Williams PhD & Julie S. Kraft MA LMFT (New Harbinger Publications)</i>	10
Law / International / Human Rights.....	11
<i>The Trial of Julian Assange: A Story of Persecution by Nils Melzer (Verso Books)</i>	11
Philosophy / TV & Film.....	13
<i>Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy: That Syncing Feeling edited by Christian Cotton & Andrew M. Winters (Pop Culture and Philosophy, Vol. 2: Open Universe)</i> ...	13
Poetry / Literature & Fiction.....	14

<i>I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk</i> by Paul Zits (Brave & Brilliant Series, Vol. 23: University of Calgary Press)	14
Policy / China	15
<i>The World According to China, 1st edition</i> by Elizabeth C. Economy (Polity Press) ...	15
Policy / Global.....	17
<i>Dismantling Global White Privilege: Equity for a Post-Western World</i> by Chandran Nair (Berrett-Koehler Publishing, Inc.)	17
Psychology / Health & Healing / Racism.....	19
<i>Living While Black: Using Joy, Beauty, and Connection to Heal Racial Trauma</i> by Guilaine Kinouani (Beacon Press)	19
Religion & Spirituality	20
<i>Imprecations in the Psalms: Love for Enemies in Hard Places</i> by Steffen G. Jenkins (Pickwick Publications)	20
Religion & Spirituality / Activism	23
<i>Fortune: How Race Broke My Family and the World – and How to Repair It All</i> by Lisa Sharon Harper, with a foreword by Otis Moss III (Brazos Press)	23
Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Catholicism.....	24
<i>Leveling the Praying Field: Can the Church We Love, Love Us Back?</i> by Ansel Augustine (Orbis Books)	24
Religion & Spirituality / Christianity	25
<i>A Soul Framed in Christ: Stephen Charnock on the Renewal of God's Image</i> by Frank L. Bartoe IV, with a foreword by Joel R. Beeke (Wipf & Stock)	25
Religion & Spirituality / Historical / Puritan	26
<i>A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life, reprint edition</i> by J. I. Packer (Crossway)	26
Religion & Spirituality / Theology	27
<i>A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era: Thinking and Being Otherwise</i> by Ryan LaMothe (Cascade Books)	27
Social Justice / Disabilities	30
<i>Turn on the Words!: Deaf Audiences, Captions, and the Long Struggle for Access</i> by Harry G. Lang (Gallaudet University Press)	30
Social Science / Politics / Social Justice / Latin America.....	31
<i>After the Decolonial: Ethnicity, Gender and Social Justice in Latin America, 1st edition</i> by David Lehmann (Polity Press)	31
Bibliography	33
Business & Economics / Management	33

Frontiers in Social Innovation: The Essential Handbook for Creating, Deploying, and Sustaining Creative Solutions to Systemic Problems edited by Neil Malhotra (Harvard Business Review Press)	33
Computers & Internet / Virtual Reality	33
Designing Immersive 3D Experiences: A Designer's Guide to Creating Realistic 3D Experiences for Extended Reality, 1st edition by Renée Stevens (Voices That Matter Series: New Riders)	33
Education & Teaching / Preschool, Pre-K	33
Principals as Early Learning Leaders: Effectively Supporting Our Youngest Learners (Early Childhood Education Series) by Julie Nicholson, Helen Maniates, Serene Yee, Thomas Williams, Jr., Veronica Ufoegbune, & Raul Erazo-Chavez (Teachers College Press)	33
Health / Psychology / Self-Help	33
The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction: A Guide to Coping with the Grief, Stress, and Anger that Trigger Addictive Behaviors, 2nd edition by Rebecca E. Williams PhD & Julie S. Kraft MA LMFT (New Harbinger Publications)	33
Law / International / Human Rights	33
The Trial of Julian Assange: A Story of Persecution by Nils Melzer (Verso Books)	33
Philosophy / TV & Film	33
Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy: That Syncing Feeling edited by Christian Cotton & Andrew M. Winters (Pop Culture and Philosophy, Vol. 2: Open Universe).....	33
Poetry / Literature & Fiction	33
I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk by Paul Zits (Brave & Brilliant Series, Vol. 23: University of Calgary Press)	33
Policy / China	33
The World According to China, 1st edition by Elizabeth C. Economy (Polity Press)	34
Policy / Global.....	34
Dismantling Global White Privilege: Equity for a Post-Western World by Chandran Nair (Berrett-Koehler Publishing, Inc.)	34
Psychology / Health & Healing / Racism.....	34
Living While Black: Using Joy, Beauty, and Connection to Heal Racial Trauma by Guilaine Kinouani (Beacon Press)	34
Religion & Spirituality	34
Imprecations in the Psalms: Love for Enemies in Hard Places by Steffen G. Jenkins (Pickwick Publications)	34
Religion & Spirituality / Activism	34

Fortune: How Race Broke My Family and the World – and How to Repair It All by Lisa Sharon Harper, with a foreword by Otis Moss III (Brazos Press)	34
Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Catholicism.....	34
Leveling the Praying Field: Can the Church We Love, Love Us Back? by Ansel Augustine (Orbis Books)	34
Religion & Spirituality / Christianity	34
A Soul Framed in Christ: Stephen Charnock on the Renewal of God's Image by Frank L. Bartoe IV, with a foreword by Joel R. Beeke (Wipf & Stock)	34
Religion & Spirituality / Historical / Puritan	34
A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life, reprint edition by J. I. Packer (Crossway)	34
Religion & Spirituality / Theology	34
A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era: Thinking and Being Otherwise by Ryan LaMothe (Cascade Books).....	34
Social Justice / Disabilities	34
Turn on the Words!: Deaf Audiences, Captions, and the Long Struggle for Access by Harry G. Lang (Gallaudet University Press)	34
Social Science / Politics / Social Justice / Latin America.....	35
After the Decolonial: Ethnicity, Gender and Social Justice in Latin America, 1st edition by David Lehmann (Polity Press).....	35

Business & Economics / Management

***Frontiers in Social Innovation: The Essential Handbook for Creating, Deploying, and Sustaining Creative Solutions to Systemic Problems* edited by Neil Malhotra (Harvard Business Review Press)**

Two decades ago, the field of social innovation was dominated by nonprofits and primarily funded through philanthropy or government aid. Over the course of these past twenty years, however, a remarkable transformation has taken place – mission-driven for-profit companies as well as newer organizational forms, like benefit corporations, have emerged as powerful drivers of social change. An increasingly diverse group of people are taking interest in becoming social innovators. As students and executives alike look to create effective solutions to the world's most complex problems, they need a handbook to help them along their way. [Frontiers in Social Innovation](#) is their new guide to changing the world.

As the extent of the world's systemic challenges becomes clear – from climate change to income inequality to food security to healthcare and beyond – more and more of the best and brightest feel called to become innovators and entrepreneurs who develop and deploy solutions to the world's thorniest problems.

But it won't be easy: social innovation is complicated. Solutions require the active collaboration of constituents across the worlds of government, business, and nonprofits. Editor Neil Malhotra is the Edith M. Cornell Professor of Political Economy at the Stanford Graduate School of Business, where he has been teaching business ethics since 2008. He is also the director of the school's Center for Social Innovation.

In [Frontiers in Social Innovation](#), contributions from a who's who of the smartest thinkers and most experienced practitioners in the field provide the knowledge readers need to succeed as social innovators. Case studies from the field bring to life the challenges and opportunities social entrepreneurs and innovators face. While the field of social innovation has become more disciplined over time, readers will find the book centers itself around a few major topics that remain up for discussion.

[Frontiers in Social Innovation](#) is broken out into four sections, each filled with essays from leading academics, practitioners, thinkers, and leaders. Readers follow a logical progression from foundational material and frameworks to tactics and case studies. Highlights of each section include:

Foundations. "Renewing Social Entrepreneurship" explores how the next generation of change makers can meet the challenges of today. "High-Performance Leadership" dives into the skills and qualities that drive impact at scale.

Metrics and Models. In "Measuring Corporate Virtue and Vice," Paul Brest and Colleen Honigsberg suggest a comprehensive framework for trustworthy ESG reporting. Are there tools that might help maximize the efficacy, financial sustainability, and scalability of social enterprises? "The Impact Triangle" closes this section by delving into this question.

Learning and Incubating. Bernadette Clavier spotlights key impact and leadership frameworks for the professional development of aspiring social innovators in "Social Impact Leadership Development."

Applications. "Disrupting Education" looks at a few examples of how social entrepreneurs are bringing together the future of education and the future of work. "Human and Planetary Health" is a timely examination of the challenges of the Covid-19 pandemic and a new frontier for social innovation.

[Frontiers in Social Innovation](#) arrives just in time as we confront the challenges facing a world recovering from the pandemic. This comprehensive, solutions-focused collection addresses the critical themes that leaders in all fields must tackle – whether they're social entrepreneurs, impact investors, nonprofit leaders, or corporate executives – as they pursue opportunities to shape innovations that will benefit society. – Darren Walker, President, Ford Foundation

As leaders from all backgrounds set out to tackle the myriad of complex challenges facing society, it is essential that we think critically about the trends and opportunities that social innovation provides. This book does so powerfully, through chapters written not only by some of the social impact field's leading scholars but also by the growing roster of stakeholders and practitioners from across sectors looking to drive social change. A go-to resource for seasoned entrepreneurs and aspiring change makers alike. – Jacqueline Novogratz, founder and CEO, Acumen

With change (and interconnection) both escalating exponentially, big-scale social change making must grow even faster. Social sector employment is already one-third bigger than all of government, and it is the fastest-growing part of society. This remarkable book wrestles thoughtfully and clearly with how this giant effort can best be designed and sustained. – Bill Drayton, founder and CEO, Ashoka

Essential reading, full of valuable insights and experiences for social innovators aspiring to achieve real change. – Sir Ronald Cohen, Chairman, Global Steering Group, Impact Investment

[Frontiers in Social Innovation](#) is an essential volume for anyone who wants to use innovation and entrepreneurship to make the world a better place. Brimming with contributions from some of the world's smartest thinkers and most experienced practitioners, [Frontiers in Social Innovation](#) serves as required reading for becoming a change maker. The handbook provides both existing essential knowledge and a discussion of today's foremost issues around social innovation, making it suitable for newcomers and veterans alike.

Computers & Internet / Virtual Reality

Designing Immersive 3D Experiences: A Designer's Guide to Creating Realistic 3D Experiences for Extended Reality, 1st edition by Renée Stevens (Voices That Matter Series: New Riders)

[Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#) helps visual designers move into the fast-growing fields of 3D and extended reality (XR) design. Author Renée Stevens introduces a proven approach and an effective design-thinking process that readers can use to create successful immersive user experiences.

Stevens is an interactive and immersive designer and educator. She is the founder of the XR tech startup, tagAR. For more than a decade she has run her own interactive design studio consulting and designing on XR projects and working as a motion designer for Forbes. Stevens teaches at the S. I. Newhouse School of Public Communications at Syracuse University, where she is the Associate Chair of the Visual Communications Department, overseeing the undergraduate and graduate design programs.

[Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#) prepares visual designers to succeed with 3D and XR design in multiple environments, from mobile, to web, to wearables. The book is grounded in familiar design principles and explores how readers can build on these foundations, adapting them for virtual and augmented reality environments.

[Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#) begins by exploring the basics of XR and 3D immersive design, how they are evolving, and how readers may already be using them. It then moves into core concepts and technologies, from computer-human interaction, to spatial computing, to projection mapping and head-mounted displays.

Readers learn how to:

- Adapt ideation strategies for new XR and 3D projects while incorporating design-thinking strategies, balancing innovation with practicality, and keeping it all human.

- Build seamless, multi-modal, and accessible user experiences and interfaces in three dimensions.
- Harness the power of visual perception and ways to activate the senses using XR technology.
- Augment typography and create hierarchy in physical spaces that are dynamic and uncontrollable.
- Enhance the user experience using spatial audio and voice.
- Explore next steps in the industry and consider the ethical implications that come with advancement.

According to the foreword of [Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#) by John E. Ray, in a VR or mixed-reality world, the understood rules of daily life are replaced with those from a constructed reality. If we attempt to re-create the experience of drinking from a cup, how do we grasp the cup in away that feels natural? How do we let go? How do we know if the liquid is hot or cold? How do we simulate the act of drinking from the cup and indicate that the action has taken place? These are the types of mental exercises posed by Stevens in [Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#). Stevens lays out a holistic approach to extended reality development that considers factors from color palettes and lighting to sound stages and typography.

Augmented, virtual, and mixed reality: This is XR (extended reality). This technology opens a world of possibility to extend the physical spaces around us by enhancing them with digital content. In [Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#), designers, and even developers, learn how to take their traditional 2D knowledge of design and expand it into three dimensions. Designing in 3D is the future of graphic design. Understanding how to design in 3D and then transfer that knowledge into XR is essential for the designers of today and tomorrow. Interactive and product designers need to understand how to design spatially more than ever before, especially as the XR industry grows and evolves each day.

[Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#) explores a combination of technology and design principles for 3D and immersive design. The design challenge at the end of each chapter enables readers to put their new skills to work – hands on. Each challenge is created to push their design thinking in 3D space in a different way. The challenges should not take long, but each should be completed right after reading its chapter to reinforce new knowledge of the topics by using them in context. Readers start off with the basics, using paper and glue, and slowly expand to using 3D software and even launching an AR mobile experience.

Applying insights from Renee's book to our projects, we as developers and designers can begin to create the truly transformational experiences that the technology has long promised. – John E. Ray, Author and Director, Office of Research Information Systems, Ohio State University

Exceptionally well written, comprehensive, organized, and presented, [Designing Immersive 3D Experiences: A Designer's Guide to Creating Realistic 3D Experiences for Extended Reality](#) is an ideal and thoroughly 'user friendly' instruction manual. – Midwest Book Review

For individuals looking to get started in extended reality, [Designing Immersive 3D Experiences](#) provides a clear, straightforward introduction to both technology and the design considerations. For teams, the text can serve as a common reference point for treating development and design as equal partners. For professionals, this knowledge advances their current careers and expands their skill sets. For students and emerging

professionals, this allows them to enter the industry a step ahead and to remain marketable and desirable in the future. This book expands their knowledge on how design principles and theories relate to the third dimension.

Education & Teaching / Preschool, Pre-K

Principals as Early Learning Leaders: Effectively Supporting Our Youngest Learners (Early Childhood Education Series) by Julie Nicholson, Helen Maniates, Serene Yee, Thomas Williams, Jr., Veronica Ufoegbune, & Raul Erazo-Chavez (Teachers College Press)

The majority of public school principals are now required to supervise and evaluate early childhood teachers and classrooms, yet many do not have a sufficient understanding of child development and early childhood pedagogy to lead for equity. [Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#) addresses this critical gap by presenting current research on child development, an understanding of the elements of high-quality early childhood classrooms, essential information on trauma-responsive practices, and strategies for reducing bias and preventing the use of exclusionary discipline with young children. School leaders learn about the pivotal role they can play in improving equity for young children, their families, and the early childhood workforce. Each chapter includes key takeaways and central questions that can be used for individual reflection or to guide group discussions. Authentic examples, illustrations, and actionable strategies help readers to successfully implement the content in their school.

[Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#) has six authors. Julie Nicholson is professor of practice in the School of Education at Mills College. Helen Maniates is associate professor of teacher education in the School of Education at the University of San Francisco. Serene Yee is an education programs consultant for the California Department of Social Services. Thomas Williams Jr. serves as an executive strategic policy analyst in the Kentucky Department of Education's Office of Special Education and Early Learning. Veronica Ufoegbune has directed many publicly funded and non-profit early learning programs, including UC Berkeley's childcare centers. Raul Erazo-Chavez is executive director of schools and programs in the Early Education Department within the San Francisco Unified School District.

Chapter 1 of [Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#), "The Urgent Need for Principals to Become Early Learning Leaders," introduces the foundations of high-quality early childhood classrooms, including the field's increased focus on equity.

Chapter 2, "What Principals Need to Know about How Young Children Develop and Learn," discusses principles of child development and learning, including the integrated nature of young children's learning process. Popular theories and approaches that inform early childhood pedagogy are introduced.

Chapter 3, "Understanding Identity and Inclusion in Early Childhood," opens by discusses bilingual and multilingual development in early childhood. The final section focuses on young children with disabilities and developmental delays and the importance of creating inclusive environments.

Chapter 4 of [Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#), "Understanding Toxic Stress and Trauma in Early Childhood," begins with an overview of healthy versus unhealthy stress, followed by a discussion of adverse childhood experiences and trauma in young children.

Chapter 5, "Understanding Curriculum in Early Childhood," discusses the process of curriculum planning in early childhood education (ECE). Several approaches to curriculum in early childhood are introduced.

Chapter 6, "Instruction in the Early Childhood Classroom," describes the importance of individualizing instruction for young children and the range of learning formats early childhood teachers provide in preschool classrooms. It then discusses play as a primary context for teaching and learning with young children.

Chapter 7, "Creating a Caring Community of Learners," opens with an overview of the Social Emotional Foundations for Early Learning (SEFEL) Pyramid Model and the important emphasis on social-emotional learning in preschool classrooms. The chapter closes by describing the urgent need to disrupt exclusionary discipline practices in preschool classrooms.

Chapter 8, "A Closer Look at Powerful Learning in Early Childhood Classrooms," invites principals into micromoments within an early childhood learning environment to see examples of developmentally responsive curriculum and instruction in action.

Chapter 9, "Assessment in Early Childhood," describes characteristics of effective assessment environments and practices with young children. This chapter ends by describing the role of parents and families in the assessment process with young children.

[Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#):

- Supports elementary school principals to better understand the role early education plays in their school.
- Addresses essential issues of equity in all aspects of early learning programs that require focus and leadership.
- Provides current research and practical strategies that principals can put into practice immediately to be effective instructional leaders.
- Uses authentic examples and vignettes throughout to help readers see the ideas in the context of real preschool classrooms.
- Includes reflection questions and key takeaways to help principals think about how the information presented can inform the work they do.

This terrific book by Julie Nicholson and colleagues offers a guide to the critical issues of early learning that all school leaders need to know in order to effectively support young children and their families. It is particularly notable for addressing salient issues of our time – including antiracist and antibias education, culturally responsive practices, and trauma-informed practices – in the context of an inclusive community of learners informed by the science of early learning. I recommend this thorough and thoughtful text about how to support teachers to teach in the ways children learn as a must-read for school leaders. – Beverly Falk, professor and program director, Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education, The City College of New York

[Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#) includes several resources (books, videos, and websites) that principals will find helpful in learning more about early childhood. The appendices include a guide for conducting effective early learning walk-through observations and a district model for providing professional development for principals to learn about high-quality early childhood education.

Practical and comprehensive, [Principals as Early Learning Leaders](#) is essential reading for principals, vice principals, administrators, and others responsible for leading preschool and pre-K programs for equity.

Health / Psychology / Self-Help

The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction: A Guide to Coping with the Grief, Stress, and Anger that Trigger Addictive Behaviors, 2nd edition by Rebecca E. Williams PhD & Julie S. Kraft MA LMFT (New Harbinger Publications)

Readers learn to break the addiction cycle once and for all with [The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction](#) – now fully revised and updated.

Rebecca E. Williams, PhD, after more than twenty years as a clinic director at the VA San Diego Healthcare System and associate clinical professor at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine, has turned her focus to healing and empowering health care professionals through her books, podcasts, and webinars.

Julie S. Kraft, MA, LMFT was adjunct professor at the University of San Diego's School of Leadership and Education Sciences until relocating to the San Francisco Bay Area, where she is treating clients in her private practice.

Williams and Kraft say that addictive behaviors are often the result of loss – the loss of a job, the death of a loved one, or even the end of a romantic relationship. If they are like many others, they may have turned to drugs, alcohol, or other troubling behaviors to avoid the pain of loss. But this only delays the healing process, and can ultimately lead to a destructive cycle that leaves them feeling trapped.

[The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction](#) helps readers:

- Determine the function their addiction is serving.
- Develop healthy coping skills for dealing with loss.
- Accept their thoughts and emotions.
- Avoid addiction 'triggers'.
- Heal broken relationships and build a support system.

This second edition of [The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction](#) helps readers identify the root of their addictive behaviors while providing healthy coping strategies to deal with the stress, anxiety, and depression that can come from experiencing a loss. With these powerful mindfulness exercises and lifestyle tips, readers will be able to replace addictive behaviors with healthy behaviors to begin healing.

We combed through stacks of addiction workbooks before finding [The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction](#). With a blend of engaging narrative and practical tools, the authors show people that it's possible to feel and move on from years of underlying emotional trauma. With this essential manual on everyday mindful living, thousands have found satisfaction and sustained recovery through newfound self-acceptance and emotional intelligence. – Daniel Manson, CATC and CATC-CS, president of Elevate Addiction Services

Warm, practical, and relatable, this guide to recovery is loaded with proven strategies to manage the emotional pain that drives addiction. It's an indispensable tool for those struggling with addictive behaviors, their loved ones, and their treatment providers. –

Yael Schonbrun, PhD, assistant professor at Brown University, and cohost of the Psychologists Off the Clock podcast

This book represents an essential journey to a deeper understanding and healing from addiction. Step by step, it masterfully takes you through this process in a way only someone with extensive clinical experience treating addiction can provide. It is simple to follow with insightful exercises, and stays true to the science behind addiction.

Whether new or experienced in recovery or mindfulness, this book will take you deeper through your healing. – Amer Raheemullah, MD, clinical assistant professor of psychiatry and behavioral sciences at Stanford University, and director of the addiction medicine consult service at Stanford Hospital

This inspired and comprehensive guidebook is the healing journey that we wish everyone struggling with addictions would have access to. Through inspirational practices, the authors engage readers to actively become part of their next-level metamorphosis. In its second edition, this guide integrates many of the traumas we recently experienced as a collective, and how we can move forward post-pandemic. This book delivers a journey toward self-understanding, self-acceptance, self-love, and transformation. – Britt Deanda and Tara Schulenberg, founders and creators of Elevate the Globe, and coauthors of Good Morning Intentions

This masterfully designed workbook distills proven strategies and interventions from multiple schools of psychotherapy into a holistic and practical guide that is sure to be a powerful catalyst for recovery. Guided by the trusted wisdom of experienced and hope-inspiring clinicians, the reader will learn to transform their relationship with their emotions and resolve the painful losses that are so often at the root of addictions. –

Dimitri Perivoliotis, PhD, psychologist at the VA San Diego Healthcare System; associate professor of psychiatry at the University of California, San Diego School of Medicine
Addictive behaviors thrive during times of grief, stress, and anger. The authors have created an excellent, easy-to-follow guide for dealing with these difficult emotions, making it perfect even if your feelings are running high and your addicted mind is running amuck. In this practical road map, you will find helpful exercises to develop the mindfulness skills needed to cope with these challenging emotions and overcome any barriers life throws at you. – Duane Osterlind, LMFT, CSAT, host of The Addicted Mind podcast, and founder of Novus Mindful Life Institute

Using insightful exercises and practical, real-life examples, Rebecca Williams and Julie Kraft lay a solid and accessible foundation for using mindfulness and inquiry to help us heal from addiction. – Katy Cryer, MS, author of Yoga for Addiction

No matter the loss, the mindfulness skills in [The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction](#) allow readers to process their grief and replace their addiction with healthy coping behaviors. A great addition for anyone seeking recovery and well as those experienced in mindfulness and recovery.

Law / International / Human Rights

The Trial of Julian Assange: A Story of Persecution by Nils Melzer (Verso Books)

[The Trial of Julian Assange](#) is the shocking story of the legal persecution of Wikileaks founder Julian Assange and the dangerous implications for the whistleblowers of the future.

In July 2010, Wikileaks published Cablegate, one of the biggest leaks in the history of the US military, including evidence for war crimes and torture. In the aftermath Julian Assange, the founder and spokesman of Wikileaks, found himself at the center of a media storm, accused of hacking and later sexual assault. He spent the next seven years in asylum in the Ecuadorian embassy in London, fearful that he would be extradited to Sweden to face the accusations of assault and then sent to US. In 2019, Assange was handed over to the British police and, on the same day, the US demanded his extradition. They threatened him with up to 175 years in prison for alleged espionage and computer fraud.

As told in [The Trial of Julian Assange](#), at this point, Nils Melzer started his investigation into how the US and UK governments were working together to ensure a conviction. Melzer, born in 1970, is a Swiss academic, author and advocate in international law, human rights and security policy. In 2016, the United Nations Human Rights Council appointed him the UN Special Rapporteur on Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Melzer's findings are explosive, revealing that Assange has faced grave and systematic due process violations, judicial bias, collusion and manipulated evidence. He has been the victim of constant surveillance, defamation and threats. Melzer also gathered together and consolidated medical evidence that proves that Assange has suffered prolonged psychological torture.

Melzer's compelling investigation puts the UK and US state into the dock, showing how, through secrecy, impunity and, crucially, public indifference, unchecked power reveals a deeply undemocratic system. Furthermore, the Assange case sets a dangerous precedent: once telling the truth becomes a crime, censorship and tyranny will inevitably follow.

[The Trial of Julian Assange](#) is told in three parts: the first explores Melzer's own story about how he became involved in the case and why Assange's case falls under his mandate as the Special Rapporteur on Torture. The second section returns to 2010 when Wikileaks released the largest leak in the history of the U.S. military, exposing war crimes and corruption, and Melzer makes the case that Swedish authorities manipulated charges against Assange to force his extradition to the US and publicly discredit him. In the third section, he returns to 2019 and picks up the case as Ecuador kicks Assange out of the embassy and lays out the case as it currently stands, as well as the stakes involved for other potential whistleblowers trying to serve the public interest. *This extraordinary and very disturbing book details how 4 national governments (and a lot of journalists) conspired to put Julian Assange away – at whatever cost to justice it might entail. Nils Melzer surgically takes apart the so-called evidence in the case against Assange, shows how legal process was consistently used to incriminate him and yet always denied when it might have led to his acquittal. This international vendetta continues to this day, and Assange – still untried for any crime whatsoever – remains a prisoner in Belmarsh. This is surely one of the most flagrant and shameful miscarriages of justice of our times. – Brian Eno*

This is a harrowing account of a corruption of justice that crosses not only borders, but the United Nations itself. Melzer's work is an urgent corrective to a false history – and an act of public service. – Edward Snowden

Politically motivated and unjustified, the prosecution of Julian Assange by a mature democracy threatens and undermines press freedom, the rule of law, and the prohibition of torture. By painstakingly and rigorously documenting the facts, Nils Melzer

reveals the full disturbing account of how the human rights of Julian Assange have been violated over years. It's a story that must be told and from which we all must learn. – Agnes Callamard, Secretary-General, Amnesty International, former UN Rapporteur on Torture

A stunning account on how official secrecy, corruption and impunity suffocate the truth and poison the rule of law. The present-day prosecution of Julian Assange aims to complete what Richard Nixon tried and failed to do in the Pentagon Papers case fifty years ago: rescind the foundation of our republic, the First Amendment protection of freedom of the press. As Melzer argues compellingly, nothing less than our continued status as a democracy is at stake in the need to block Assange's extradition, drop the unconstitutional charges against him, or if necessary, win his acquittal. It is the legal scandal of the century. – Daniel Ellsberg, whistleblower, the Pentagon Papers

It is as if all the Anglo-American frustrations over the disasters of Iraq, Trump and a teetering Washington political system have become concentrated in official hatred of one man: Julian Assange. This dissident faces a 175 year sentence but the soldiers who shot dead innocent Iraqi civilians – the war crime he exposed and is facing extradition for – are escaping even an investigation. The ferocious cruelty summoned for pursuit of Assange is anatomised here by Nils Melzer who implies a question that should chill us: Assange now, who next? – Bob Carr, former Australian foreign minister and longest serving Premier of New South Wales

The most compelling case yet made for Assange's defence and a swingeing indictment of politicians, security services and judicial authorities

... [Melzer] marshal[s] a wealth of detail and legal evidence to make his case. – Mary Dejevsky, *Independent*

Detailed and methodical, [The Trial of Julian Assange](#) documents the shocking facts and demonstrates conclusively why we must protect freedom of the press.

Philosophy / TV & Film

Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy: That Syncing Feeling edited by Christian Cotton & Andrew M. Winters (Pop Culture and Philosophy, Vol. 2: Open Universe)

In [Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy](#), Christian Cotton and Andrew M. Winters explore deep philosophical issues raised in *Neon Genesis Evangelion*.

Cotton is an independent scholar and freelance author. He has taught philosophy and religious studies at Piedmont College and the University of Georgia. Winters teaches philosophy and religious studies at Yavapai College. [Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy](#) is Volume 2 in the series, *Pop Culture and Philosophy*, with series editor George A. Reisch.

On the surface, it's a story about badass teens who pilot colossal intelligent rockets to defend Earth from destruction by pitiless Angels. Looking deeper, *Neon Genesis Evangelion* is a profound examination of depression, despair, resilience, and purpose, in the teeth of life's ineluctable futility.

When most people think of anime, they think of large-eyed adolescents fighting fearsome monsters (kaijū). *Neon Genesis Evangelion* is just the same, filled with destructive explosions and gigantic EVA missiles that can only be piloted by super-hot

teens. But as every otaku knows, anime as a stylized artform has much more to offer, often pushing the artistic, emotional, and intellectual boundaries of its audiences with its storylines. *Neon Genesis Evangelion* is one such anime: beyond the fearsome monsters and Evangelions, *Neon Genesis* explores the depths of the psyches of the adolescents when they become the very weapons needed to destroy the onslaught of Angels. The emotional complexities of the show make *Neon Genesis Evangelion* an emotional and intellectually challenging anime to watch. Fortunately, many of us do not undergo as extreme experiences as those facing Shinji, Rei, and Asuka. But many of us do face tragedies that prompt us to ask questions about our own existence, how to live, and how to relate to others.

While those not familiar with anime may be surprised, entwined in such shows as Neon Genesis are deeply philosophical issues. And now, with [Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy](#), those concepts can be properly exposed and explored. This book brings to light such themes as meaning, obligation, identity, and so much, more, and it does so in a way that is philosophically rigorous but also accessible and relevant to our own lives. Fans of Neon Genesis will enjoy this as it makes the show, and our own lives, richer – Jack Bowen, author of *The Dream Weaver: One Boy's Journey through The Landscape of Reality*

To any real otaku, this is a great book, but as someone who more than delves into artificial intelligence, any chance to talk about giant machines that seem to have minds of their own is a chance I will surely take! – Robert Arp, Instructor in Artificial Intelligence, US Army, and editor of *1001 Ideas that Changed the Way We Think*

Is Neon Genesis Evangelion a cure for the despair and loneliness that is our sickness unto death? If you're like Shinji, then [Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy](#) is here to show you why. From the fragility of truth to the power of wishful thinking, the authors pilot their philosophical EVAs to battle the ignorance that keeps us apart, while enlightening readers on how to break down their own walls of fear and loneliness. – Courtland Lewis, author of *The Real Meaning of Doctor Who*

[Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy](#) encourages readers to take a moment to explore the wide range of philosophical topics found within the anime to challenge and encourages them to reflect on who they are and how to live with others.

Poetry / Literature & Fiction

***I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk* by Paul Zits (Brave & Brilliant Series, Vol. 23: University of Calgary Press)**

[I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk](#) is a work of poetry by Paul Zits.

Zits is a Calgary-based poet and teacher. He is the author of *Exhibit*, which won the Robert Kroetch Award for Poetry, *Massacre Street*, winner of the Stephan G. Stephansson Award for Poetry, and *Leap-Seconds*, winner of the Robert Kroetch Award for Innovative Poetry.

He has outlived his usefulness. He is stressed, over-produced, and in crisis. He is searching for a role in modern society. So he is turning to Benedict Cumberbatch, green nylon bombers, and *Rambo: First Blood Part II*. He is turning to GQ, graphic knits, and Idris Elba. He is practicing his faces, his trances, his channeling, and his shopping. He is looking for something to impress, for a statement, for the suit with a reservoir of potential. He is dressing to out-alpha them all, and he is falling short.

[I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk](#) interrogates restrictive masculinity, pulling away at our held beliefs to expose their fragile but persistent constructions. These poems challenge the standards of the masculine convention, and the various media that help sculpt our expectations, tirelessly telling men how to feel, how to think, how to dress, what to drive, and how to identify.

These poems speak with candid intimacy, delivering a perceptive critique with sensitivity and humor. Unafraid of taboos, they display the power of tradition and conformity, the damage of ignoring mental health, and the ways masculinity can be twisted and weaponized.

Paul Zits writes a commentary of the modern age with subtlety and smoke and mirrors. In [I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk](#) we get a Columbo on Instagram and in sweatpants, with a cigar transformed into a metaphorical device. – Frank G. Karioris, University of Pittsburgh

A fascinating exploration of masculinity and its many varieties, from the seemingly normal and uninteresting to those forms that are toxic and damaging. Playful, striking, and eminently readable. – Jonathan A. Allan, Brandon University

[I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk](#) is a nuanced exploration of modern masculinity and a warning of the dangers that persist when the commodification of gender goes unchecked.

It is volume 3 in the *Brave & Brilliant Series*.

Policy / China

The World According to China, 1st edition by Elizabeth C. Economy (Polity Press)

An economic and military superpower with 20 percent of the world's population, China has the wherewithal to transform the international system. Xi Jinping's bold calls for China to "lead in the reform of the global governance system" suggest that he has just such an ambition. But how does he plan to realize it? And what does it mean for the rest of the world?

In [The World According to China](#), Elizabeth C. Economy reveals China's ambitious new strategy to reclaim the country's past glory and reshape the geostrategic landscape in dramatic new ways.

Economy, on leave from her position as senior fellow at the Hoover Institution, Stanford University, is Senior Advisor (for China) to the Secretary of Commerce. Previously she was C.V. Starr Senior Fellow and Director for Asia Studies at the Council on Foreign Relations. *Politico Magazine* has named her one of "The 10 Names That Matter on China Policy."

According to Economy in [The World According to China](#), Xi's vision is one of Chinese centrality on the global stage, in which the mainland has realized its sovereignty claims over Hong Kong, Taiwan, and the South China Sea, deepened its global political, economic, and security reach through its grand-scale Belt and Road Initiative, and used its leadership in the United Nations and other institutions to align international norms and values, particularly around human rights, with those of China. It is a world radically different from that of today. The international community needs to understand and respond to the great risks, as well as the potential opportunities, of a world rebuilt by China.

authoritative – *The Observer*

Economy has written a deeply informed book that serves as a wake-up call to the United States and the world. – Washington Post

Economy's book is superb. It is well-written, well-researched, and notably balanced in its presentation of China's policies and the effects of these policies' implementation. – Joshua Huminski, The Diplomatic Courier

[The World According to China](#) is the best book I've read on the country's push for a new Sino-centric world order. In one accessible work the reader gets a thorough and balanced understanding across multiple regions and domains. – Bookish Asia
Extremely well informed, cogently argued and deftly structured, with intelligent prescriptions. – SupChina

In this marvelous (and sobering) book, Elizabeth Economy dissects China's grand strategy: a Sino-centric world order across all domains, with military and power projection to match. Western bromides will not counter China's determination. – Charlene Barshefsky, Chair, Parkside Global Advisors and Former US Trade Representative

*If you want to understand the most important competition of this century, read [The World According to China](#). Elizabeth Economy illuminates the Chinese Communist Party's grand ambition and forces us to confront the reality that if it succeeds, our world will be less free, less prosperous, and less safe. – H.R. McMaster, author of *Dereliction of Duty* and *Battlegrounds: The Fight to Defend the Free World**

*In this brilliant, urgent analysis, Elizabeth Economy proves once again why she is one of the most important scholars of China in a generation. With a penetrating vision for the motives obscured by the official boilerplate, she makes a convincing case for the degree to which China seeks to transform the international system. – Evan Osnos, author of *Age of Ambition*, winner of the National Book Award*

This is a well-researched and cogently written book that explains how China under Xi Jinping engages the world. It provides a convincing account of how China uses all means available, conventional and unconventional, to make China great again. – Steve Tsang, SOAS China Institute

*Having long revered Elizabeth Economy's China expertise, I had lofty expectations. After reading this book, my admiration for her only amplified. Thoroughly researched, Economy's analysis of Xi's – and thus China's – view of the world both engages and educates. A must-read! – Chris Fenton, author of *Feeding the Dragon**

Employing her trademark thoroughness, clarity, and insight, Elizabeth Economy probes deeply into China's ambitions and actions to reorder the world order. Business leaders must read this book as inducing and coercing multinationals to go along is an indispensable part of China achieving success. – James McGregor, Chairman of Greater China for APCO Worldwide

Elizabeth Economy is one of the world's most astute interpreters of contemporary China. Here she examines domestic and international politics under Xi Jinping to explain why a more assertive and powerful China will raise questions that the west must urgently answer. Essential reading for all those who need to understand today's China. – Rana Mitter, University of Oxford

[The World According to China](#) captures effectively the range of challenges contemporary China poses for the international order. Engaging and incisive, the patterns of behavior it reveals provide much-needed insight into the nature of China's

current and future role on the global stage. – Robert Sutter, George Washington University

Urgent questions are raised in [The World According to China](#). Economy engages and educates, forcing readers to understand and confront China's ambition.

Policy / Global

Dismantling Global White Privilege: Equity for a Post-Western World by Chandran Nair (Berrett-Koehler Publishing, Inc.)

[Dismantling Global White Privilege](#) is, in the best sense, a revolutionary book. A few years back, the title alone would have made that clear, but now, deceptively, the title may lead readers to think it is another of the books about race relations in the West. It is not.

White privilege damages and distorts societies around the world, not just in the United States. [Dismantling Global White Privilege](#) exposes its pervasive global reach and creates a new space for discourse on worldwide racial equality.

As Chandran Nair shows in this new book, a belief in the innate superiority of White people and Western culture, once the driving force behind imperialism, is now woven into the very fabric of globalization. It is so insidious that, as Nair points out, even many non-White people have internalized it, judging themselves by an alien standard. It has no rival in terms of longevity, global reach, harm done, and continuing subversion of other cultures and societies.

Chandran Nair is the founder and CEO of the Global Institute for Tomorrow, an independent pan-Asian think tank.

In [Dismantling Global White Privilege](#), Nair takes a look at the destructive influence of global White privilege. He examines its impact on geopolitics, the reframing of world history, and international business practices. In the soft-power spheres of White privilege – entertainment, the news media, sports, and fashion – he offers example after example of how White cultural products remain the aspirational standard. Even environmentalism has been corrupted, dominated by a White savior mentality whereby technologies and practices built in the West will save the supposedly underdeveloped, poorly governed, and polluted non-Western world.

For all these areas, Nair gives specific suggestions for breaking the power of White privilege. It must be dismantled – not just because it is an injustice but also because we will be creating a post-Western world that has less conflict, is more united, and is better able to respond to the existential challenges facing all of us.

[Dismantling Global White Privilege](#) focuses primarily on the global level, though several of the cultural elements have implications for other levels of change as well. It examines the manifestations of global White privilege in several critical spheres of global society and culture: economic policies, political systems, cultural priorities, environmental agendas, and social foundations. Nine key areas are discussed in individual chapters to exemplify the contemporary process of the perpetuation of White Western economic power, how this has given birth to White privilege, how White privilege causes harm across the world, and therefore why it must be dismantled and how.

Chapters One through Three deal with the broadest and most institutionalized expressions of White privilege: geopolitics and world order, the reframing of world history, and international business practices.

Chapters Four and Five deal with how narratives of White privilege are disseminated and perpetuated across generations through the media and the education system.

Chapters Six through Eight deal with the soft-power spheres of White privilege: entertainment, sports, and fashion.

Chapter Nine deals with a topic Nair says is close to his heart: environmental protection and sustainability.

Nair argues that the imperial age has left behind a global racial hierarchy that is still very much in place...[and] forms of white privilege continue to be built into the structure of geopolitics, international business, culture, the media, education, fashion and sport.

– Gideon Rachman, *Financial Times*

Very highly recommended as a standout blend of history and a call to action that will require much change on social, economic, and intellectual levels in order to fully address the issues of the privileged status quo that currently drives the world. – Diane Donovan, *Midwest Book Review*

With this book, Chandran Nair adds a timely, critical analysis of the impacts Western white privilege has had on the world outside the borders of the United States. Weaving together disparate threads, from apartheid South Africa to the global media system to the oligarchs of Wall Street and more, Nair dissects and exposes the system that has long benefited a minority at the expense of the rest. Chandran Nair's [Dismantling Global White Privilege](#) is more than a cri de coeur – it offers the reader a practical path forward.

– Amy Goodman, host and Executive Producer, *Democracy Now!*

The racial nature of global power has been overwhelmingly ignored. It has been so taken for granted that white people dominate virtually all areas of global power that it has come to be regarded as the natural order of things: the way the world should be and always will be. But a light is beginning to be shone on the previously invisible.

Chandran Nair's new book is a major contribution to making the invisible visible. It could hardly be more timely and deserves to be widely read. This is one of the great coming issues of our time. – Martin Jacques, bestselling author of *When China Rules the World: The End of the Western World and the Rise of a New Global Order*

White privilege is a complex and politically polarizing term that has cropped up more often in recent years as Western society at last begins – belatedly and only in part – to reckon with the toxic legacy of white supremacy. In [Dismantling Global White Privilege](#), Chandran Nair provides a readable and wide-ranging analysis of this term and the way white privilege continues to shape lives around the world. A timely work by an original thinker. – Dr. Shashi Tharoor, former Under-Secretary General, United Nations, and bestselling author of *Inglorious Empire*

This important book makes the case that 'White privilege,' 'Western privilege,' and 'Western superiority' have been used interchangeably to justify the unjustifiable – the bigoted, prejudiced, and often brutal march to dominate world resources by White colonial powers. Written by an astute observer who has lived in both worlds, it analyzes the conscious and unconscious aspects of a system that has pushed the world to the brink of disaster and must be dismantled. – John Perkins, *New York Times* bestselling author of *Confessions of an Economic Hit Man*

Comprehensive, uncompromising, each chapter in [Dismantling Global White Privilege](#) provides enough food for thought and specific areas to tackle if leaders are

serious about the issues and committed to shifting mindsets. The final chapter is a call to action in which Nair outlines practical and implementable ideas that can be seized by corporate decision-makers, multilateral agencies, and civil society leaders, drawing on examples from many spheres of globalization. It provides a list of three to five key priorities for each of these players. This list is not comprehensive, but it will identify some priorities so people can make a start.

Psychology / Health & Healing / Racism

Living While Black: Using Joy, Beauty, and Connection to Heal Racial Trauma by Guilaine Kinouani (Beacon Press)

According to research, Black people experience mental illness at the same rate as the general population, but lack of access to culturally competent care causes a disproportionate amount of suffering that has worsened during the pandemic. What resources do Black people have to help them build resilience?

Over the past fifteen years, psychologist and therapist Guilaine Kinouani has focused her research, writing, and trainings on how racism affects both physical and mental health. Kinouani, a UK-based French radical and critical psychologist of French-Congolese descent, has written [Living While Black: Using Joy, Beauty, and Connection to Heal Racial Trauma](#), a book that directly addresses Black audiences, encouraging them to learn about how unresolved racial trauma impacts aspects of everyday life. Kinouani is a senior psychologist and an adjunct professor of Black and Africana studies at Syracuse University, London. She heads Race Reflections and its academy. Kinouani fills [Living While Black](#) with case studies from her practice, personal experiences, and years of study and research to illustrate these impacts. Through detailed reflection questions, journal prompts, and self-care practices that punctuate each chapter, she brings her practice to readers and engages them in psycho-education, writing about:

- The impact the history of slavery has on Black minds and bodies.
- The intersectionality of Black shame and the manifestations of that shame in assimilation and respectability.
- The impacts racism has in Black homes, child-rearing, and in the workplace.
- The unique challenges Black individuals face in forming loving relationships.

Based on her findings, Kinouani's tried-and-tested strategies help protect Black people from the harmful effects of verbal, physical, and structural racism. Grounded in the Black tradition of radical self-care, [Living While Black](#) empowers readers to adopt day-to-day wellness tools to process and heal from racial trauma. Focusing on the diverse, global experiences of Black people, Kinouani in [Living While Black](#) offers expert guidance on how to set boundaries and process micro-aggressions, protect children from racism, handle difficult race-based conversations, navigate the complexities of Black love, and identify and celebrate the wins.

[Living While Black](#) concludes with a comprehensive glossary of terms and an exhortation to 'thrive while Black' through acts of personal resistance such as self-compassion, spirituality, music, and connection with others.

The boldest book on Blackness I have read. The writing is revelatory, necessary, and brilliant. I haven't felt this seen by a text before. – Candice Carty-Williams, author of *Queenie*

[Living While Black](#) is an empowering, inspiring, and much-needed work that unapologetically centers Black joy, healing, and resistance. Kinouani unveils how white supremacy harms Black bodies and psyches, and provides a road map to overcoming racial trauma. This book will change and save lives. – Crystal M. Fleming, sociologist and author of *Rise Up! How You Can Join the Fight Against White Supremacy*

An incisive and important book that will change the way you think. – Nikesh Shukla, editor of *The Good Immigrant* and author of *Brown Baby*

Speaking to those of us harmed most directly by racism, Kinouani lovingly operationalizes what healing can actually look like and reminds us that not only is joy possible in the face of racial trauma but that it is absolutely necessary for our healing. – Yaba Blay, author of *One Drop: Shifting the Lens on Race*

I have followed Guilaine for years on social media precisely because of her passionate persistence in breaking open the falsely presented 'impenetrable' nature of how race and mental health interact. This will be a book that I read, recommend, and refer to for years to come. I'm in awe. – Kelechi Okafor, host of *Say Your Mind* podcast

With clarity and compassion, Guilaine Kinouani testifies to realities the mental health system has long ignored and denied. This is a must-read for all who profess to be trained in and care about healing. – Robin DiAngelo, *New York Times* best-selling author of *White Fragility*

A vital resource and powerful book – an unmissable read for everyone. – Julia Samuel, author of *This Too Shall Pass* and *Grief Works*

With the continued rise in prominence of far-right ideologies and the increase of racist hate crimes, [Living While Black](#) is both timely and instrumental in moving conversations from defining racism for non-Black majorities to focusing on healing and nurturing the mental health of those facing prejudice, discrimination, and the lasting effects of the violence of white supremacy.

Religion & Spirituality

***Imprecations in the Psalms: Love for Enemies in Hard Places* by Steffen G. Jenkins (Pickwick Publications)**

The gap between the New Testament and the Imprecatory (cursing) Psalms is less than people think. When faced with prayers against enemies in the Psalms, many people are too quick to assume that these Old Testament authors were ignorant of some basic New Testament ethics. They are self-righteous, thinking they have earned God's favor. They don't know that the wicked can repent and be forgiven. They believe in vengeance and hating their enemies. According to Stephen G. Jenkins in [Imprecations in the Psalms](#), these people assume wrongly.

Jenkins is lecturer in biblical studies at Union School of Theology, prior to which he served as a seminary lecturer in Cuba, a minister in England, and Tutor for biblical languages at Tyndale House, Cambridge.

According to [Imprecations in the Psalms](#), many will grant the cleft between the Psalms and the New Testament, and say that it is only to be expected. The events and teaching of the New Testament ought to have improved on the ethics of the psalms. The legalism and exceptionalism of the Old Testament does lead to delusions of self-righteousness, earned merit before God, and superiority over the enemy. They could not have known better this side of the cross of Jesus. Similarly, there was no way for

someone like David, born before the age of the gospel, to know that the wicked are redeemable. If he had no notion that the enemy could repent, he had no way of asking for the end of evil than to ask for the destruction of evildoers. Not having seen the example of the Christ, but living in a world where the friend is to be loved but the enemy is to be hated, how could the authors of psalms be expected to love their enemies, or to have known to pray for God to forgive and bless the wicked who troubled them?

A different tack would treat these prayers as only ever appropriate to Jesus, since he is sinless. Their time will come at the end of the age, when there is no more opportunity to repent but judgment finally arrives.

Responses such as these make common assumptions about the Old Testament which need to be investigated. In the Psalms, especially in the most brutal psalms that deal with enemies in very honest ways, [Imprecations in the Psalms](#) tests these presuppositions about the Old Testament:

1. Do prayers against enemies require perfect righteousness?
2. Alternatively, do such prayers stem from a deluded self-righteousness, which is unaware of the supplicant's own need for mercy and forgiveness?
3. Is suffering a sufficient qualification for praying against enemies?
4. Do the psalms understand that the enemy is able to repent, or do they imagine that they can only ask for the destruction of the enemy?
5. Do the psalms have any notion of loving the enemy, desiring their blessing, or do they simply demand vengeance?

After a brief survey of the responses to these prayers in the Psalms, [Imprecations in the Psalms](#) introduces the art of reading a psalm within its context in the Book of Psalms. Jenkins then examines the introduction to the Book of Psalms (Pss 1 and 2) and see that it already begins to overturn some of these assumptions. For example, Ps 2 clearly indicates that the enemy can and must repent. They are redeemable.

Readers see in Ps 3 that David is introduced at the most sinful point of his career and embattled with a wicked enemy. He is presented as a type of Israel in exile, embattled by Babylon. David serves as a model for individuals and for the nation of how to respond in prayer when faced by vindictive, wicked, and murderous enemies. Already Ps 3, shows that he is well aware of his own guilt and the opposite of self-righteous. When given victory over his enemies, he foregoes not only vengeance but even justice, and instead desires their blessing. David is presented in the psalms in the aftermath of his disgraceful incident with Bathsheba and Uriah, where David himself understands his sin to be a total apostasy, on a par with Israel turning from Yahweh to the golden calf. As representative king, his sin is equivalent to that of the nation. The same astonishing mercy which Yahweh showed to Israel in Exod 34 is what David has experienced, and psalms which appeal to it are strategically placed in every book of the Psalter.

Book I of [Imprecations in the Psalms](#) examines imprecations in Pss 7 and 18, in their context. Readers find that each of the assumptions above about the pre- and/or sub-Christian Old Testament are ill-founded.

David's example in his prayers of Book I and the way that he is introduced by the Book of Psalms is picked up in Book V, which looks back on the brutal experience of the Babylonian invasion and exile. David is enlisted as the representative of the nation, who prayed about enemies in analogous situations, such as his flight from Absalom. Absalom sinfully attacked him, as Babylon did Israel. Absalom and Babylon were God's chosen agents of righteous judgment against sinful David/Israel. A prophetic oracle declared

that the sinful agents would be overthrown and that sinful David/Israel would be rescued. How should Israel think and pray about Babylon and about such cobelligerents as Edom? David's prayers show the way to appropriate Ps 137, where Edom and Babylon are in focus after the end of exile.

[Imprecations in the Psalms](#) examines every imprecation in Book V. David teaches the nation that their sin makes them entirely reliant on that undeserved mercy. There is no room for self-righteousness. David shows Israel that those who have received mercy must show it to others; why should wicked nations not experience the blessings that wicked Israel enjoyed? In fact, Book V builds up a growing chorus of calls to all the nations to join Israel in celebrating the mercy that Yahweh offers promiscuously to all. Not only can the wicked nations repent and be redeemed, but they also are encouraged to do so.

There are few 'eureka' moments in Psalms studies, but Steffen Jenkins has found one! The problem of retribution, especially the pesky imprecations ('curses'), has been a sore spot in biblical theology for centuries.... Jenkins, powered by a canonical approach, argues that David, in book 5, ... has become the master teacher of how to pray for Israel and the nations, both objects of Yahweh's undeserved 'steadfast love and plenteous redemption.' – C. Hassell Bullock, Wheaton College (IL), emeritus

Steffen Jenkins has produced a fresh and stimulating analysis of the Imprecatory Psalms that will greatly aid academics and students for years to come as they explore this difficult portion of the Psalter. – Jonathan Gibson, Westminster Theological Seminary I am delighted to commend enthusiastically Steffen Jenkins's study on the imprecatory psalms. Steffen's commitment to the absolute trustworthiness of God's word shines through his insightful and always engaging exposition of this often much abused portion of Scripture. Jenkins writes not only with academic care but also with pastoral sensitivity. I look forward to more coming from his pen (or computer). – Ian Hamilton, Westminster Presbyterian Theological Seminary

Who hasn't wondered about why the imprecatory psalms are in the Bible?... Were the people who prayed them self-righteous or deluded? Were they unaware of the call to love one's enemies? Did they think they could simply say anything because they were suffering? Did they lack any idea of enemies turning to God? Jenkins shows that the answer to all these questions is no! – John Goldingay, Fuller Seminary, emeritus Imprecations in the Psalms have long posed a critical problem in their interpretation. Where the dominant approach in recent decades has been to look behind each individual poem, Steffen Jenkins suggests we look instead at the Psalter, which provides the context for interpretation. He shows that the final form of the Psalter provides the guardrails which guide how we are to read these prayers. This is a crucial work that will need to be considered by all who wrestle with this issue. – David G Firth, Trinity College, Bristol

In line with the righteous man of psalm 1, Steffen Jenkins has clearly spent long hours meditating day and night on the Psalter, and among the fruits of this are a significant number of astute and important observations about the shape of the Psalter. He makes a case that needs to be heard that there are signs of careful arrangement of the Psalter and that this contributes to how we should understand imprecatory psalms. I would be very glad to see his research disseminated more widely. – Peter J. Williams, Tyndale House, Cambridge

Fresh and stimulating, with careful analysis throughout, [Imprecations in the Psalms](#) makes an important contribution to theology and ethics.

Fortune: How Race Broke My Family and the World – and How to Repair It All by Lisa Sharon Harper, with a foreword by Otis Moss III (Brazos Press)

Extraordinary.... Let this story of family, race, and resistance create anger in your spirit and ultimately inspire your heart to join the work to heal our nation and eventually our world. – Otis Moss III (from the foreword)

Drawing on her lifelong journey to know her family's history, leading Christian activist Lisa Sharon Harper in [Fortune](#) recovers the beauty of her heritage, exposes the brokenness that race has wrought in America, and casts a vision for collective repair.

Harper is the founder of Freedom Road, a consulting group dedicated to shrinking the narrative gap. A sought-after speaker, trainer, and consultant with more than 100,000 social media followers, Harper has written several books. Harper previously served as chief church engagement officer at Sojourners, where she mobilized the church to engage campaigns on immigration reform and racial justice.

Harper has spent three decades researching ten generations of her family history through DNA research, oral histories, interviews, and genealogy. Fortune, the name of Harper's first non-indigenous ancestor born on American soil, bore the brunt of the nation's first race, gender, and citizenship laws. As Harper traces her family's story through succeeding generations, she shows how American ideas, customs, and laws robbed her ancestors – and the ancestors of so many others – of their humanity and flourishing.

[Fortune](#) helps readers understand how America was built upon systems and structures that blessed some and cursed others, allowing Americans of European descent to benefit from the colonization, genocide, enslavement, rape, and exploitation of people of color. As Harper lights a path through national and religious history, she clarifies exactly how and when the world broke and shows the way to redemption for all. [Fortune](#) culminates with a powerful and compelling vision of truth telling, reparation, and forgiveness that leads to Beloved Community. It includes a foreword by Otis Moss III, illustrations, and a glossy eight-page black-and-white insert featuring photos of Harper's family.

Nothing less than an epic and true story of race, religion, history, and identity. – Jemar Tisby, New York Times bestselling author of The Color of Compromise and How to Fight Racism

Harper is one of our nation's most critical voices on the issues of race, gender, faith, and justice. – Kirsten Powers, New York Times bestselling author, CNN senior political analyst, and USA Today columnist

Brilliant. – Rev. Dr. William J. Barber II, president, Repairers of the Breach; author of We Are Called to Be a Movement

Lisa tells the whole truth of our historical existence as a nation built upon racist structures, ideologies, and laws. – Jen Hatmaker, New York Times bestselling author, speaker, and host of the For the Love podcast

Harper has the rare gift of speaking honestly in ways that remind you of Tom Skinner, and of speaking intimately in ways that remind you of Maya Angelou. – Willie James

Jennings, professor, Yale Divinity School

Harper is a masterful storyteller. – Ruby Sales, founder of the Spirithouse Project, long distance runner for justice, social critic, popular educator, and Black folk theologian

A fantastic read and an important work in America's search for her authentic self. –

Mitch Landrieu, former mayor of New Orleans; founder of E Pluribus Unum

An epic and true story of race, religion, history, and identity, [Fortune](#) recovers the beauty of Harper's heritage, exposes the brokenness that race has wrought in America, and casts a vision for collective repair.

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Catholicism

Leveling the Praying Field: Can the Church We Love, Love Us Back? by Ansel Augustine (Orbis Books)

Ansel Augustine's book is a love letter that contains some hard truths. But he offers it with the same hope that has sustained Black Catholics through our journey in and with this Church.... We trust that God can open the eyes of our fellow believers so that one day they will recognize the Real Presence of Christ in Black and Brown bodies. – from the Foreword by Bryan N. Massingale

In [Leveling the Praying Field](#), Ansel Augustine offers a personal and historical perspective on issues of race and inequality in the church.

Augustine, D. Min has worked in ministry for over 20 years with a special focus on youth, young adult, and multicultural ministries. He has taught at several universities and colleges, including St John's University, NYC and worked at various dioceses including the Archdiocese of New Orleans as Director of the Office of Black Catholic Ministries.

Augustine in [Leveling the Praying Field](#) considers the challenges posed by the rise of Millennials and Gen Z, whose members increasingly consider racial equality to be one of the most important issues today. For the church, which has normally been slow to respond to racism, to be a prophetic voice among these and future generations, it must change from doing 'ministry as usual' from a Eurocentric perspective. Augustine points toward a way forward, to "level the praying field so that all have an equal opportunity in society, and we can truly be 'one body of Christ.'"

When we read this book, we are called to reflect on our true, radically-centered identity as children of God, and therefore not to be misshaped or deformed by the world's efforts to devalue or deny us our full humanity and freedom. – from the

Afterword by Bishop Fernand J. Cheri III, OFM [Leveling the Praying Field](#) calls to mind the consciousness of intentional ministry, and serves as a guide to challenge and engage God's people in a hopeful and spiritual way. – James Conway, Vice President, Catholics United for Black Lives

Dr. Augustine does an excellent job breaking down the reasons the Catholic Church needs to be engaged in the work of racial justice. He succinctly gets to the heart of a challenging issue while also providing resources and practical wisdom to do this work. This is a must read for anyone working with young people in the Catholic Church today. – Darius A. Villalobos, Director of Diversity and Inclusion, National Federation for Catholic Youth Ministry (NFCYM)

For Catholics, Augustine in [Leveling the Praying Field](#) makes the call toward racial justice and guides the way toward a more inclusive ministry.

A Soul Framed in Christ: Stephen Charnock on the Renewal of God's Image by Frank L. Bartoe IV, with a foreword by Joel R. Beeke (Wipf & Stock)

There is a particular pressing question that seems to permeate the whole of Charnock's works: "If the greatest or highest degree of excellence is found in this imitable perfection of God, this conformity to holiness, then what does this conformity look like in the soul that has been regenerated?" [A Soul Framed in Christ](#), by Frank L. Bartoe IV, undertakes a detailed analysis of the various components of Charnock's doctrine of regeneration, more specifically, the continuity in his thought working out the reality that is contained within the highest degree of excellence that is found in the imitable perfection of God.

Bartoe is an ordained Reformed Presbyterian minister.

According to Bartoe in [A Soul Framed in Christ](#), Charnock brings the whole of the image of God renewed in the soul under the microscope of Scripture to reveal the details found in the conformity to that vital principle, holiness. It especially draws from the neglected but precious discourses on regeneration found in volume 3 of Charnock's Works.

Bartoe provides precisely the fuel that many Christians need in order to push forward in sanctification. Through reintroducing us to the thought of the great Puritan Stephen Charnock, Bartoe reminds us that growth in grace is nothing less than growing in our display of the 'imitable perfections' of God. Sanctification sharpens the image of God in his people and makes us more like him! I pray this will spur many forward in lives of God-honoring holiness. – Stephen G. Myers, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

Bartoe's work is a thoroughly researched and beautifully illuminating study of a seventeenth-century Puritan divine's concept of 'continuity in conformity,' ... which might also be called sanctification Well versed not only in classic Puritan and Reformed sources but in the scholastic tradition running back through Suarez, Aquinas, and Augustine to Aristotle, Charnock is anything but narrow in scope, offering many reasons for ecumenical interest. – Philip Blosser, Sacred Heart Major Seminary

Puritan theologian Stephen Charnock is renowned for his profound exposition of theology proper: The Existence and Attributes of God. However, few have plumbed the depths of Charnock's doctrine of the imago Dei and its renewal in fallen mankind. Frank Bartoe's penetrating and erudite study is a welcome addition to the growing body of scholarly literature on Reformed orthodox thought. – Joel R. Beeke, Puritan Reformed Theological Seminary

Bartoe draws out the brilliance of Charnock, who understood better than most a balance of head and heart as seen in the doctrine of regeneration.... Reading Bartoe's work brought back wonderful memories of the amazing work of Stephen Charnock. I hope this work leads the reader to imbibe fully in Charnock's writings. Enjoy! – Larry Siekawitch, University of Northwestern

Thoroughly researched and broad in scope, [A Soul Framed in Christ](#) is a penetrating study based on Bartoe's thesis for a Master of Theology. May it prove to be an impetus for further research on Charnock's broader theology.

A Quest for Godliness: The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life, reprint edition by J. I. Packer (Crossway)

The suggestion that we need the Puritans..., with all our sophistication and mastery of technique in both secular and sacred-fields – may prompt some lifting of eyebrows.... What could these zealots give us that we need, it is asked.

The answer, in one word, is maturity. Maturity is a compound of wisdom, goodwill, resilience, and creativity. The Puritans exemplified maturity; we don't.... They were great believers, great hoppers, great doers, and great sufferers. But their sufferings, both sides of the ocean (in old England from the authorities and in New England from the elements), seasoned and ripened them till they gained a stature that was nothing short of heroic. Ease and luxury, such as our affluence brings us today, do not make for maturity; hardship and struggle however do, and the Puritans' battles against the spiritual and climatic wildernesses in which God set them produced a virility of character, undaunted and unsinkable, rising above discouragement and fears, for which the true precedents and 'models are men like Moses, and Nehemiah, and Peter after Pentecost, and the apostle Paul.' – from Chapter 2

[A Quest for Godliness](#) explores the depth and breadth of Puritan spiritual life. Drawing on a lifetime of study, J.I. Packer (1926–2020) surveys the lives and teachings of great Puritan leaders such as John Owen, Richard Baxter, and Jonathan Edwards.

Packer served as the Board of Governors' Professor of Theology at Regent College. He authored numerous books, including the classic bestseller *Knowing God*. Packer also served as general editor for the *English Standard Version Bible* and as theological editor for the *ESV Study Bible*.

Packer examines the Puritan view of the Bible, spiritual gifts, the Sabbath, worship, social action, and the family. The Puritans' faith, Packer argues, stands in marked contrast with the superficiality of modern western Christianity.

Packer says that he hopes the chapters in [A Quest for Godliness](#) will excite readers, for in them he shares discoveries that for forty years excited him. The essays are not just history and historical theology; they are themselves, in aim at least, spirituality, as much as anything else he has written; they focus on ways in which the Puritans are giants compared with us, giants whose help we need if ever we are to grow. Learning from the heroes of the Christian past is in any case an important dimension of that edifying fellowship for which the proper name is the communion of saints. According to Packer, the great Puritans, though dead, still speak to us through their writings, and say things to us that we badly need to hear at this present time.

In [A Quest for Godliness](#), J.I. Packer paints a vivid portrait of Puritans – their piety, church life, and social impulse – providing a model of passionate, holy living for today's often-complacent church. Packer's characteristically lucid style and penetrating insights into Christians of old send a vibrant challenge to those of us who follow Christ in this last decade of the twentieth century. I heartily recommend this book. – Chuck Colson

Dr. Packer has blended theology, biography, history, and practical exhortation in a book that is a delight to read. But even more, the book speaks to our contemporary church situation and causes us to search our hearts and examine our ministries.

Whether you are just getting acquainted with the Puritans or are a long-time friend, [A](#)

[Quest for Godliness](#) will instruct and inspire you. Here is solid spiritual food that contributes to maturity. – Warren W. Wiersbe

In a time of failing vision and decaying values, this powerful portrait of the Puritans is a beacon of hope that calls readers to radical commitment and action, both desperately needed today. Beautifully written, [A Quest for Godliness](#) is a moving and challenging exploration of Puritan life and thought. Here is J. I. Packer at his very best.

Religion & Spirituality / Theology

[A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era:](#)

Thinking and Being Otherwise by Ryan LaMothe (Cascade Books)

We cannot construct an eco-theology without offering a radical political theology. An ecotheology/philosophy depends on thinking and being otherwise politically. – from the book

Given the fierce urgency of now, [A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#) confronts and addresses key problems and questions of political theology with the aim of proposing a radical political theology for the Anthropocene Age. Author Ryan LaMothe invites readers to think and be otherwise in living lives in common with all other human beings and other-than-human beings that dwell on this one earth.

LaMothe is a professor of pastoral care and counseling at Saint Meinrad Seminary and School of Theology. He is the author of *Care of Souls, Care of Polis: Toward a Pastoral Political Theology*.

Chapter 1 of [A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#) is concerned with first identifying some of the problems that attend political theologizing. This is necessary to highlight the limits of inquiry, as well as inherent limits in the creation and use of concepts and theories. Once this is accomplished, LaMothe identifies and depicts two theologies that are inextricably part of Judeo-Christian scripture, namely theologies of subjugation/subordination and theologies of vulnerability. The ontological-political imperative to care, LaMothe contends, is revealed in the non-sovereign God's indeterminate, infinite love/ care in creation and of God's self-emptying and subsequent ministry and death of Jesus Christ. The remaining chapters serve to flesh out a radical political theology by addressing various dimensions and problems of political realities.

Given this chapter on sketching out a radical political theology, chapter 2 of [A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#) argues that the present and looming crises associated with climate change invite placing the issue of dwelling in the center of our political theorizing, as well as our thinking and being otherwise. The Anthropocene Age will be an era of millions upon millions of refugees seeking a home, not to mention the extinction or unhousing of millions of species. This chapter explores the issue of dwelling as it relates to political theology. This first entails addressing the notion of dwelling and identifying some of its attributes, which lays a foundation for discussing the problems of dwelling vis-a-vis political realities and the Anthropocene Age. From here LaMothe describes what he considers to be the existential roots of dwelling, namely the psychosocial, developmental experience of dwelling and the transition from this pre-political space to dwelling vis-a-vis the public political domain. This discussion provides

the foundation for returning to a theology of vulnerability as it relates to the question of dwelling and its problems.

Dwelling, as it relates to the political, confronts the issue of sovereignty, especially in Western political theologies and philosophies. In chapter 3 LaMothe provides some background on the concept of sovereignty and its attributes. This serves as a foundational step toward identifying and discussing some of the problems of sovereignty, not only with regard to other human beings, but also other species and the earth. In brief, he contends that sovereignty is not only a problem vis-a-vis human dwelling and the acceptance of the refugee, but also the dwelling of more-than-human beings and the earth as the dwelling place of all life. He shifts to an existential and theological perspective of non-sovereign relations. He then shifts to a radical political theology of a non-sovereign and non-privileging God and a non-sovereign humanity he argues that Jesus Christ's vulnerability is, in part, a revelation of a non-sovereign, non-privileging God – a God of infinite, indeterminate love for creation. Any discussion of human dwelling and sovereignty inevitably comes across the issue of human freedom, especially when we consider that human freedom is implicated in climate change. Will we freely circle the nationalistic wagons, ensuring that the exercise of freedom will foster exclusion and conflict, instead of inclusion, plurality, and cooperation? Will those specters of unfreedom – racism and classism (and other forms of marginalization) – become more virulent in an age of anxiety and scarcity? Will we continue to construct freedom to serve the interests of global capitalism at the expense of humanity, other species, and the earth? Will we see that all philosophies, theologies, and practices of freedom will turn to dust if human beings become extinct?

While these questions are daunting, says LaMothe in [A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#), a radical political theology must nevertheless undertake the effort to address freedom and political freedom, especially given that human freedom has played and continues to play a key role in climate change. Given this, chapter 4 endeavors to sketch out some of the contours or attributes of freedom and, in particular, political freedom. This sets the stage for depicting a radical political theology of freedom. As he has done in the previous chapters, this last section begins with an existential portrayal of freedom, which is followed by a theological framing of political freedom.

When we imagine the days, weeks and years ahead, we wonder about whether human beings will exercise their freedom to effect sufficient changes to alter the trajectory of climate destruction. In chapter 5, LaMothe's interest is to grasp some of the problems associated with political change, especially focusing on political violence as a method for change and for quelling change, and in so doing move toward a radical political theology of change. Toward this end, in this chapter, he begins with a brief depiction of some of the problems associated with change in the Anthropocene Age. From here, he focuses on the problem of political violence. He begins this section by arguing that from an existential developmental perspective, good-enough parents' caring actions are the foundation of developmental changes, which includes changes in relationships. He then shifts from this existential perspective to the theological, arguing that God's care, evident in the incarnation and Jesus' forgiveness of perpetrators of political violence, is a redemptive invitation to eschew political violence as a method of change, which is not necessarily to advocate for pacifism, but rather for nonviolent political actions of defiance and resistance.

The question of whether there will be sufficient changes to stem the gravitational pull of climate disaster raises the question of hope, which is apt for a concluding chapter. When it comes to the realities of the Anthropocene Age many ask what hope is there for human beings, other-than-human beings, and the earth? A political theology could provide readers with a kind of radical hope based on the Judeo-Christian scripture, but this is not the aim of the last chapter. Instead, he believes that there are problems with hope when we consider what we are facing and will face in the Anthropocene Age. This question and its answers are political, not only because the question necessarily involves people, but also because it necessarily includes other species and the earth. More specifically, a radical political theology grounded in care is an antidote to the temptation of illusory hopes, facile optimism, and despair, which arises when hopes are not realized or realizable.

To flesh out the argument in chapter 6, LaMothe first discusses, in general terms, what is meant by hope and its attributes. Since hope is always particular, it is important to also outline briefly Christian hopes. From here, he identifies some of the political problems with hope and Christian hope, such as anthropocentrism, narcissism, and megalomania. This sets the stage for framing a radical political theology in terms of existential and theological aspects of passionate and courageous care for each other, other species, and the earth, placing the issue and question of hope secondary to both motivation, action, and results. Possessing the courage to care in the face of hopelessness is a radical political act – an act we need to embrace in facing the challenges of the Anthropocene Age. In short, "This is our defiance – to practice love even in hopelessness.

[A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#) is defiantly prophetic, provocatively otherwise, extensively researched, theologically astute, and courageously hopeful – a tour de force. Readers concerned about the world's economic disparities, societal violence, political disorder, and the reality of climate change have a wise teacher in LaMothe. Be empowered into reflection, conversation, and the courage to care. – Jaco Hamman, Vanderbilt Divinity School

A profound look at what it means to hope in a loving and realistic way during the climate crisis. Careful discussions of sovereignty, dwelling, and the space of appearances add up to a political theology wise enough to face the thoroughgoing changes already upon us. – Phil Helsel, author of Pastoral Care & Counseling: Care for Stories, Systems, and Selves

Are you overwhelmed by the moral distress of caring for this fragile earth and each other in the face of climate crises and a pandemic? Read this book. It will help you find purpose through your daily acts of care. You will be sustained by LaMothe's theology of 'the non-sovereign God's indeterminate, infinite love/care in creation.' You will find solidarity in caring that dismantles theologies of sovereignty that have wreaked havoc upon the earth. – Carrie Doehring, Iliff School of Theology

In this meticulous and moving political theology, LaMothe stares without flinching at looming ecological disasters and mass migration arising from climate change. Refusing facile assertions of hope along with nihilism and despair, LaMothe locates in moments of tender parental vulnerability and of tormented divine humility a path forward for responding to one another and to all creation. No one else could have written this stunning work. – Robert C. Dykstra, Princeton Theological Seminary

[A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#) helps readers find hope in a virtually hopeless world of looming disaster. Brave and realistic and thoroughly researched.

Social Justice / Disabilities

Turn on the Words!: Deaf Audiences, Captions, and the Long Struggle for Access by Harry G. Lang (Gallaudet University Press)

Captions have empowered deaf and hard of hearing people. Access has led to increased success. Deaf people should take pride in the roles they played in these technological advances. – from the Foreword by Ernest E. Hairston

[Turn on the Words!](#) is a history of technological innovation, as well as a testament to the contributions of the Deaf community to the benefit of society as a whole.

The story of how captioning came into the lives of deaf and hard of hearing people has not been told with any detail, though captions are one of the greatest technological advancements in the effort to improve access to films, television, and other video content for both deaf and hearing audiences. In [Turn on the Words!](#), Harry G. Lang documents the struggles and strategies over nearly a century to make spoken communication accessible through the use of captioning technology.

Lang is Professor Emeritus, National Technical Institute for the Deaf at Rochester Institute of Technology. He is a recipient of the Dr. John S. and Dr. Betty J. Schuchman Deaf History Award for excellence in the field of Deaf history.

Lang describes the legislation, programs, and people who contributed great ingenuity and passion over decades to realize widespread access to captions, one breakthrough at a time. He also chronicles the resistance to captioned films from Hollywood studios and others, and the Deaf and hearing activists who championed the right to access. Deaf, hard of hearing, disabled, and English-as-a-second-language audiences now experience improved access to the educational, occupational, and cultural benefits of film and television programming. The struggle continues as deaf audiences advocate for equal access in a variety of settings such as movie theaters and online video-sharing platforms.

Although it is true that the captioning pioneers had led the way in making educational films accessible through teacher-led experiences, the opportunities to learn through vicarious experiences, especially fictional films in theaters, remain somewhat restricted for deaf people of all ages, which is more than they should after six decades.

As resources for open and closed captioned films continue to be explored in the future, the technologies developed for K-12 students, especially streaming, bilingual accessibility and description, will certainly be available for others to expand for different audiences outside the educational arena.

[Turn on the Words!](#) is thoroughly researched and will be a welcome addition to the growing collection of histories of the roles deaf and hearing people have shared together in applying technological breakthroughs to improve the quality of our lives. The anecdotes Lang shares represent a small portion of a trove of experiences that deaf and hard of hearing people have had with captioning. As Lang says in the

introduction, [Turn on the Words!](#) helps readers develop a much greater appreciation of the hard work and dedication of hundreds of pioneers who 'turned on the words'.

Social Science / Politics / Social Justice / Latin America

After the Decolonial: Ethnicity, Gender and Social Justice in Latin America, 1st edition by David Lehmann (Polity Press)

[After the Decolonial](#) examines the sources of Latin American decolonial thought, its reading of precursors like Fanon and Levinas and its historical interpretations. In extended treatments of the anthropology of ethnicity, law and religion and of the region's modern culture, David Lehmann sets out the bases of a more grounded interpretation, drawing inspiration from Mexico, Brazil, Bolivia and Chile, and from a lifelong engagement with issues of development, religion and race.

Lehmann is Emeritus Reader in Social Science at the University of Cambridge.

The decolonial places race at the center of its interpretation of injustice and, together with the multiple other exclusions dividing Latin American societies, traces it to European colonialism. But it has not fully absorbed the uniquely unsettling nature of Latin American race relations, which perpetuate prejudice and inequality, yet are marked by métissage, pervasive borrowing and mimesis. Moreover, it has not integrated its own disruptive feminist branch, and it has taken little interest in either the interwoven history of indigenous religion and hegemonic Catholicism or the evangelical tsunami which has upended so many assumptions about the region's culture.

[After the Decolonial](#) concludes that in Latin America, where inequality and violence are more severe than anywhere else, and where COVID-19 has revealed the deplorable state of the institutions charged with ensuring the basic requirements of life, the time has come to instate a universalist concept of social justice, encompassing a comprehensive approach to race, gender, class and human rights.

Lehmann's argument in [After the Decolonial](#) is that women are a force in indigenous and Afro-descendant movements, and the advance of their feminism should continue to spearhead the undoing of structures of racial exclusion. Movements in defense of indigenous groups and Afro-descendant populations and of women's movements ultimately look to universal values of citizenship and human rights and thus do not offer arguments in support of the decolonial denigration of human rights or citizenship as 'Eurocentric' or, worse, 'neoliberal'. Gender cuts across – intersects – the most extensive range of social cleavages and, as the more universal category, it should lead the way in conjunction with classic measures of redistribution and with vigorous punishment of racial and sexual discrimination.

In [After the Decolonial](#), David Lehmann convincingly argues that Latin American social movements and societal transformations such as the rise of Protestantism must be viewed through a lens that examines not only race but also class, gender and ethnicity. His polemic, which emphatically rejects the emphasis by decolonial scholars on race and cultural alterity, draws on a broad array of Latin American scholars to construct a case for an intersectional perspective based on close ethnographic examination. Some may agree with Lehmann, others might strongly disagree, but all will find food for

thought and debate in this wide-ranging and lucid book. – Joanne Rappaport, Georgetown University, past President, Latin American Studies Association
Drawing on a broad range of scholars, [After the Decolonial](#) argues for a new, fairer and more equal focus for Latin America which insures the basic human rights and requirements of life for everyone.

<>

Bibliography

Business & Economics / Management

Frontiers in Social Innovation: The Essential Handbook for Creating, Deploying, and Sustaining Creative Solutions to Systemic Problems edited by Neil Malhotra (Harvard Business Review Press)

Computers & Internet / Virtual Reality

Designing Immersive 3D Experiences: A Designer's Guide to Creating Realistic 3D Experiences for Extended Reality, 1st edition by Renée Stevens (**Voices That Matter Series**: New Riders)

Education & Teaching / Preschool, Pre-K

Principals as Early Learning Leaders: Effectively Supporting Our Youngest Learners (Early Childhood Education Series) by Julie Nicholson, Helen Maniates, Serene Yee, Thomas Williams, Jr., Veronica Ufoegbune, & Raul Erazo-Chavez (Teachers College Press)

Health / Psychology / Self-Help

The Mindfulness Workbook for Addiction: A Guide to Coping with the Grief, Stress, and Anger that Trigger Addictive Behaviors, 2nd edition by Rebecca E. Williams PhD & Julie S. Kraft MA LMFT (New Harbinger Publications)

Law / International / Human Rights

The Trial of Julian Assange: A Story of Persecution by Nils Melzer (Verso Books)

Philosophy / TV & Film

Neon Genesis Evangelion and Philosophy: That Syncing Feeling edited by Christian Cotton & Andrew M. Winters (**Pop Culture and Philosophy, Vol. 2**: Open Universe)

Poetry / Literature & Fiction

I Wish I Could Be Peter Falk by Paul Zits (**Brave & Brilliant Series, Vol. 23**: University of Calgary Press)

Policy / China

[The World According to China](#), 1st edition by Elizabeth C. Economy
(Polity Press)

Policy / Global

[Dismantling Global White Privilege](#): Equity for a Post-Western
World by Chandran Nair (Berrett-Koehler Publishing, Inc.)

Psychology / Health & Healing / Racism

[Living While Black](#): Using Joy, Beauty, and Connection to Heal Racial
Trauma by Guilaine Kinouani (Beacon Press)

Religion & Spirituality

[Imprecations in the Psalms](#): Love for Enemies in Hard Places by
Steffen G. Jenkins (Pickwick Publications)

Religion & Spirituality / Activism

[Fortune](#): How Race Broke My Family and the World – and How to
Repair It All by Lisa Sharon Harper, with a foreword by Otis Moss III
(Brazos Press)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity / Catholicism

[Leveling the Praying Field](#): Can the Church We Love, Love Us
Back? by Ansel Augustine (Orbis Books)

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[A Soul Framed in Christ](#): Stephen Charnock on the Renewal of God's
Image by Frank L. Bartoe IV, with a foreword by Joel R. Beeke (Wipf
& Stock)

Religion & Spirituality / Historical / Puritan

[A Quest for Godliness](#): The Puritan Vision of the Christian Life, reprint
edition by J. I. Packer (Crossway)

Religion & Spirituality / Theology

[A Radical Political Theology for the Anthropocene Era](#): Thinking and
Being Otherwise by Ryan LaMothe (Cascade Books)

Social Justice / Disabilities

[Turn on the Words!](#): Deaf Audiences, Captions, and the Long Struggle
for Access by Harry G. Lang (Gallaudet University Press)

Social Science / Politics / Social Justice / Latin America

After the Decolonial: Ethnicity, Gender and Social Justice in Latin America, 1st edition by David Lehmann (Polity Press)