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*We Review the
 Best of the Latest
 Books*

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Writing for the Fashion Business: Bundle Book + Studio

Access Card, 2nd edition by Kristen K. Swanson, Judith C. Everett, & Jenny B. Davis (Fairchild Books)

In the decade since [Writing for the Fashion Business](#) was first published, the Internet and social media have upended the field of journalism and the fashion world, revolutionizing both industries and changing the very nature of storytelling.

Authors are Kristen K. Swanson, Judith C. and Jenny B. Davis. Swanson and Everett are at Northern Arizona University. Davis, the founder of Davis Creative LLC, is at Southern Methodist University and is a fashion stylist, a photo shoot producer, and a freelance writer and editor.

The 2nd edition of [Writing for the Fashion Business](#) devotes significant space to digital content, with stand-alone chapters covering online content, social media and streaming video content. It also introduces inclusion vocabulary to ensure non-discriminatory narratives. In addition to journalism, it also includes instruction on how to write for new promotional approaches emerging in the fashion world like influencer and experiential marketing.

Every chapter includes new features: Trending Topics (introducing relevant industry people or issues that can be used for further class discussion), Pro Tips (quick hit advice), Fashion Files (description of events or companies) and Five Questions With (Q&As with industry leaders). This 2nd edition of [Writing for the Fashion Business](#) also boasts several new appendices that provide aspiring fashion writers with a broader understanding of the icons, eras and aesthetics that shape and inform the fashion industry.

Studio features include review concepts with flashcards of essential vocabulary.

Instructor resources include an Instructor's Guide that provides suggestions for planning the course and using the text in the classroom, supplemental assignments, and lecture notes.

Part One, "Writing in the Fashion Environment" serves as an introduction to the industry and the purpose that writing serves within it. Chapter 2, "The Writing Process," describes and details the larger writing process, from identifying the audience to proof-reading the final draft – skills that can then be applied to all the forms of writing examined throughout the remainder of [Writing for the Fashion Business](#).

Part Two centers on print journalism, specifically for newspapers and magazines. These traditional publishing platforms have been integral to the fashion business for well over 100 years. Although the advent of digital media has challenged the prominence of print, newspapers and magazines continue to be important.

Part Three is new to this 2nd edition, and it focuses on fashion content written and produced for new media, specifically the web and social media. Chapter 5, "Writing for Online Media Platforms," details writing for journalism-based websites, including sites that correspond to print publications, which often function as independent entities. Chapter 6 explains and explores writing basics behind the rapidly changing landscape of social media. From posts to promotion, the goal of this chapter is to provide standards and practices that will remain constant across changing and emerging platforms. Chapter 7 is "Writing for Streaming Video and Audio;" and it contains everything students need to know and understand when it comes to conveying fashion content across streaming platforms, video-based social media like YouTube, and popular audio-only formats like podcasts.

Part Four is where fashion messaging moves from informational to promotional. This two-chapter section covers the three primary communication channels used for fashion promotion: marketing and advertising (Chapter 8) and public relations (Chapter 9). Here, every platform is involved, from print to social to video and audio, and these chapters set out the role that writing plays throughout each separate strategy.

The final section of [Writing for the Fashion Business](#), Part Five, examines three less obvious forms of fashion writing. Chapter 10, "Scholarly Writing," introduces the function of fashion research into areas like the historic and cultural aspects of dress, anthropology, and consumer behavior related to fashion. Chapter 11, "Writing Books," defines the categories of fiction and nonfiction and details the types of fashion writing that falls within each, like biographies; memoirs; fashion history; and novels that weave compelling stories about people, events, and fashion. The last chapter, "Writing Business Communication," provides an accounting of the types of writing common within a corporate setting. This includes memos, reports, proposals, and professional emails.

[Writing for the Fashion Business](#) concludes with several appendices intended to serve as ready resources to use in conjunction with the chapters. These appendices are: "Grammar and Mechanics," "Documentation Format," "Effective Document Design," and "Website Source Evaluation."

[Writing for the Fashion Business](#) provides logical, informative, and understandable structures for writing-based fashion messaging. Each chapter may be used independently or collectively. Ultimately, students will gain an understanding of how written communication methods synch up with today's most common methods of commerce and communication to equip them with the skills they need to write for the fashion business, now and in the future. <>

Cognitive Internet of Things: Enabling Technologies, Platforms, and Use Cases by Pethuru Raj, Anupama C Raman, & Harihara Subramanian (Auerbach Publications, CRC Press)

The Internet of Things (IoT) concept is defined as a flexible and futuristic network where all the different types of devices and smart objects can become seamlessly connected to each other and can actively participate in all types of processes which are happening around us. The grand objective of making physical, mechanical, electrical, and electronics devices use the deeper and extreme connectivity and service-enablement techniques is to make them intelligent in their deeds, decisions, and deals. Cognitive IoT is the application of cognitive computing technologies to the data which is generated by the connected devices of the IoT ecosystem.

Cognitive Internet of Things: Enabling Technologies, Platforms, and Use Cases explains the concepts surrounding Cognitive IoT. It also looks at the use cases and such supporting technologies as artificial intelligence and machine learning that act as key enablers of the Cognitive IoT ecosystem. Different Cognitive IoT enabled platforms like IBM Watson, and other product specific use cases like Amazon Alexa are covered in depth.

Authors are Pethuru Raj, Anupama C. Raman and Harihara Subramanian. Raj works as a chief architect at Reliance Jio Platforms Ltd. (JPL) Bangalore. Previously, he worked at the IBM Global Cloud Center of Excellence (CoE), Wipro Consulting Services (WCS), and Robert Bosch Corporate Research (CR). Raman works as global head – Software Center of Excellence (Software Academy) in the Continental Corporation. Subramanian works for the SABRE Corporation as a senior principal software architect.

Other highlights of **Cognitive Internet of Things** include:

- Demystifying the cognitive computing paradigm
- Delineating the key capabilities of cognitive cloud environments
- Deep learning algorithms for cognitive IoT solutions
- Natural language processing (NLP) methods for cognitive IoT systems
- Designing a secure infrastructure for cognitive IoT platforms and applications

As told in **Cognitive Internet of Things**, once upon a time, many people used only one computer. Today, everyone has a personal computer and handheld devices. Tomorrow is brewing a completely different scenario where all these computers connect, intermingle, and understand human(s) temporal, emotional, spatial, physical

requirements. Soon, all the interconnected computers will build services in time with zeal and skill in a discreet manner.

The future Internet is about the interconnection of millions of computing machines, distributed software services and billions of interconnected items such as machines, instruments, equipment, wares, utensils, actuators, drones, robots, etc.

The extreme connectivity, the deep integration, the constant data capture, the real-time data processing and analysis, the correct decision-making, and the execution in a timely and trustworthy fashion are the prime functionalities of personal, social, and professional devices, robots, drones, and other automated machines. Therefore, the raging Internet of Things (IoT) phenomenon is proclaiming a potent, promising, and pivotal paradigm for the future.

The fast-emerging and evolving IoT idea is a strategic and highly impactful one to be collaboratively investigated, coherently worked on, decisively realized, and passionately sustained – with the intelligent adoption of cutting-edge technologies, lightweight processes, optimal and organized infrastructures, integrated platforms, enabling tools, pioneering patterns, and futuristic architectures.

Industry professionals and academicians are constantly looking out for appropriate use, business, and technical cases to proclaim the IoT concept's transformational value and power to the larger audience of worldwide executives, end-users, entrepreneurs, evangelists, and engineers. A growing range of open and industry-strength standards are being formulated, framed, and polished by IoT domain experts, industry consortiums and standard bodies to make IoT more visible, viable and valuable. Governments across the world are setting up special groups intended to define pragmatic policies and procedures of IoT. These procedures help governments realize the strategic significance of citizen-centric services to ensure and enhance the people's comfort, choice, care, and convenience. Research students, scholars, and scientists work together on path-breaking technological solutions to identify the implementation challenges and overcome them via different means.

With the steady progress of artificial intelligence (AI) methods, there is a convergence between the fast-growing IoT and AI technologies. The gist of this exciting linkage is to enable IoT devices to self-learn out of the data getting generated by various participating IoT devices (digitized objects, connected devices, cyber-physical systems (CPSs), etc.) in exhibit cognitive behavior.

The [Cognitive Internet of Things](#) discusses several perspectives of IoT ideas, their broader spectrum, trends that set the stage to realize and demonstrate those ideas. Further, the book discusses the potential and promises of the IoT paradigm and the key drivers for the surging popularity of the IoT paradigm, the enabling technologies, infrastructures and platforms, the prominent IoT solutions, the facilitating frameworks, accelerators and

tools, the famous use cases, the brewing concerns and challenges, the research directions, etc.

Readers learn how the remarkable convergence of the IoT accomplishments and the advancements in the AI domain can bring forth hitherto unknown advantages for the entire human society. <>

Cooking, Food & Wine

[Good Eats: The Final Years](#) by Alton Brown (**Good Eats Series, Book 4 of 4**: Harry N. Abrams Books)

[Good Eats: The Final Years](#), an instant *New York Times* bestseller, an all-new collection of must-have recipes and surprising food facts from Alton Brown, is drawn from the return of the beloved *Good Eats* television series, including never-before aired material.

This long-anticipated fourth and final volume in the bestselling *Good Eats* series of cookbooks draws on two reboots of the beloved television show by the inimitable Brown – *Good Eats Reloaded* and *Good Eats: The Return*. With more than 150 new and improved recipes for everything from chicken parm to bibimbap and cold brew to corn dogs, accompanied by mouthwatering original photography, [Good Eats: The Final Years](#) is the most sumptuous and satisfying of the *Good Eats* books yet.

Brown's surefire recipes are temptation enough: the headnotes, tips, and sidebars that support them make each recipe a journey into culinary technique, flavor exploration, and edible history. Striking photography showcases finished dishes and highlights key ingredients, and handwritten notes on the pages capture Brown's unique mix of madcap and methodical.

Brown was directing TV commercials when he got the crazy idea to go to culinary school and reinvent the food show. The result: *Good Eats*, which has kept Brown gainfully employed for more than 20 years and earned him a Peabody Award. Along the way he also hosted *Iron Chef America*, *Cutthroat Kitchen*, and *Feasting on Asphalt*. Brown's live culinary variety shows have played to sold-out theaters across the United States.

[Good Eats: The Final Years](#) is five seasons' worth of shows: three *Reloadeds* and two *Returns*. They're in chronological order, because Brown couldn't think of a better way to arrange them. He includes the applications as well as the 'knowledge concentrates' that form the basis of each script. As for the final *Reloadeds*, since there aren't any scripts to pull clever bits and pieces from, he includes only the reasons for choosing the dish and maybe a thought or two on how they fixed it. As it happens, this section includes some of his favorite *Good Eats* applications ever, and he says he glad to get them in readers' hands.

If readers have any of the other three *Good Eats* books, they will notice there are a lot more photographs in this one. Back in the day, he says they didn't have set photos taken or thumbnails for recipes because they were still using AltaVista for internet searches via dial-up and no one ever thought they would need food shots. Now they take photos of everything, including behind-the-scenes stuff, and some of the better bits are included in the book. Also, he finally took the time for some of his own food photography.

The distinctive high-energy and information-intensive dynamic of *Good Eats* comes to life on every page of [Good Eats: The Final Years](#), making this a must-have cookbook for die-hard fans and newcomers alike. <>

Crafts & Hobbies / Gardening

[From Seed to Bloom](#): A year of growing and designing with seasonal flowers by Milli Proust (Quadrille Publishing)

There's plenty of joy and satisfaction to be found throughout the gardening year. In [From Seed to Bloom](#), a celebration of flowers, seeds and life, readers discover the delight of growing and how they can embrace the magic of each season, from the first moment they bury a seed in the soil, to the day they harvest the bloom to enjoy indoors.

Author and flower grower Milli Proust says she is inspired by the way plants grow in the wild, and she loves working with what she grows, creating romantic and playful designs for weddings, events, brands and personal clients. All of her crops are grown in rhythm with nature, and are chemical-free in a passionate effort to protect the surrounding wildlife.

When she is not tending to the crops or creating and installing floral work, Proust works as an actress for radio, stage, and television.

As told in [From Seed to Bloom](#), in January 2017, Proust made the move from London, where she was born and raised, to a rural pocket of West Sussex. It may be only an hour back to the city by train, but it often feels to her so much further away than that. She says she fell in love with her pocket of countryside, deep in the woods, growing as much beauty as she could.

In the few years of making West Sussex her home, she has learned to see the seasons change, not just from winter to spring, from spring to summer, but from week to week, each day bringing new promise, change and subtle shift.

Proust in [From Seed to Bloom](#) guides readers through a year in her garden, spotlighting her favorite cut flowers to grow and use to create beautiful arrangements for their homes and friends. Through 19 projects, readers learn how to create natural, organic

designs – from simple bouquets to archways, tablescapes, and urns – that will encourage them to embrace their own personal style, from the seeds they choose to sow, to the blooms they arrange.

[From Seed to Bloom](#) is an essential guide to growing and styling seasonal cut flowers. All readers need to get started is a packet of seeds. <>

Health & Fitness / Self-Help / Guides

[Natural Health](#): Your Complete Guide to Natural Remedies and Mindful Well-Being by Marie D. Jones (Visible Ink Press)

If readers want to live longer, healthier lives free of medical complications, they need not be beholden to products that are premade, prefabricated, processed, put together, produced, and promoted. Instead they can learn about hundreds of ways to enrich their lives being with [Natural Health](#), a comprehensive guide to nature-based health and well.

Author Marie D. Jones, a former radio show host, is the author of over twenty nonfiction books.

[Natural Health](#): Your Complete Guide to Natural Remedies and Mindful Well-Being explores hundreds of ancient remedies, natural therapies and nature's medicine cabinet, from herbs, oils and vitamins to yoga, healing remedies and belly laughs. It includes the most current knowledge, information, and science behind natural diets and lifestyle to build health and wellness. Featuring an extensive overview of natural health therapies, treatments, medicinals and nature's gifts, this book includes ...

- More than 100 herbal, all-natural, and do-it-yourself recipes and home remedies to heal everything from acne to zapped energy.
- Tips for making toxic-free home products.
- Herbal and natural remedies that fight diabetes, cancer, depression, anxiety, heart disease, digestive disorders, and immune disorders.
- Immune boosting herbs, diet, and remedies to improve overall health.
- A detox section to improve gut health and the immune system and rid the body of toxic metals and chemicals.
- Recipes for herbal teas, concoctions, decoctions, tinctures, baths, balms, and treats for kids.
- Tools and methods for increasing brain power, memory, cognition, focus, and clarity.
- An examination of meditation, movement and breath work.
- An extensive A to Z herb list and the medicinal properties of each herb.
- Guidance and tips for falling asleep faster and improving the quality of sleep.

- Exercises for lowering stress and achieving greater positivity, well-being, and resilience.

[Natural Health](#) lets readers explore hundreds of ancient remedies, natural therapies, and nature's medicine cabinet. It includes the most current knowledge, information, and science behind natural diets and a healthy lifestyle to promote wellness.

With photos, illustrations, and other graphics, this tome is richly illustrated, and its helpful bibliography and extensive index add to its usefulness.

Whether readers want to stay fit, treat health issues or reduce stress, [Natural Health](#) will help them find their natural balance to a holistic health of the body, mind, and spirit.

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History / African-American

[Invisible Founders](#): How Two Centuries of African American Families Transformed a Plantation into a College by Lynn Rainville (Berghahn Books)

Literal and metaphorical excavations at Sweet Briar College reveal how African American labor enabled the transformation of Sweet Briar Plantation into a private women's college in 1906. [Invisible Founders](#) tells the story of the invisible founders of a college founded by and for white women. Despite being built and maintained by African American families, the college did not integrate its student body for sixty years after it opened. [Invisible Founders](#) challenges readers' ideas of what a college 'founder' is, restoring African American narratives to their deserved and central place in the story of a single institution – one that serves as a microcosm of the American South.

Author Lynn Rainville is Director of Institutional History and Professor of Anthropology at Washington and Lee University and former Dean of Sweet Briar College. For over two decades she has studied the lives of exceptional, yet overlooked, Americans. She currently directs the Tusculum Institute for local history and historic preservation at Sweet Briar College.

[Invisible Founders](#) is the record of a history unknown not only to Americans born in the North, but even to the Southerners on whose land it unfolded. Although the lives of the white plantation owners and college founders are recorded in minute detail, the more than one thousand African and Native Americans who have lived and worked at Sweet Briar over the past two centuries appear only as footnotes.

[Invisible Founders](#) is based on Rainville's literal and metaphorical excavations at Sweet Briar College, a historic jewel nestled within three thousand acres of Virginia pastures

and forests, with the plantation house and a slave cabin still standing at the center of campus. As an archaeologist, she says she has surveyed large swaths of the rural campus, uncovering the ruins of everyday life from past centuries and studying the artifacts recovered from on-campus excavations. As a public historian, Rainville says she endeavored to share her archival and ethnographic research with a wide audience through online databases, social media, and public lectures. In the process, she uncovered the untold stories of one of the only institutions of higher education that grew out of an antebellum plantation.

Over the past eighteen years, she says she has sought to steer the college forward, and lead it through, the difficult process of confronting Sweet Briar's racist past. In collaboration with local descendants, like-minded colleagues, and cohorts of undergraduate students, Rainville worked to bring to light the slavery-era roots that the college attempted to suppress for a century. The slave cemetery, long used as part of a riding path, was rededicated in 2003 with an official ceremony and a community ritual led by descendants of those who rest there.

The idyllic campus of today was built by the labor of their ancestors, and their stories follow the arc of American history. Drawing from census records, wills, photographs, archaeological evidence, oral interviews with descendants, and other documents, [Invisible Founders](#) collects, for the first time, the stories of these hitherto overlooked slaves, servants, and college employees. Each chapter begins with an example of an obituary, letter, or legal document – one of the countless examples she reviewed while writing [Invisible Founders](#) – and proceeds to contextualize each document, since no single source can tell a complete story. The narrative arc of the book follows the same process of reviewing multiple lines of evidence to tell the rest of the story.

[Invisible Founders](#) is a different kind of history of the university and the Black past than most of those published in the past few years, but that is one that has much to offer individuals who are working to bring this history to light at their own institutions. – *Journal of Southern History*

[Invisible Founders](#) illuminates the contributions of African Americans to the success of a thriving plantation while highlighting the everyday struggles of black Americans during slavery and the Jim Crow era. It reveals how African American labor enabled the plantation's transformation into a private women's college and tells the story of how a college founded by and for white women did not integrate its student body until more than a decade after *Brown v. Board of Education*. <>

[The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion](#): **Fighting on Both Fronts** by Samuel de Korte (Pen and Sword Military)

The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion was activated on 25 July 1942 at Camp Carson, USA and, like many other tank destroyer battalions, would be sent to Europe. It saw combat in France, where a platoon earned the Distinguished Unit Citation, and later continued to fight gallantly in Germany and Austria until the war was over.

As told in [The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion](#), unlike many other tank destroyer battalions that fought in the Second World War, this unit was crewed only by black soldiers.

Author Samuel de Korte is a graduate student of the Cultural History of Modern Europe at Utrecht University. He is a descendant of Wilhelmus van Dijk, which formed the basis for this project. Through the use of interviews, his historical training, archive research and other historical material, he has managed to recover a great deal about the men involved.

The men had been subjected to racism from their countrymen during training, although the battalion did eventually win the respect of the white soldiers they fought alongside. When the third platoon deployed their guns on the slopes near Climbach, France, they weren't just fighting against the Germans, but also against any prejudices that their white countrymen might have had.

Having earned the respect of the 103d Infantry Division, the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion shared in their triumphs and tragedies. So when the division needed to retreat during a blizzard, or when Task Force Rhine pushed its way across the German plains, or when the division suffered heavy losses at Schillersdorf, the 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion was there with them.

Included in [The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion](#) are lists of medals awarded to the men during the war, as well as a list of casualties and those that served in the unit.

Particularly noteworthy:

- Third platoon, C Company, 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion was the first Black army unit to win the distinguished unit citation during the Second World War.
- This was one of the three segregated tank destroyer battalions that fought in combat.
- Many previously unpublished photographs and primary sources allow the men to tell the war as they experienced it.

[The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion](#) is the history of the 614th TD Battalion's initiation, i.e. the fight for their right to fight. It takes readers through racial friction. There are those

echo are weary of being reminded of the rigors of white supremacy. But what if those weary individuals had to live with it?

This work takes readers through the 614th TDs training. Generally, the tank destroyer units practiced their skills against tank battalions at Camp Hood, Texas. This became a rivalry like college football on a Saturday afternoon along with cheering fans and trash talk. As the 761st Tank Battalion tells it: 'We out-maneuvered the TDs at every turn. We set up a diversion and they would think we are coming from one direction and we came from another. The TDs have a motto – Seek, Strike, & Destroy. But when we came up, it became: Sneak, Peek, and Retreat.'

The 614th TD performed superbly in combat. Readers vicariously experience their uncommon valor. The 3rd Platoon, Company C, 614th TD was the first African American World War II unit to receive the Distinguished Unit Citation; also known as the Presidential Unit Citation, it is the highest decoration bestowed on a military unit. Additionally, Lieutenant Charles Thomas was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross that would be upgraded to the Medal of Honor (MOH) in 1997.

The images in [The 614th Tank Destroyer Battalion](#) are astounding. Most have never seen the light of day since their initial archival. These never-before published images make this work unique. Rather than being generic, they relate directly to the units and the men being discussed. <>

History / Refugees

[People Forced to Flee: History, Change and Challenge](#), **Reprint edition** by United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (Oxford University Press)

People in danger have received protection in communities beyond their own from the earliest times of recorded history. The causes – war, conflict, violence, persecution, natural disasters, and climate change – are as familiar to readers of the news as to students of the past.

It is 70 years since nations in the wake of World War II drew up the landmark 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees. [People Forced to Flee](#) marks this milestone. It is the latest in a long line of publications, stretching back to 1993, that were previously entitled *The State of the World's Refugees*.

[People Forced to Flee](#) traces the historic path that led to the 1951 Convention, showing how history was made, by taking the centuries-old ideals of safety and solutions for refugees, to global practice. It maps its progress during which international protection has reached a much broader group of people than initially envisaged.

It examines international responses to forced displacement within borders as well as

beyond them, and the protection principles that apply to both. It reviews where they have been used with consistency and success, and where they have not. At times, the strength and resolve of the international community seems strong, yet solutions and meaningful solidarity are often elusive. Taking stock today – at this important anniversary is all the more crucial as the world faces increasing forced displacement. Most is experienced in low- and middle-income countries and persists for generations. People forced to flee face barriers to improving their lives, contributing to the communities in which they live and realizing solutions. Everywhere, an effective response depends on the commitment to international cooperation set down in the 1951 Convention: a vision often compromised by efforts to minimize responsibilities. There is growing recognition that doing better is a global imperative. Humanitarian and development action has the potential to be transformational, especially when grounded in the local context. [People Forced to Flee](#) examines how and where increased development investments in education, health and economic inclusion are helping to improve socioeconomic opportunities both for forcibly displaced persons and their hosts.

In 2018, the international community reached a Global Compact on Refugees for more equitable and sustainable responses. It is receiving deeper support. [People Forced to Flee](#) looks at whether that is enough for what could and should help define the next 70 years.

[People Forced to Flee](#) shows the importance of sustained engagement by governments and development partners in supporting the forcibly displaced, as well as the vital role of dedicated financing instruments to assist host countries.

It showcases significant policy changes in host countries that have helped refugees access education, health services and employment, so they can build better futures for themselves while contributing to their new communities. It outlines the increasingly close partnerships between humanitarian and development actors, including around a shared approach to data, evidence, and context and risk analysis to drive greater results on the ground. Above all, it demonstrates the critical importance of a broad range of partners lending their comparative advantages, experience and expertise to support those people enduring forced displacement. Public and private partners are increasingly joined by civil society and faith-based partners and, most importantly, forcibly displaced persons themselves in designing and delivering solutions.

The humanitarian and development impact of forced displacement is catastrophic. But so is the human toll. We must never forget that behind each number is a story of deep personal suffering a stark reminder of how quickly lives can be upended, and how critical it is to support people at this most vulnerable moment in their lives.

That is why this book [People Forced to Flee: History, Change and Challenge](#) – is so valuable and timely.

Tracing the roots of asylum from the beginning of recorded history, this book highlights the major achievements of the last 70 years to protect and support forcibly displaced people, while exploring setbacks along the way. – from the preface by Antonio Guterres, UN Secretary General

People Forced to Flee: History, Change and Challenge starts from the premise that transformational action is both essential and possible. It provides a detailed and an unflinching look at both the successes and the failures of the past, seeking to draw from them the elements needed to support positive, sustainable change. In that regard, it is worth noting that many of the most powerful moments in this book come from the stories of forcibly displaced people themselves – a reminder that the best way to understand and respond to their needs is to listen to their opinions, wishes, grievances, aspirations and hopes for the future.

I have been working in the field of forced displacement for more than 30 years. In that time, I have never ceased to be moved and motivated by those who put the values of altruism, compassion and solidarity at the heart of their daily lives: refugees and the internally displaced, host communities and those working alongside them. It is their example, above all, that gives us the greatest cause for optimism. – from the foreword by Filippo Grandi, UN High Commissioner for Refugees

Guterres says that the task today is to build on the work done so far, and to gather more people to the effort – from people already engaged in this field, to students of history, forced displacement studies and related disciplines. To them, **People Forced to Flee** will be of great value and inspiration. <>

Home & Garden / Culture / History / Series

A Cultural History of Furniture: Volumes 1-6 (The Cultural Histories Series) with general editor Christina M. Anderson (Bloomsbury Academic)

The ways in which we work, rest, and play are shaped by the embodied encounter with furniture, defining and projecting a sense of identity and status; and responding to and exemplifying contrasting social conditions, political and economic motivations, aesthetic predilections, and debates.

A Cultural History of Furniture presents an authoritative survey from ancient times to the present. This set of six volumes spans 4,500 years of furniture in its physical, social and cultural context.

The editor of the series is Christina M. Anderson, Research Fellow, History Faculty and Ashmolean Museum, University of Oxford.

Volumes in the series include:

- **A Cultural History of Furniture in Antiquity (2500 BCE-500 CE)** edited by Dimitra Andrianou
- **A Cultural History of Furniture in the Middle Ages and Renaissance (500-1500)** edited by Erin J. Campbell & Stephanie Miller
- **A Cultural History of Furniture in the Age of Exploration (1500-1700)** edited by Christina M. Anderson & Elizabeth A. Carroll
- **A Cultural History of Furniture in the Age of Enlightenment (1700-1800)** edited by Sylvain Cordier, Christina M. Anderson & Laura Houliston
- **A Cultural History of Furniture in the Age of Empire and Industry (1800-1900)** edited by Catherine L Futter & Christina M. Anderson
- **A Cultural History of Furniture in the Modern Age (1900-present)** edited by Claire I.R. O'Mahony

Drawing upon a wealth of visual and textual sources, [A Cultural History of Furniture](#) examines key characteristics of the furniture of the given period. Each volume discusses the same themes in its chapters:

- Design and Motifs
- Makers, Making and Materials
- Types and Uses of Furniture
- The Domestic Setting
- The Public Setting
- Exhibition and Display
- Furniture and Architecture
- Visual Representations
- Verbal Representations

This structure offers readers a broad overview of a period within each volume and also the opportunity to follow a theme through history by reading the relevant chapter across volumes.

Superbly illustrated, the full six-volume set [A Cultural History of Furniture](#) combines to present the most comprehensive and authoritative survey available on furniture throughout history. <>

The King Arthur Case: A Brittany Mystery by Jean-Luc Bannalec, translated by Peter Miller (**Brittany Mystery Series, No. 7**: Minotaur Books)

The King Arthur Case is the seventh installment of Jean-Luc Bannalec's bestselling **Brittany** mystery series.

Jean-Luc Bannalec is a pseudonym. The author divides his time between Germany and coastal Brittany, France. *Death in Brittany*, the first case for Commissaire Dupin, was published in German in March 2012 and sold 600,000 copies, spending many months on the bestseller list.

In **The King Arthur Case**, the forest of Broceliande, with its picturesque lakes and castles, is the last remnant of the fairy kingdom, if Breton lore is to be believed. Innumerable legends spanning thousands of years are set there, including the tale of King Arthur and the Round Table.

Commissaire Dupin's seventh case, **The King Arthur Case**, takes him and his team into the very heart of Brittany. Broceliande forest seems to be an appropriate destination for Dupin to take a late summer field trip. But when the body of a historian turns up, Dupin is called upon to investigate the brutal murder. Before too long, there are more victims. What knowledge do the assembled scientists have about the most recent archaeological digs in the area? Where do they stand on the controversial decision to turn parts of the forest into an amusement park? And why is no one willing to talk? Even Nolwenn, Dupin's unshakeable assistant, is concerned. And that means trouble.

Another tense puzzle from Bannalec, with the Breton landscape once more the star of the show. – Kirkus Reviews

Great detective stories, mysterious, ingenious and suspenseful.

Other titles in the **Brittany** mystery series include

- *Death in Brittany*
- *Murder on Brittany Shores*
- *The Fleur de Sel Murders*
- *The Missing Corpse*
- *The Killing Tide*
- *The Granite Coast Murders*

Praise for the series:

Delicious Brittany mysteries... If this isn't heaven, it's close enough. – The New York Times Francophiles and art lovers will welcome Bannalec's good old-fashioned detective story set in Brittany... Bannalec excels at plotting and pacing, as well as vivid

descriptions of the Finistère countryside. – Publishers Weekly, starred review on *Death in Brittany*

Very satisfying... along the lines of Martin Walker's novels set in Dordogne, or M.L. Longworth's Aix-en-Provence mysteries. – Booklist on *Murder on Brittany Shores*

Perfect for fans of Louise Penny or Mark Pryor. – Shelf Awareness

A healthy chunk of Brittany with a bracing dash of murder. – Kirkus Reviews

The descriptions of Brittany are mesmerizing. it has been elevated into my top 10 places I need to visit, all thanks to Bannalec. – Bookpage, starred review

[Bannalec's] mysteries are both well-crafted and impossible to read without wanting to use them as guides for future trips to the region. – Booklist, starred review <>

Literature & Fiction / Thrillers

Kingdom of Bones: A Thriller by James Rollins (**Sigma Force Novels, Vol. 22**: William Morrow)

From #1 *New York Times* bestselling author James Rollins comes the latest thriller in the **Sigma Force** series, **Kingdom of Bones**.

Rollins is the author of international thrillers that have been translated into more than forty languages. His **Sigma Force** series has been lauded as one of the 'top crowd pleasers' and one of the 'hottest summer reads'.

Kingdom of Bones begins in Africa ...

A United Nations relief team in a small village in the Congo makes an alarming discovery. An unknown force is leveling the evolutionary playing field. Men, women, and children have been reduced to a dull, catatonic state. The environment surrounding them – plants and animals – has grown more cunning and predatory, evolving at an exponential pace. The insidious phenomenon is spreading from a cursed site in the jungle – known to locals as the Kingdom of Bones – and sweeping across Africa, threatening the rest of the world.

What has made the biosphere run amok? Is it a natural event? Or more terrifyingly, did someone engineer it?

Commander Gray Pierce and Sigma Force are prepared for the extraordinary and have kept the world safe, vigilance for which they have paid a tragic personal price. Yet, even these brilliant and seasoned scientific warriors do not understand what is behind this frightening development – or how to stop it. As they race to find answers, the members of Sigma quickly realize they have become the prey.

To head off global catastrophe, Sigma Force must risk their lives to uncover the shattering secret at the heart of the African continent – a truth that will illuminate who we are as a species and where we may be headed ... sooner than we know.

Mother Nature – red in tooth and claw – is turning against humankind, propelling the entire world into the [Kingdom of Bones](#).

Exhilarating... Fans of Clive Cussler and Michael Crichton won't want to miss this one. – Publishers Weekly, starred review

*The **Sigma Force** novels are muscular, dynamic action-adventures. But this doesn't mean they skimp on character: Rollins knows just when to slow things down and let us get to know the players. He's very good at this sort of thing, and his fans will surely be lining up for this one. – Booklist*

Science fiction and archaeology have had a long relationship. The link is a conviction that there is a hidden truth in the relics of dead civilizations ... and that this can be uncovered by what we now know about science... The dominant figure in this area of fiction right now is James Rollins. – Wall Street Journal

This one's fast-moving fun. – Kirkus

Nobody does this stuff better. – Lee Child

This latest riveting, deeply imaginative thriller, [Kingdom of Bones](#), is told with Rollins' trademark blend of cutting-edge science, historical mystery, and pulse-pounding action. <>

Religion & Spirituality

[The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) by Bernard F. Batto (Cascade Books)

Contrary to popular opinion, the story of Adam and Eve is not confined to the book of Genesis. It has roots in prebiblical myth and continued to evolve long after the Bible was completed. Bernard F. Batto in [The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) traces the development of the Adam and Eve story from its origins in Mesopotamian myth to its reformulation in Genesis and beyond.

Batto is Professor Emeritus of Religious Studies at DePauw University. Previous publications include *Slaying the Dragon* and *In the Beginning*.

[The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) includes the development of the Adam and Eve story including its expansion in Jewish epigraphs such as 1 Enoch and the Life of Adam and Eve, and its place in Christian innovations such as the apostle Paul's thesis that Christ is a second Adam, and in the thinking of church fathers such as Irenaeus, who held that Christ recapitulates all humankind in himself, and Augustine, whose doctrine

of original sin interprets the Adam and Eve story. Batto also examines Gnostic teachings about a heavenly Adam and an earthly Adam, and surveys rabbinical attempts from the Talmudic period to find hidden meanings in the Genesis story. Islam's emphasis on Satan's role in seducing Adam and Eve is also discussed, and the book concludes with Milton's unforgettable retelling of the Adam and Eve story in *Paradise Lost*.

Few people allude to the fact that much of their understanding of the Genesis story has been shaped over the course of some three thousand years through gradual accretions to the original Genesis version. Even fewer know that the Genesis story itself had antecedents in ancient Near Eastern literature which greatly influenced the composition of the Genesis story. [The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) is an attempt to trace the long development of the Adam and Eve tradition, from its prebiblical roots, to its classic version in Genesis, to its expansion in postbiblical 'apocryphal' Jewish writings, to a radical reinterpretation in the New Testament by various Christian authors, until it finally achieved what may be termed the 'standard' version of the Adam and Eve story most of people 'know' – unaware that this 'standard' version owes more to John Milton's epic poem *Paradise Lost* than to the original Genesis story. [The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) shows not only how the story has changed over the course of more than three millennia, but also why it changed. These changes were driven by multiple historical, cultural, and theological factors, all of which are fascinating in their own right and worthy of study.

Batto begins with an analysis of the Adam and Eve narrative from the book of *Genesis*, trying to hear the story as it most likely was written and understood by the original author – or authors, as there are actually two stories of creation and the origins of humankind preserved in the opening chapters of *Genesis*, a so-called Yahwistic account and a Priestly account. But before readers look at these *Genesis* stories, they will need to travel backwards in time into the ancient Near East in order to retrieve the backstories of 'Adam and Eve,' that is, to investigate how several still earlier stories from Mesopotamia about creation and the formation of the first humans contributed to shaping the biblical story. [The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) also moves forward in time from *Genesis* to trace how the Adam and Eve tradition is retold and embellished in postbiblical Judaism of different periods and in different works: (a) the book of 1 Enoch (ca. 200 BCE), wherein is told a story of how fallen 'watchers' (angels) lusted after 'human daughters;' and marrying them, brought about near total corruption not only of humankind but also of earth itself; (b) the book of Jubilees (ca. 150 BCE), which picks up on themes from 1 Enoch and takes the story of corruption even further; and (c) the life of Adam and Eve (ca. 100 CE), where readers first encounter the story of the fall of Satan from heaven, and where blame for human sin is laid principally upon the woman, but nevertheless hope for redemption in some distant future is held out to humankind.

From the Jewish retellings of the Adam and Eve tradition, readers of [The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) then transition to Christian reinterpretations of that same tradition. The most important innovation is found in the letters of the apostle Paul – some of the earliest writings of the New Testament. In Paul's Letter to the Romans and in 1 Corinthians 15, he develops his 'gospel' (Good News) that Jesus Christ was a new Adam. Just as the first Adam brought sin and death to every human and even upon the whole of creation, so the second Adam, Christ, reversed the harm done to humankind and the world by the first Adam. The result, according to Paul, is literally a re-creation of the world – indeed a new creation that by far surpasses the original creation in that humans not only bear the image of God, they have become adopted children of God.

Various Christian writers in succeeding centuries developed Paul's thesis even further. Especially important for subsequent Christian belief are the teachings of St. Augustine of Hippo (died 430). Augustine popularized the doctrine of 'original sin,' according to which every human is born in sin and therefore doomed to eternal death. This is the heritage that Adam and Eve as progenitors of the human race have bequeathed to each and every one of their descendants – with the exception of Jesus Christ and his mother Mary. The doctrine of 'original sin' pervades every aspect of Christian belief. Not many people today are aware that various Gnostic sects also advanced versions of the Adam and Eve story, some of which radically challenged and even supplanted the standard Christian and Jewish versions.

At the same time as Christian church fathers were rewriting the Adam and Eve story to include the second Adam, Jewish rabbis were reviewing the Genesis story and debating among themselves about the correct way to read the story and how it applied to themselves. During this process, numerous novel elements were introduced into the ancient biblical tale.

Islam was greatly influenced by both Judaism and Christianity. It is no surprise, therefore, that Adam and Eve figure prominently in the Qur'an and in subsequent Islamic tradition. Most important is the role played by Iblis, as Satan is generally called in Islam. From the very beginning Iblis has worked ceaselessly to lead humankind astray.

The texts chosen for review in [The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) are by no means a complete accounting of the many variants of the Adam and Eve tradition that have surfaced over the course of more than three millennia. Nevertheless, the texts selected provide readers with a meaningful overview of the most important developments in the Adam and Eve story, as well as their many variations.

Batto offers a luscious, patient, thick read of the Adam and Eve story.... This is an ambitious read, every bit a match for the Bible's most iconic narrative. Tracing the story as it travels through time ... furnishes Batto with a kaleidoscope of angles from which to

appreciate afresh aspects of the old, primordial story.... Batto's finest accomplishment is the ever-richer reading of the original Genesis story that emerges in the process. – F. W. Dobbs-Allsopp, Princeton Theological Seminary

*Mesmerizing! With lucid, entertaining prose, Batto navigates three millennia of sources to delineate the shifting contours of interpretation of the two most influential biblical characters in Western history. Clearly, he demonstrates, we never cease to recreate Adam and Eve in our own image. This is an erudite and exhilarating read, engaging to scholars and general readers alike. – Valarie H. Ziegler, coauthor of *Eve and Adam: Jewish, Christian, and Muslim Readings on Genesis and Gender**

[The Many Faces of Adam and Eve](#) is accessible by the general reading public. The book not only reveals the many faces given Adam and Eve throughout history, but also helps readers understand the divergent cultural and theological factors powering this long, evolving tradition. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[Habits of the Mind: Intellectual Life as a Christian Calling](#) by James W. Sire (IVP, InterVarsity Press)

What does it mean to love God with your mind? Can the intellectual life be a legitimate Christian calling? In this deeply personal book, James Sire brings wit and wisdom to bear on these questions. He draws from his own experience and the life of John Henry Newman to explore how to think well for the glory of God and the sake of his kingdom.

James W. Sire (1933-2018) was a widely respected apologist, author, and lecturer who served for more than thirty years as senior editor at InterVarsity Press. He is the author of over twenty books, including the seminal apologetics titles *The Universe Next Door*, *Apologetics Beyond Reason*, and *Discipleship of the Mind*.

[Habits of the Mind](#) challenges readers to avoid one of the greatest pitfalls of intellectual life: the temptation to separate being from knowing. Sire shows how to cultivate intellectual virtues and disciplines – habits of the mind – that will strengthen readers in pursuit of their calling. Thinking well is integral to acting righteously. Sire offers assurance that intellectual life can be a true calling for Christians: because Jesus was the smartest man who ever lived, readers can and should accept the challenge to think with more accuracy, wisdom, humility, and passion. This classic work is now available as part of the IVP Signature Collection, which features special editions of iconic books.

The topic of [Habits of the Mind](#) is the intellectual life, especially its integral nature. First, thinking is integral to the call to be what God wants one to be. God calls every one to

think and to do so as well as they can. People are to love God with their minds as well as with their hearts and souls and strength. How they ever thought otherwise is not the topic of this book. Sire is much more interested in getting on with the call to love God with one's mind by thinking as well as one can with the intelligence with which they are endowed.

Some, however, are called specially to a life of the mind; it is a call that must be heeded. The central goal of this book is to identify, describe and encourage those habits of the mind that are central to fulfilling the call to glorify God by thinking well.

Second, thinking is rarely a matter of cold, heartless, calculating logic. Sometimes, Sire says, when he is reading – and thinking while reading – his mind becomes so hot, so affected by the implications of the ideas, that he stops to cool off. There is indeed a unity between thinking and feeling. Unity, in fact, stands behind all aspects of the human being. He has, therefore, let his emotions be displayed as he agonizes and plays, thinks and feels, through a major theme of [Habits of the Mind](#): how thinking feels.

Sire's primary goal in [Habits of the Mind](#) is to encourage readers to think more and better than they did before reading the book, to strive toward 'the perfection of the intellect,' to enjoy the proper habits of the mind. Though he discusses some specific biblical, theological and philosophic notions, he says he is far more interested in stimulating good Christian thinking and prompting it to be put into action than he is in propagating a set of ideas.

Sire says he sees in [Habits of the Mind](#) a unique focus on 'intellectual life' itself – not what a Christian should think but how a Christian can think better – with more accuracy, more attention to implications for life, more experience and acknowledgment of the presence of God in whatever is thought. For this he has not so much quoted his evangelical contemporaries as plumbed the riches of Christian thought of earlier centuries and other traditions.

Chapter one introduces the intellectual life by looking at several definitions of the word intellectual and concluding with his own. A major source for this definition is John Henry Newman, whose own character as a Christian intellectual (the subject of chapter two) Sire says has long intrigued him, as has his concept of the 'perfection of the intellect' (chapter three). Two succeeding chapters examine his own concept of intellectual life, first in relation to its distinctly mental dimension (chapter four) then in its moral dimension (chapter five).

Then follow three chapters detailing intellectual practice: intellectual virtues (chapter six), intellectual disciplines (chapter seven) and thinking by reading (chapter eight). A chapter on Jesus as a reasoner, even a 'logician,' provides one reason that people both can and should reason (chapter nine). The final chapter (chapter ten) of [Habits of](#)

[the Mind](#) challenges people as Christians to accept the responsibility to think well and in so doing to seek first the kingdom of God and to glorify God.

*Few contemporary evangelical writers have so profitably explored the meaning and implications of the Christian worldview and the Christian mind as has Jim Sire. Now his wise, well-informed, and witty work [Habits of the Mind](#) puts us even further in his debt. His profound ruminations on the nature, purpose, responsibilities, and feel of the Christian intellect delve deeply into Scripture and draw richly from history. – Douglas Groothuis, professor of philosophy at Denver Seminary, author of *Christian Apologetics**

*Over the last twenty-five years, no one has written so widely and helpfully about the challenge facing Christian students as has James Sire. Page upon page, year after year, he has set before a generation the meaning of the Christian faith – intellectually rich and profoundly true. Now in [Habits of the Mind](#), one hears countless conversations and a lifetime of listening in this call to love what we believe, to live the truth even as we learn to probe and ponder it. – Steven Garber, author of *Visions of Vocation**

This may be Dr. Sire's best book yet! He has introduced us to many fellow travelers on the road to wisdom who are great discoveries in themselves. He helpfully points us to the all-important links – mind and heart, passion for holiness and passion for truth – links that should be indissoluble, but alas are not, between knowing truth and obeying God. – Terry Morrison, director emeritus of Faculty Ministries, InterVarsity Christian Fellowship

A *Christianity Today* book award winner, [Habits of the Mind](#) is a deeply personal book filled with wit and wisdom, a fitting celebration of the 75th anniversary of InterVarsity Press. <>

Religion & Spirituality / Christianity

[The Hunger Inside: How the Meal Jesus Gave Transforms Lives](#) by Bradley Roth (Paraclete Press)

The meal that Jesus of Nazareth gave his followers, celebrated with grand liturgy and golden chalice, or with words pared lean and tiny plastic cups, is the distinctive rite of the church. The Eucharist is regarded as the source and summit of Christian faith – or maybe just a symbol – but what all Christians know is that Holy Communion does something. It's what and how the supper does what it does that divides them.

In [The Hunger Inside](#), Brad Roth explores the myriad ways the Lord's Supper transforms lives. As on that ancient gospel hill where more than 5,000 hungry people were fed, the abundance of Jesus' table touches uncountable human stories.

As told in [The Hunger Inside](#), Roth grew up in the evangelical world and found his way into the Mennonite church. While his journey gifted him with a deep passion for the

Bible and a practical commitment to everyday faith, it also left him with an enduring longing for something more. He says he was hungry. Somewhere along the way, Roth began to take Jesus at his word and experience the deep power and presence of the 'bread of life' that leaves no one hungry (John 6:35). Now, Roth wants to leave a breadcrumb trail to the riches of the Lord's table for all to discover.

Roth lives in rural Moundridge, Kansas with his wife and three sons, where he serves as pastor of the West Zion Mennonite Church.

Drawing generously on eclectic theological traditions, in [The Hunger Inside](#) Roth takes a narrative-driven approach to plumb the depths of symbolism, power, and presence communicated in the communion meal.

Writing with verve and wisdom, Brad Roth brings a fresh and insightful voice to the Christian community. His reading of the Christian theological tradition is broad, deep, and loving. He has a good preacher's love of a good story, which allows him to share profound pastoral and cross-cultural experiences with a light and winsome touch. Drawing upon Catholic and Orthodox sources in order to invite Anabaptists, Evangelicals, and Protestants to fall in love with the Eucharist, he cannot help but be provocative – sometimes in multiple directions at once. And yet his arguments are always gracious and invitational indeed. I cannot recommend this book highly enough. – Gerald W. Schlabach, emeritus professor of theology at the University of St. Thomas (MN) and co-founder of Bridgefolk

[The Hunger Inside](#) is a call for all followers of Jesus to encounter again the One who can meet their deep hunger at his table. <>

Science / Chemistry

[The Secret Lives of the Elements](#) by Kathryn Harkup (Mobius)

When one thinks of the periodic table one pictures orderly rows of elements that conform to type and never break the rules. In [The Secret Lives of the Elements](#) Kathryn Harkup reveals that there are personalities, passions, quirks and historical oddities behind those ordered rows, and shows readers that the periodic table is a sprawling family tree with its own black sheep, wayward cousins and odd uncles. The elements in the periodic table, like humans, are an extended family – some old, some newborn, some shy and reticent, some exuberant or unreliable.

Harkup is a chemist and author. Her first book was the international bestseller, *A is for Arsenic*. She has also written about the science of Frankenstein in *Making the Monster*, all the ways to die in a Shakespeare play in *Death by Shakespeare* and investigated the scientific background to horror's most famous fiend in her most recent book *Vampirology*.

Harkup in [The Secret Lives of the Elements](#) tells the weird and wonderful stories of just fifty two members of this family – remarkable tales of discovery, inspiration and revolution, from the everyday to the extraordinary. Some elements are relatively anonymous; others, already familiar, are seen in a new light; and old friends have surprising secrets to share.

[The Secret Lives of the Elements](#) is a unique and new perspective on the well-known periodic table of elements. The periodic table's ordered columns and rows are a common sight for many people who grew up learning about the elements in science classrooms.

Each of the fifty-two elements featured is its own individual, with unique personalities and characteristics, with its own remarkable tale of discovery, inspiration and revolution, from the everyday to the extraordinary. Harkup utilizes colorful graphics to supplement her in-depth explanations and stories behind each element.

[The Secret Lives of the Elements](#) is comprised of a collection of enlightening stories about the elements, from nickel, 'the very devil of a mineral,' to calcium, the character actor who can metamorphosize into different personalities.

The perfect book to escape our human-sized existence and take a tour of the atomic world instead. – Helen Arney, science comedian and broadcaster

A delightful and engaging treasure trove of a book that brings the chemical elements to life and gives them personalities of their own. A wonderful read for young and old alike to get you inspired by chemistry. – Jim Al-Khalili

From our green-fingered friend magnesium to the devil incarnate polonium, the eclectic collection of engaging and informative stories in [The Secret Lives of the Elements](#) will change the way readers see the periodic table forever. <>

Social Science / Sociology / Textbooks

[Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action](#), 7th edition by Anna Y. Leon-Guerrero (Sage Publications, Inc.)

Instructors seek to empower their students to become part of the solution.

The new 7th edition of [Social Problems: Community, Policy, and Social Action](#) by Anna Leon-Guerrero goes beyond the typical presentation of contemporary social problems and their consequences by emphasizing the importance and effectiveness of community involvement to achieve real solutions. This thought-provoking text challenges readers to see the social and structural forces that determine our social

problems; to consider various policies and programs that attempt to address these problems; and to recognize and learn how they can be part of the solution to social problems in their own community.

Leon-Guerrero is a professor of sociology at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, Washington. A recipient of the university's Faculty Excellence Award and the K. T. Tang Award for Excellence in Research, she teaches courses on statistics, sociological theory, and social problems. As a social service program evaluator and consultant, she has focused her research on welfare reform, employment strategies for the working poor, and program assessment.

What [Social Problems](#) offers is a sociological perspective on social problems. Unlike any other discipline, sociology provides students with a form of self-consciousness, an awareness that their personal experiences are often caused by structural or social forces. Sociology is the systematic study of individuals, groups, and social structures. A sociologist examines the relationship between individuals and society, which includes such social institutions as the family, the economy, and medicine. As a social science, sociology offers an objective and systematic approach to understanding the causes of social problems. From a sociological perspective, problems and their solutions don't just involve individuals; they also have a great deal to do with the social structures in society.

The sociological imagination emphasizes the structural bases of social problems, making people aware of the economic, political, and social structures that govern employment and unemployment trends. Individuals may have agency (the ability to make their own choices), but their actions and even their choices may be constrained by the realities of the social structure, including a global pandemic. Throughout [Social Problems](#), students apply their sociological imagination to the study of social problems.

[Social Problems](#) explores three connections. The first connection is the one between personal troubles and public issues. Each sociological perspective – functionalist, conflict, feminist, and interactionist – highlights how social problems emerge from our social structure or social interaction. While maintaining its primary focus on problems within the United States, this text also addresses the experience of social problems in other countries and nations. The comparative perspective will enhance students' understanding of the social problems they experience.

The sociological imagination will also help them make a second connection: the one between social problems and social solutions. Perhaps the most important value of sociology is in its potential to enrich and encourage the lives of all individuals. Each chapter reviews selected social policies, advocacy programs, and innovative approaches that attempt to address or solve these problems.

Textbooks on this subject generally present neat individual chapters on a social problem, reviewing the sociological issues and sometimes providing some suggestions about how it can and should be addressed. [Social Problems](#) follows the same outline but takes a closer look at community-based approaches, ultimately identifying how students can be part of the solution in their communities.

With a clear and upbeat tone, this thought-provoking text challenges readers to see the social and structural forces that determine our social problems; to consider various policies and programs that attempt to address these problems; and to recognize and learn how they can be part of the solution to social problems in their own community. As students progress through this text, they begin to use their own sociological imagination and see connections between problems and their solutions that they never saw before. <>

Transportation / History / Advertising

[Glamour Road](#): **Color, Fashion, Style, and the Midcentury Automobile** by Jeff Stork & Tom Dolle (Schiffer Publishing)

[Glamour Road](#), a highly visual book, explores the seldom-told story of how glamour, fashion, design, and styling became the main focus of automotive marketing from the postwar 1940s through the 1970s.

Authors are Jeff Stork and Tom Dolle. Stork, a classic car historian, writer, and researcher, who spent his career in the automobile industry, curates a large private automobile collection in Palm Springs. Dolle is a graphic designer, a design studio owner in New York, and an adjunct professor in Pratt Institute's Graduate Communication Design program. He is the creative director at Destination PSP, a product design company in Palm Springs.

As told in [Glamour Road](#), with the expansion of the American suburbs after World War II, women suddenly needed cars of their own. By adopting the fashion industry's yearly model changes, as well as hiring many designers and stylists from the fashion industry, the automobile industry made a direct appeal to the rising sophistication and influence of women. By perfecting the fashion-centric concept of planned obsolescence, it became the dominant economic engine of American postwar prosperity. The dramatic photography, elegant fashion, and use of color and materials in mid-century automotive marketing created a groundswell of demand for new cars.

Highly visual, a large-format coffee-table style book, [Glamour Road](#) is elegantly laid out and filled with many types of images. As told in the foreword by Susan Skarsgard,

...[\[Glamour Road\]](#) is also a celebration of the often-illusory and romantic attractiveness of the mid-century era and provides the reader with a unique vantage point to jump in and explore. It is beautifully designed and illustrated extensively, with a visual fancy that explains and contextualizes their unique point of view. More than just a car book, it is a deeper dive into how the design world became a catalyst for change, and explains how women, fashion, and the advertising world profoundly contributed to the social realignment in American culture.

But it is also just plain fun to look through. The highly stylized photography and illustrations, even the advertising copy itself; paint a rich portrait of desire and aspiration. The effective use of these visual tools was the means to introduce this new way of looking, and drove sales by capitalizing on the fashion and color industries. The importance of the commercial art and design world's influence is often under-acknowledged in historical discussions on this subject. However, the important role the advertising industry played is given its due in [\[Glamour Road\]](#) and provides a deeper understanding of the connections between the pop art scene and the commercial-art juggernaut, each co-opting the ideas of branding and style for the other's gain.

And again, there are the cars.

If you're a seasoned mid-century scholar, you will likely learn something new. If you're just delving into this world of glamour and appeal, you will likely be swept away. For everyone in between, this is a wonderful document that celebrates what modernism meant, and continues to mean, in America. – Susan Skarsgard, designer and author

Much of the marketing imagery of the period hasn't been published since it first came out, and [Glamour Road](#) features some of the best. <>

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