Spring & Summer

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY PRESS

2020
A MESSAGE FROM OUR DIRECTOR

Dear Readers,

This catalog marks the beginning of a year of celebration. 2020 is the eightieth anniversary of the founding of Vanderbilt University Press. In preparation for this year of highlighting VUP’s strengths, we reflected on our purpose and reiterated our commitment to our shared values. Together as a staff, we authored this mission statement:

Vanderbilt University Press extends the university’s scholarly mission by publishing dynamic, well-researched books for a global audience of engaged readers.

This is the historical and contemporary ethos that animates our actions as a publishing house. Dynamic research for a global readership is what ties our backlist of over five hundred titles to the new books we put forward this season. As the publishing industry endures constant changes, as our staff and program grow and develop, as campus builds and invests in new directions, this is the anchor that centers our focus. Two new series announced herein highlight what this mission looks like in practice. We are honored to see Critical Mexican Studies as well as Truths, Lies, and Histories of Nashville take shape and flourish.

In this catalog we see lines of inquiry that have been present through the eighty years the Press has been open. A focus on the hyperlocal experience of city and state residents is clear in our print edition of the Frist Art Museum’s latest exhibition, Murals of North Nashville Now. Snajdr and Trinch’s What the Signs Say: Language, Gentrification, and Place-Making in Brooklyn is another title that highlights the impact of economic redevelopment, harmonizing cultural studies with anthropology as the authors observe a city undergoing constant change. One of our regional collaborations, Lost Delta Found: Rediscovering the Fisk University–Library of Congress Coahoma County Study, 1941–1942, is fresh off the heels of its induction as a “Classic of Blues Literature” in the Blues Hall of Fame in 2019, so we have offered it in a trade paperback edition for the first time. These titles and others offered this season intersect at the corners of community representation, engaged scholarship, and cultural production. For eighty years this Press has been a place for conversations around what animates society and what the academy constitutes worthy of study. The future of Vanderbilt University Press is bright and the books are even brighter. I encourage you to take a closer look, but you might need shades.

Gianna F. Mosser
DIRECTOR
80th Anniversary Title Highlights
Selected titles from each decade of press history

1940–1949
Chancellor Kirkland of Vanderbilt
Edwin Mims (1940)

1950–1959
The Chief Rivals of Corneille and Racine
translated and edited by Lacy Lockert (1956)

1960–1969
The Hawk's Done Gone
and other Stories
Mildred Haun (1968)

1970–1979
Architecture of Middle Tennessee:
The Historic American Buildings Survey
edited by Thomas Brumbaugh, Martha Strayhorn, and Gary Gore (1974)

1980–1989
The White Monk: An Essay on Dostoevsky and Melville
F. D. Reeve (1989)

1990–1999
A Good-Natured Riot: The Birth of the Grand Ole Opry
Charles K. Wolfe (1999)

2000–2009
Becoming a Visible Man
Jamison Green (2004)

2010–2019
We Shall Overcome: Press Photographs of Nashville during the Civil Rights Era
edited by Kathryn E. Delmez (2018)
These stories take readers where they cannot go, be it out into space, back in time, deep under the ocean, down to microscopic scales, or out onto the geologic overview.

Squid turn themselves inside-out when disturbed by predators hunting through the darkness with sonar. Beneficial microbes spend their summer living in nectar and being transferred between blooms by the bees, then spend the winter living within those bees. Ecological stories are seen through the eyes of squirrels, birds, fish, ants, butterflies, and beetles.

Between the Rocks and the Stars dives deep into the relationships that shape the natural world. The book presents a collection of vignettes from the wild, each of which describes the natural advantage of a particular organism. These true-to-life accounts are then posed in particular circumstances that illustrate the principles—commensalism, speciation—that shape the place of these organisms in their living environment. Some stories cover topics in geology and cosmology, describing the physical world context in which natural history progresses across the eons.

Underlying themes in the book include the network of connections that link all these organisms together and the adaptations they make to the physical world in which they must find themselves a home.

“[Between the Rocks and the Stars] reads beautifully and achieves an almost dream-like quality as [Daubert] guides the reader through geological time and vertigo-producing changes in scale and perspective.”

DOUGLAS KILPATRICK ABBOT, associate professor of biological sciences, Vanderbilt University
How retail signs help create the space and experience of Brooklyn

What the Signs Say
Language, Gentrification, and Place-Making in Brooklyn

Shonna Trinch and Edward Snajdr

Although we may not think we notice them, storefronts and their signage are meaningful, and the impact they have on people is significant. What the Signs Say argues that the public language of storefronts is a key component to the creation of the place known as Brooklyn, New York. Using a sample of more than two thousand storefronts and over a decade of ethnographic observation and interviews, the study charts two very different types of local Brooklyn retail signage. The unique and consistent features of many words, large lettering, and repetition that make up Old School signage both mark and produce an inclusive and open place. In contrast, the linguistic elements of New School signage, such as brevity and wordplay, signal not only the arrival of gentrification, but also the remaking of Brooklyn as distinctive and exclusive.

Shonna Trinch and Edward Snajdr, a sociolinguist and an anthropologist respectively, show how the beliefs and ideas that people take as truths about language and its speakers are deployed in these different sign types. They also present in-depth ethnographic case studies that reveal how gentrification and corporate redevelopment in Brooklyn are intimately connected to public communication, literacy practices, the transformation of motherhood and gender roles, notions of historical preservation, urban planning, and systems of privilege. Far from peripheral or irrelevant, shop signs say loud and clear that language displayed in public always matters.

“What the Signs Say charts emerging terrains of gentrification through an acute, open-eyed, and deeply contextualized reading of Brooklyn streetscapes and the signs that shape them. This is a fascinating and textured case study in itself. It also models generative new ways of approaching the complex intersections of language, landscape, and social experience.”

Donald Brenneis, coeditor of the Annual Review of Anthropology
In 1941 and ’42 African American scholars from Fisk University—among them the noted composer and musicologist John W. Work III, sociologist Lewis Wade Jones, and graduate student Samuel C. Adams Jr.—joined folklorist Alan Lomax of the Library of Congress on research trips to Coahoma County, Mississippi. Their mission was “to document adequately the cultural and social backgrounds for music in the community.” Among the fruits of the project were the earliest recordings by the legendary blues singer and guitarist Muddy Waters. The hallmark of the study was to have been a joint publication of its findings by Fisk and the Library of Congress. While this publication was never completed, *Lost Delta Found* is composed of the writings, interviews, notes, and musical transcriptions produced by Work, Jones, and Adams in the Coahoma County study. Their work captures, with compelling immediacy, a place, a people, a way of life, and a set of rich musical traditions as they existed in the 1940s.

**Robert Gordon** is a writer and Emmy Award–winning filmmaker. His most recent book is *Memphis Rent Party: The Blues, Rock & Soul in Music’s Hometown.*

**Bruce Nemerov** has been, variously, a musician, radio and record producer, and writer. He was awarded a Grammy for the notes to *John W. Work III: Recording Black Culture*, an album of Work’s field recordings.

“*Lost Delta Found: Rediscovering the Fisk University–Library of Congress Coahoma County Study, 1941–1942* presents a unique and valuable perspective on the pioneering Coahoma County study that also was recounted in Alan Lomax’s *Land Where the Blues Began*, a prior Classics of Blues Literature honoree. Written by African American scholars from Fisk University, *Lost Delta Found* documents their crucial but often overlooked work on the project.”

**THE BLUES HALL OF FAME**
“Restores credit for the definitive Delta-blues research to the men who conducted it.”  
PASTE MAGAZINE

“Splendid and significant . . . Work was instrumental in uncovering and giving the work of bluesmen Muddy Waters, Son House, Son Sims, and Willie Brown to the world; every library that owns [Alan Lomax’s book The Land Where the Blues Began] should own this one, too. An essential purchase for music collections.”  
LIBRARY JOURNAL

“This may well be the greatest unpublished goldmine of early research into the music of black Mississippians, and its appearance is a boon not only to music scholars but to anyone interested in Southern life in a period of intense change and musical expression.”  
SING OUT!

“These original documents . . . paint a compellingly accurate portrait of the Mississippi Delta in the 1940s . . . Work, Jones, and Adams are finally getting their due at a time when Mississippi seems consumed with righting its past wrongs.”  
MOJO

“Gordon and Nemerov have rescued from oblivion an important study of black life in rural Mississippi. . . . Work’s 160 song transcriptions of 1941–1942 field recordings form the 100-page centerpiece of this book, and equally illuminating are insightful essays by the Fisk trio on plantation folklore and traditions, already fading at that time as urban influences permeated the Mississippi Delta.”  
PUBLISHERS WEEKLY

---

**a. John W. Work III** (1901–1966) was a gifted composer and educator. One of the first African American academics to argue the value of African American folk music, he preserved this heritage both in his book, *American Negro Songs and Spirituals*, and through his work with the Fisk Jubilee Singers, which he directed from 1947 until 1956. He retired from Fisk University in 1966.

**b. Lewis Wade Jones** (1910–1979) was an instructor in the Department of Social Sciences at Fisk University from 1932 to 1942, where he worked closely with Charles S. Johnson. In 1949 the two co-wrote *A Statistical Analysis of Southern Counties: Shifts in the Negro Population of Alabama*. After leaving Fisk, Jones moved to the Tuskegee Institute School of Education, where he was a professor of sociology.

**c. Samuel C. Adams Jr.** (1920–2001) attended the University of Chicago, where he received his PhD in 1953. He had a long and distinguished career in public service, highlighted by his appointment to the post of Ambassador to the Republic of Niger in 1968–1969.
Dynamic street art from a culturally and historically important, yet often underserved, Nashville community.

**Available Now**

**Murals of North Nashville Now**

Edited by Kathryn E. Delmez

The Frist art museum and Vanderbilt University Press have partnered to copublish *Murals of North Nashville Now*. The publication includes plates of the eight murals in the exhibition of the same name, along with images of public mural installations in North Nashville. The book features an essay on North Nashville and its history by Dr. Learotha Williams Jr., associate professor of African American and public history at Tennessee State University. Williams also runs the North Nashville Heritage Project. Kathryn E. Delmez, curator of the accompanying exhibition, edited the volume, considering the murals from both art-historical and community-engagement-driven perspectives. Susan H. Edwards, executive director and CEO of the Frist Art Museum, wrote the foreword and acknowledgments.

Generous support from various community leaders will allow the book to be placed in all Davidson County public schools and libraries, and to be presented to members of the Nashville Metropolitan Council and Tennessee General Assembly.

---

**Omari Booker. The Writing’s on the Walls, 2019. Housewrap, oil, plastic tubing, razor wire, and sand on panel, 96 x 144 in. Courtesy of the artist. © Omari Booker. Photo: LeXander Bryant**
The fourteen essays in *Food, Texts, and Cultures in Latin America and Spain* showcase the eye-opening potential of a food lens within colonial studies, ethnic and racial studies, gender and sexuality studies, and studies of power dynamics, nationalism and nation building, theories of embodiment, and identity. In short, *Food, Texts, and Cultures in Latin America and Spain* grapples with an emerging field in need of a foundational text, and does so from multiple angles.

The studies span from the Middle Ages to the twenty-first century, and the contributing scholars occupy diverse fields within Latin American and Hispanic studies. As such, their essays showcase eclectic critical and theoretical approaches to the subject of Latin American and Iberian food.

*Food, Texts, and Cultures in Latin America and Spain* also introduces the first English-language publication of works from such award-winning scholars as Adolfo Castañón of the Mexican Academy of Language; Sergio Ramírez, winner of the 2017 Miguel de Cervantes Prize in Literature; and Carmen Simón Palmer, winner of the 2015 Julián Marías Prize for Research.

### Also of Interest

James R. Veteto and Edward M. Maclin, eds., *The Slaw and the Slow Cooked: Culture and Barbecue in the Mid-South* 978-0-8265-1802-6 Paperback $39.95x
Analyzing a wide variety of late-nineteenth-century sources, *Sex, Skulls, and Citizens* argues that Argentine scientific projects of the era were not just racial encounters, but were also conditioned by sexual relationships in all their messy, physical reality.

The writers studied here (an eclectic group of scientists, anthropologists, and novelists, including Estanislao Zeballos, Lucio and Eduarda Mansilla, Ramón Lista, and Florence Dixie) reflect on Indigenous sexual practices, analyze the advisability and effects of interracial sex, and use the language of desire to narrate encounters with Indigenous peoples as they try to scientifically pinpoint Argentina’s racial identity and future potential.

Kerr’s reach extends into history of science, literary studies, and history of anthropology, illuminating a scholarly time and place in which the lines betwixt were much blurrier, if they existed at all.

“The protagonists here are not the well-known men that dominated the politics and science of the time, but women who were also participating in the transformation of Argentina. Even those women who were more oppressed are analyzed as active contributors ‘to the development of Argentine racial science.’ This is a solid and needed contribution to the field.”

**Adriana Novoa**, coauthor of *From Man to Ape: Darwinism in Argentina, 1870–1920*

“The presence of Indigenous women in Argentine national and scientific discourses as agents of such discourses and debates is one of the book’s strongest points. The twofold goal of introducing gender and sex to the study of scientific discourses and, at the same time, explaining the scientific roots of many social debates and literary works on race, gender, and civilization is consistent throughout.”

**Vanessa Miseres**, author of *Mujeres en tránsito: Viaje, identidad y escritura en Sudamérica (1830–1910)*
Dancehall as a way of life and a cultural force in the community of Jamaica

Sounds of the Citizens
Dancehall and Community in Jamaica
Anne M. Galvin

Dancehall: it’s simultaneously a source of raucous energy in the streets of Kingston, Jamaica, a way of life for a group of professional artists and music professionals, and a force of both stability and turbulence within the community. As Anne Galvin reveals in *Sounds of the Citizens*, the rhythms of dancehall music reverberate in complicated ways throughout the lives of countless Jamaicans.

Galvin highlights the unique partnerships between the dancehall industry and community development efforts. As the central role of the state in supporting communities has diminished, the rise of private efforts such as those of the people and organizations involved in dancehall becomes all the more crucial. The tension, however, between the supposed “haves” involved in the industry and the “have-nots” within the neighborhoods is palpable and often dangerous. Amid all this, individual Jamaicans interact with the larger industry to find their own paths of employment, social identity, and sexual mores.

As *Sounds of the Citizens* illustrates, the world of entertainment in Jamaica is serious business and uniquely positioned as a powerful force within the community.

“*Sounds of the Citizens* offers a necessary, ethnographically grounded update to the substantial literature on Jamaican popular music and culture . . . [and] careful, caring context for apprehending the ways dancehall serves as a serious force in the lives of the communities from which it issues.”

*Latin American Music Review*

“This theoretically sophisticated, well-researched book is a must read for graduate students, academics, and policy makers interested in Jamaican politics, dancehall culture, community development, globalization, and the long-term impacts of neoliberalism on postcolonial societies.”

*American Ethnologist*
How the literary classic *Don Quixote* is appropriated in social justice theater and youth activism in Brazil and throughout the Americas

**Living Quixote**

*Performative Activism in Contemporary Brazil and the Americas*

Rogelio Miñana

The 400th anniversaries of *Don Quixote* in 2005 and 2015 sparked worldwide celebrations that brought to the fore its ongoing cultural and ideological relevance. *Living Quixote* examines contemporary appropriations of Miguel de Cervantes’s masterpiece in political and social justice movements in the Americas, particularly in Brazil.

In this book, Cervantes scholar Rogelio Miñana examines long-term, Quixote-inspired activist efforts at the ground level. Through what the author terms performative activism, Quixote-inspired theater companies and nongovernmental organizations deploy a model for rewriting and enacting new social roles for underprivileged youth. Unique in its transatlantic, cross-historical, and community-based approach, *Living Quixote* offers both a new reading of *Don Quixote* and an applied model for cultural activism—a model based, in ways reminiscent of Paulo Freire, on the transformative potential of performance, literature, and art.

Vanderbilt University Press’s PERFORMING LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN IDENTITIES series provides a forum for scholarship that recognizes the critical role of performance in social, cultural, and political life. Geographically focused on the Caribbean and Latin America (including Latinidad in the United States) but wide-ranging in thematic scope, the series highlights how understandings of desire, gender, sexuality, race, the postcolonial, human rights, and citizenship, among other issues, have been explored and continue to evolve.
NEW BOOK SERIES

Truths, Lies, and Histories of Nashville

As a lead-up to Nashville’s 250th anniversary in 2029, Vanderbilt University Press is proposing an ambitious new series designed to bridge the gap between what scholars and historians know about the city and what the public thinks it knows.

We want the stories that have never been told, the truths behind the oft-told tales, the things that keep us in love with the city, and the parts of the past that have broken our hearts, with a priority on traditionally underrepresented perspectives and untold stories.

The series will consist of twenty-five small volumes, between 10,000 and 20,000 words apiece with subjects ranging across Nashville’s whole history. Two or three books will be released each year with a goal of having all twenty-five books available in 2029.

Because our ambition is to open up Nashville’s history to its communities, each book will consist of three parts:

- Open with a good story, expertly told. It could be a little-known true story that needs to be brought to light or a well-known legend that could use some debunking. Either way, it must be entertaining. The reading of these books should be fun, not a chore.
- Follow up with historical data, actual facts, and any appropriate cultural knowledge that backs up or complicates the story. This is the section for digging in to get at the truth.
- Tell readers why this story matters and why they should care. Provide context.

SUBMITTING A PROPOSAL

Proposals may be sent to Betsy Phillips at betsy.phillips@vanderbilt.edu. Please include:

- A concise description of the proposed book (one to two pages)
- Three reasons why this topic should be included in the series
- A description of what’s been published on the topic and how your project would differ
- Your full contact details and a 200-word professional biography (you can send your resume or CV, if you have it)
- A published sample of your writing
- The amount of time it will take you to complete your manuscript
- A description of any potential images or other supplemental materials
Critical Mexican Studies is the first English-language, humanities-based academic monograph series devoted to the study of Mexico. The series is a space for innovative works in the humanities that focus on theoretical analysis, transdisciplinary interventions, and original conceptual framing.

Critical Mexican Studies will feature books that question the many received ideas that shape the field of Mexican studies, from the focus on the connections between identity and nation (the topic of Mexicanness that has pervaded the field for decades) to the favored historiographic and philological approaches that have long defined significant portions of the field. Texts that approach Mexico with a more theoretical-conceptual bent or that seek to transgress the methodologies of the dominant disciplines will find a home here. The series seeks projects that engage Mexico through contemporary theoretical conversations—on necropolitics, disability, and queer theory, for example—or books that place Mexico as a site of departure and articulation of new theoretical paradigms like critical race theory, sovereign power, and the posthuman. Books in this series will develop conceptual discussions of interest above and beyond the field of Mexicanism.

The Critical Mexican Studies series is looking for the following types of work: 1) monographs by emerging and established scholars focused on Mexico and defined by their theoretical originality and the promise of opening new avenues in Mexican Studies; 2) carefully curated edited collections that define the state of the field at given points in time or that gather the most talented people in the field to discuss a particular concept; 3) and original or translated work by Mexican theorists and scholars. Although the series would be open to books in defined fields—such as literary or media studies—Critical Mexican Studies seeks works performing transdisciplinary, intermedial, and creatively theoretical research.

ABOUT THE EDITOR: Ignacio M. Sánchez Prado is Jarvis Thurston and Mona Van Duyn Professor in Humanities, professor of Spanish, Latin American studies, and film and media studies, and director of undergraduate studies in the Latin American Studies Program at Washington University in St. Louis. He is the author of Screening Neoliberalism: Transforming Mexican Cinema, 1988–2012 (available in English and Spanish editions from Vanderbilt University Press).
ORDERS

UNITED STATES

Vanderbilt University Press
c/o Longleaf Services, Inc.
116 South Boundary Street
Chapel Hill, NC 27514-3808

PHONE: (800) 848-6224
FAX: (800) 272-6817
EMAIL (orders): orders@longleafservices.org
EMAIL (inquiries): customerservice@longleafservices.org

For information on terms of sale, returns, and credit, please visit www.longleafservices.org.

CANADA

University of Toronto Press Distribution
5201 Dufferin Street
Toronto, ON M3H 5T8

PHONE: (800) 565-9523
FAX: (800) 221-9985
EMAIL: utpbooks@utpress.utoronto.ca
WEB: www.utpdistribution.com

THE REST OF THE WORLD

Eurospan Group
Gray’s Inn House
127 Clerkenwell Road
London ECIR 5DB
United Kingdom

PHONE: +44 (0) 1767 604972
FAX: +44 (0) 1767 601640
EMAIL: euros@turpin-distribution.com

EXAMINATION COPIES

Examination copies are available to instructors considering a book for classroom adoption. Instructors are entitled to a complimentary desk copy of any book adopted for course use. Please visit www.vanderbiltuniversitypress.com for our policy and online request form.

REVIEW COPIES

Please submit your request via email to vupress@vanderbilt.edu.

SALES INFORMATION

Betsy Phillips
Marketing and Sales Manager
Vanderbilt University Press
PMB 401813
Nashville, TN 37240

PHONE: (615) 322-6799
EMAIL: betsy.phillips@vanderbilt.edu

SALES REPRESENTATIVES

UNITED STATES

Catherine Hobbs
Sales Consortium Manager
Southern US Sales Representative
MD, DC, VA, WV, TN, NC, SC, GA, FL,
AL, MS, AR, LA, and TX
PHONE: (804) 690-8529
FAX: (434) 589-3411
EMAIL: ch2714@columbia.edu

Conor Broughan
Northeastern US Sales Representative
ME, VT, NH, MA, CT, RI, NY, PA,
NJ, and DE
PHONE: (917) 826-7676
EMAIL: cb2476@columbia.edu

William Gawronski
Western US Sales Representative
AK, AZ, CA, HI, ID, MT, NV, NM,
OR, UT, and WA
PHONE: (310) 488-9059
FAX: (310) 832-4717
EMAIL: wgawronski@earthlink.net

Kevin Kurtz
Midwestern US Sales Representative
CO, IL, IN, IO, KA, KY, MI, MN, MO, NE,
ND, OH, OK, SD, WI, and WY
PHONE: (773) 316-1116
EMAIL: kk2841@columbia.edu

CANADA

Ampersand Inc.
321 Carlaw Street, Suite 213
Toronto, ON M4M 2S1
PHONE: (866) 736-5620
FAX: (866) 849-3819