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WITH THE NAKED EYE

Collection « À l’œil nu » / “With the Naked Eye” Collection

This collection is for adults as well as for adolescents. Illustrated by creative designers, it aims to give readers knowledge of a subject in a lively and easy-to-understand way.

NEW!

A History of Intimacy with the Naked Eye

To have a room of one’s own, to write one’s diary, to dream, to show one’s body, to choose one’s sexuality: intimacy is at the heart of the emancipation and the empowerment of individuals. Its history is a long tale of conquests, violations and transgressions.

Since the 18th century, intimacy has not ceased to be reconfigured according to the evolution of lifestyles. But the recent emergence of new technologies is now upsetting the relationship to privacy and self-exposure. Hasn’t the era of the smartphone sounded the end of intimacy?

Philippe Artières is a historian, director of research at the CNRS and works on ordinary archives. He is notably the author of Life and death of Paul Geny (Seuil, 2013), of The wild file (Verticales, 2019), and more recently of A murderous seminarian (2020, Essay prize of the Société des Gens de Lettres).

NEW!

The Gauls with the Naked Eye

Resistant, rebellious, native...far from these clichés the Gauls are pastoral nomads, grain farmers, gold panners, traders and artisans. They live, exchange and create with all the pan-European peoples. This is a new tour of Gaul in the 21st century, with amazing illustrations and an accessible text. Lively but serious!

Archaeologist, historian and specialist in protohistory, Dominique Garcia has excavated and studied a number of archaeological sites in the Mediterranean. He is the author of numerous articles and a book editor (La Découverte, Peter Lang Publications, Archaeopress Archeology).

NEW!

Nature with the Naked Eye

Populations that are in direct contact with nature see little point in naming it. This is unlike Westerners, of whom the majority are urban, who need a word to designate it. But when we say “nature”, what are we talking about? A book for rebuilding and repairing social ties thanks to the environment.

Anne-Caroline Prévot is an ecologist and a research director at the CNRS. She co-directed with Cynthia Fleury The Concern for Nature. Learn, invent, govern (CNRS Editions, 2017).
Homo Sapiens with the Naked Eye
Francois Bon

Who is Homo Sapiens? When did he appear? How did he live? What were his relations with his contemporaries, the Neandertal? Why is he the only species to have survived up till now, while others progressively died out? What do we really know about him?

Earth with the Naked Eye
Alexandre Schubnel, Romain Jolivet, Jean-Arthur Olive, Nicolas Coltice

This book tells you all that you need to know about our blue planet and how it functions. When we think of earth, we often imagine a solid sphere that is cold, homogenous and inanimate. Yet the earth is boiling! It moves, it trembles and it can crack open.

The Colonisation of Space with the Naked Eye
Sylvain Chaty

In this book, Sylvain Chaty reviews the major stages of space exploration and analyses the different hypotheses regarding extra-terrestrial life. He also examines the possibilities of human habitation on other stars. The reader is taken on an exciting adventure – and without having to endure the risks and dangers of real-life deep space travel!

Sleep with the Naked Eye
Muriel Florin

With modern means, we know more about sleep, but we are still looking for its underlying reason, its primary function, which is without doubt common to all species. From dreams to the ideal sleep cycle, this book provides a detailed inventory of what we know about the subject, including how non-mammals sleep.
**Meeting Chronos**  
François Hartog

While tracing his path between literature, anthropology and history, as well as the stages of his questioning of the ways of articulating past, present and future - from Antiquity to contemporary presentism, via the reign of Christian time in the West - François Hartog highlights the new challenges brought into play by the changeover to a new era of time.

Director of studies at the EHESS, François Hartog has published a dozen books, all translated into multiple languages, including *Regimes of Historicity* (Seuil, 2003; published by Columbia UP in 2015), *Believe in history* (Flammarion, 2013) and *Chronos: The West Confronts Time* (Gallimard, 2020; published by Columbia UP in 2022).

**Published:** September 2022  
**ISBN:** 978-2-271-14217-7

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**Sea Urchins: Messengers of Evolution**  
Bruno David

Living or fossil, sea urchins are strange animals in our eyes. Without head or tail, they are a key to understanding the mysteries of evolution. Bruno David, a relentless researcher, has investigated the echinoderms from the plains of the Parisian Basin to the abyss, using the most unexpected tools. A short book to understand the stakes of developmental and evolutionary sciences, and to learn while being amazed.

Bruno David is a naturalist specialized in evolution and biodiversity sciences. President of the National Museum of Natural History, he is also the author of *At the dawn of the 6th extinction* (Grasset, 2021) and of *The Living World* (Grasset, 2022).

**Published:** May 2022  
**ISBN:** 978-2-271-14173-6

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**Thinking African History**  
François-Xavier Fauvelle

François-Xavier Fauvelle traces his research journey from South Africa to Morocco via Ethiopia and highlights the incredible richness of the history of ancient and medieval Africa. He points out the challenges of a fragmentary documentation that requires the use of archaeological excavations and ancient writings, oral traditions and contemporary uses of the past, while deconstructing the representations inherited from centuries of slavery and colonialism. A lively introduction to the history of Africa and its issues.


**Published:** March 2022  
**ISBN:** 978-2-271-14262-7
Einstein and the Quantic Revolutions
Alain Aspect

Innate Immunity
Jules Hoffmann

An Ecology of Relations
Philippe Descola
Rights sold: Italian

Past Climates, Future Climates
Jean Jouzel

Fundamentals of Social Life
Maurice Godelier
Rights sold: Arabic, Turkish, Italian

The Linguist and Languages
Claude Hagège
Rights sold: Turkish

The Secrets of Life
Nicole Le Douarin

Gravitational Waves and Black Holes
Thibault Damour

Computer Thinking
Gérard Berry

Black Holes and Quasars
François Combes

Geometry and Quantum Mechanics
Alain Connes
Rights sold: Italian

Making Maths
Claire Voisin

Cryptology at the Heart of Today’s Digital World
Jacques Stern

Decontaminating the Planet
Jean Weissenbach
Everything You Wanted to Know About Climate Change (or Almost!)

Anne Brès, BonPote, Claire Marc

A clear and concise graphic book to know everything about climate issues with the most up-to-date scientific data.

"The climate is changing, but it has always changed"; "CO2 is not a poison"; "Polar bears thrive on the ice pack"; "Predicting the climate? but we can’t even predict next week’s weather!"; "In any case, humans have always adapted and will continue to adapt".

Who has never heard or read these preconceived ideas? Although the realities of climate change are becoming ever more palpable, and there is no more doubt among climatologists that humans are responsible for it, climate skeptics flock to the slightest apparent contradiction or imprecise formulation and keep spreading erroneous information to clamoring audiences on social networks. Combating this disinformation is essential.

With its seemingly lighthearted artistic style and research from the finest scientific minds, this comic covers the basic stakes, taking stock of what we know for sure about climate change, as well as telling the story of how we came to know it.

“This book [...] is a very useful educational tool for all audiences. Climate change is a fact and an emergency. It is therefore necessary to understand all the challenges: its origins (human activities), its consequences (on warming, extreme phenomena ...), its solutions.”

Numerama, March 2022

“A book of general interest that should be in everyone’s hands.”

Science & Vie, May 2022

“Designed to get the basics right, the book also responds to misinformation and all the skeptics who ironize about a cold snap and global warming, or who think that technological progress will be enough to overcome all challenges. With welcome diagrams, the chapters are deliberately short to provide simple explanations, and can be picked up as you wish.”

La Croix, March 2022

DETAILS

World rights available (sold in Korean)
Size: 17 x 21 cm
Pages: 136
List price: 18 €
Publication date: 03/03/2022
Amazing Infinities
Directed by Ursula Bassler

From elementary particles to space-time, from the neutrino to the Big Bang, from the proton to the black hole: what do we know about the infinitely large and the infinitely small? Two infinities to be scrutinized and discovered to better understand the world around us.

The desire to understand the world in which we live has animated humanity since its origins, and is expressed, in the most ancient cultures, in the form of cosmogonic narratives and the description of the elements. Since then, conceptual progress, technological developments, and the use of mathematics to probe our environment and put it into equations have led to a better knowledge of what surrounds us.

On the infinitely small side, quarks, leptons and bosons are the basis of the standard model of particle physics. By studying them, we try to discover the secret of the organization of matter at the smallest scale. On the side of the infinitely large, the origin and evolution of the Universe since its very first moments are scrutinized. The two meet and interpenetrate: one cannot describe the Big Bang if one does not understand the infinitely small; one cannot describe dark matter if one does not understand the infinitely large.

The physics of infinities is an extraordinary physics that is told with great abundance of superlatives. It requires large-scale transnational installations and takes us on journeys to the limits of perception, where we flirt with the speed of light and juggle with the limits of the properties of matter.

Ursula Bassler is a physicist, deputy scientific director of the National Institute for Nuclear and Particle Physics at CNRS. She served as president of the CERN Scientific Council from 2019 to 2022.

IN THE SAME COLLECTION

Amazing Reefs
Directed by Laetitia Hédouin

Amazing Chemistry
Directed by Claire-Marie Pradier

Amazing Life
Directed by Catherine Jessus

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 16 x 21 cm
Pages: 300
List price: 22 €
Publication Date: November 2022
Protect and Destroy
Governing Nature in the Tropics (20th-21st century)
Directed by Guillaume Blanc, Mathieu Guérin & Grégory Quenet

This book brings together a set of case studies dealing with Western policies on the protection and predation of nature in the different Souths (Asia, Africa, Middle East) throughout the 20th century. A major contribution to environmental history, by an international team that includes researchers from the universities of Oxford, Singapore, Maastricht, California, Versailles, Rutgers and West Virginia.

How has the government of “nature” in Asia, Africa and the Middle East been constructed over the course of the 20th century and up to the present day? From the creation of the first hunting reserves in the African colonies in the name of wildlife protection to the current models of community conservation favored by international organizations, this ambitious research project, which combines history, geography, political science and ecology, examines the negotiations and struggles provoked by “green colonialism”.

Whether it is the imperial management of forests in Singapore or Lebanon, the introduction of new species in French colonial Africa or the promotion of the “harvest” of large fauna, or the contemporary conflicts over the tiger, the elephant and the marine crocodile in India, these studies highlight the intertwining of colonial and post-colonial times. Before and after independence, protecting nature meant exercising power. And yesterday as today, the global conservation of nature in the South evolves to the rhythm of a permanent contradiction between predation and protection.

“How could anyone have imagined, at the turn of the 1960s, that the best way to preserve wildlife in Africa was to slaughter zebras, antelopes or other species to make them the preferred diet of African populations living near the reserves? Why were Indian farmers successfully trapping a man-eating tiger, which killed more than a dozen of them, threatened with death by urban populations living at a distance from nature? These paradoxical cases, this book teaches us, are in fact representative of a tension that runs through the relationship with nature in the twentieth century, in both colonial and post-colonial situations: protection is always linked to a form of predation.

This very international book, as much by the cases treated as by the authors mobilized, opens a major research site to question the evolution of our relationship to nature.”

Thomas Hirsch, editor
Masters and Slaves in the Mediterranean (10th-19th century)
Jean-Claude Hocquet

A social and economic approach to slavery that allows us to understand how this traffic worked in the Mediterranean world.

On the shores of the Mediterranean, in the Middle Ages, slavery was a widespread phenomenon. It was everywhere, in the cities and rural towns, in the crafts or in the guarding of the herds, in the patrician palaces as well as in the more modest houses of the artisans. Following on from works that have lifted the veil that covered the practice of slavery in Christian Europe, Jean-Claude Hocquet delivers here a fascinating study.

By reconstructing, as closely as possible, the work and daily life of slaves, their origin, their capture, the markets and the redemption procedures, he draws up a true map of the slave trade. Initially confined to the waters of the Black Sea and the Eastern Mediterranean, it moved to the Balkan countries and Africa. Lisbon, Lagos, Seville and Cadiz then became the main suppliers of colored slaves to Mediterranean Europe; Genoa, Venice, Naples, Barcelona and Valencia were leading slave cities. Jean-Claude Hocquet establishes above all that the diffusion of slavery had as its essential objective to counter the demands for increased wages put forward by the workers and not to fill the demographic void caused by the Black Death in the middle of the fourteenth century. Religions, then, were not a brake on this practice, in Christian lands as in Islamic lands.

A particularly fine and documented study.

“A remarkable sum, as close as possible to the condition of slaves on a daily basis and to European slavery practices that have been downplayed for too long.”

Nathalie Lempereur, editor

Jean-Claude Hocquet is director of research at the CNRS. He is a specialist in the history of salt and has also worked extensively on Venice. He is the author of Venice and the monopoly of salt (Les Belles Lettres, 2012), Venice and the See (Fayard, 2006) and more recently Salt: from slavery to globalization (CNRS Editions, 2019; translated in Chinese).
The dynamism of the Chinese economy since the end of the 1970s and its central position in world trade invite us to revisit a crucial period, that of the end of the imperial era (16th-19th century). During these three centuries, China, whose economy was nevertheless very advanced and flourishing, saw a widening gap with the countries of Northern Europe. Why did this happen? Many explanations have been given for this long divergence. However, little attention has been paid to the real players and the concrete ways in which the markets operate. This book intends to fill this gap by giving voice to the texts and by following the path of three central characters: the financier, the intermediary, and the commercial entrepreneur. Re-examining the origins of Chinese power also means discerning its fault lines, its breaking points and its weaknesses. If the late imperial period saw the multiplication of rich merchants, the capitalist entrepreneur was absent from the landscape. Capital, fragmented, is not easily mobilized: it is periodically destroyed or hoarded. Contrary to many preconceived ideas about Chinese prosperity, this book sketches a bold parallel between the China of yesterday and today. It shows that wealth often comes from connivance with political power, not from institutions that facilitate the secret alchemy that transforms savings into capital.

“In the 18th century, China had an advanced economy and rich and powerful merchants. Why did it not experience an economic revolution like England? This is the question that this book answers. We know the explanations of the American Kenneth Pomeranz: England had plenty of energy (coal) and its American colonies provided the cotton for the textile revolution. Not convincing, retorts François Gipouloux after having studied three Chinese merchant networks in detail, and this is what makes this book so interesting.”

Alternatives économiques, September 2022
The Wardrobe of Totalitarianisms  
Directed by Bernard Bruneteau & François Hourmant

This collective work explores the clothes of dictatorships. Through ten articles, the authors analyze how totalitarian movements sought to homogenize appearances and outfits as a reflection of the strength of the ideology.

Camicea nera of the Italian fascists or brown shirts of the Nazis, Mao jacket or starry beret of Che, red scarf of the Komsomols in the USSR or blue of the Pioneers in the GDR, Cambodian krama: all these clothes are emblematic of the totalitarianisms of the 20th century. As political symbols, they summoned imaginations and conveyed ideologies.

The often scrupulous attention paid by the different regimes - fascist or communist - to the codification and standardization of appearances invites us to explore all the facets of this language of power.

Witness and instrument of a Promethean will to take hold and control, a sign of belonging and solidarity but also of hierarchy and submission, of subjection and exclusion, the wardrobe has made it possible to frame all spheres of social life, to exalt political values and ideals, to show a community united behind its leader.

How did the populations experience the obligation to wear this or that piece of cloth? What were the real effects of wearing these clothes? These are all questions that allow us to better understand the processes of recruitment and oppression of the populations, as well as their limits.

"A fascinating collection of articles by researchers focuses on clothing as a means of control over individuals."  
Le Figaro, May 2022

Bernard Bruneteau is professor emeritus of political science at the University of Rennes. His work focuses in particular on the study of totalitarianism and genocide. He is the author of Totalitarianism. Origins of a concept, genesis of a debate (Cerf, 2010) and Totalitarian happiness. Stalinist Russia and Hitler’s Germany in mirror (Cerf, 2022).

François Hourmant is a professor of political science at the University of Angers. He is notably the author of The Mao years in France (Odile Jacob, 2018) and Power and beauty. The taboo of the physique in politics (PUF, 2021).

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 288
List price: 23 €
Publication Date: May 2022
Ports of Europe
Images and Imaginary, 18th-21st century
Directed by Françoise Taliano-des Garets

Liverpool, Piraeus, Nantes, Bordeaux, Bergen, Cadiz, Barcelona, Algiers, Livorno, Palermo, Marseille: a tour of Europe’s ports and their imaginary, between the underbelly, confinement and threat, on the one hand, and the call of the sea, exoticism and economic prosperity, on the other.

While urban policies nowadays value port cities that are increasingly attractive for their location and their renewal, this book looks back at the long history of the representations of these cities open to international trade. It takes us from Bordeaux to Liverpool, from Horta to Marseille and Nantes, from Piraeus to Saint-Nazaire, Dunkirk or Bergen, and invites us to discover the images, not devoid of stereotypes, of these ports that so many writers, artists, travelers and merchants have described since the 18th century.

The image of these coastal cities has varied according to the times, to the rhythm of the phases of development of the port activity or of their decline. The docks keep the trace of these transformations, whether they are associated with the shallows, the confinement, the threat, the dream, the call of the sea, the exoticism, the economic prosperity, the modernity or, more recently, the overtourism.

These cities, full of ancient mythologies, sometimes affected by long amnesia, must now face their slave or colonial past and reinvent themselves.

Historians, political scientists, and geographers gathered here question the construction of these port imaginaries and study both the way these cities look at themselves and the way they are looked at from the outside.

“...A fascinating plunge into the representations of European ports, at the same time places considered sordid and dangerous, and attractive and exotic. Port cities that must also confront their past, as the prosperity of some was largely built on the profits of slavery and colonization. Ports that never stop reinventing themselves until today, developing cultural and leisure activities, sometimes struggling to face the challenge of over-tourism.”

Nathalie Lempereur, editor

Françoise Taliano-des Garets is a professor of contemporary history at Sciences Po in Bordeaux. A member of the Center for the Social History of Contemporary Worlds at the University of Paris 1 Panthéon-Sorbonne, she has devoted most of her work to the cultural history of cities in a comparative and international perspective.
Mississippi
The Lost Heart of the United States
Christian Montès

Beyond the images conveyed by the collective imagination (Mark Twain, the blues), a book to understand how the populations of the river have occupied, modified, violated but also developed this space over the centuries.

The Mississippi is very important in the history and the imaginary of the United States, whether we think of Mark Twain, Bessie Smith, the blues, slavery, or the paddlewheelers. To such an extent that drawing a portrait of the Mississippi is also, in part, drawing a portrait of the American nation.

Yet, if the Mississippi, which crosses the country from north to south, is at the geographical heart of the United States, it seems to be on the fringe in political, economic or social terms. Is Mississippi the lost heart of the United States? This would be a hasty answer and would ignore the revival of American Indian cultures, the rich heritage that attracts many tourists, and the presence of strong economic poles such as the Twin Cities.

Christian Montès invites us to travel down this river, from Minnesota to the delta in Louisiana, evoking the diverse landscapes, the cities that border it, the populations that live there, and even the migratory birds that fly over it. It also introduces us to the many contemporary challenges such as persistent racism, high inequality and poverty, pollution caused by hydrocarbons and petrochemicals, but also the floods that we are trying to contain and violent climatic phenomena such as Katrina.

Christian Montès is a professor of geography at the University of Lyon 2. He works on American cities, urban planning, and spatial justice. He is the author of American Capitals (Chicago Press, 2014) and, with Pascale Nédélec, of an Atlas of the United States (Autrement, 2nd ed. 2021).

IN THE SAME COLLECTION

The Congo
Roland Pourtier

The Tigris and the Euphrates
Marcel Bazin

“*A northwestern crossing of the United States, which thwarts the stereotypes of the river, too often restricted to Louisiana, and allows us to discover vast landscapes, cultures and a country in the grip of multiple challenges. Descending the river, Christian Montès makes us discover the United States differently.*”

Nathalie Lempereur, editor

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 14 x 20,5 cm
Pages: 256
List price: 23 €
Publication Date: Octobre 2022
A Dragon in the Service of the King
The Maritime Destiny of the Chevalier de l’Espine from 1778 to 1793
Florence Prudhomme & Thierry Moné

Starting with the archaeological exploration of the wreck of the Dragon, the authors take us to the discovery of a little known episode of the American Revolutionary War.

The water, salt and sand of the paradisiacal beaches of the Dominican Republic inexorably erase the memory of men. Who remembers today the 22nd of January 1783 and the explosion of the Dragon, a discreet corvette of the French Navy of Louis XVI, secretly engaged in the American War of Independence?

In the early 2000s, it took the persistence of a few enthusiasts to make the remains of the Dragon and the mysterious and tenuous clues of a fascinating story speak for themselves, that of a nobleman from Provence, Joseph de L’Espine (1759-1826), entirely devoted to the service of the King.

At the end of 1782, at the age of 24, the intrepid ensign was charged with transporting the Captain of Génie de Courrejeolles, bearer of cryptic instructions, to Santo Domingo, where he was to lead a daring surprise attack on the strategic salt islands of the Caribbean. Pursued by an English squadron, L’Espine successfully accomplished his mission without losing a single man. But, cornered, he will blow up his Dragon, an old privateer cutter from Guernsey, captured and integrated into the French fleet, then rebuilt in Boston. A treasure for archaeologists and historians. This book retraces the story of this discovery, the investigation in the archives and reconstitutes the tangled threads of the destiny of a man and a ship between France and the Americas.
Arab Political Writings
An Anthology of Ideas in the Maghreb and the Mashreq in the 20th century
Directed by Leila Seurat & Jihane Sfeir

Behind the great historical events (the end of the Ottoman Empire, the Sykes-Picot agreements, the maintenance of colonial domination after independence, military coups, the “Arab Spring”), what ideas have shaped the Arab political imagination and had concrete effects on the life of societies? An anthology of the political ideas of Arab thinkers of the 20th century.

Organized according to a thematic plan, this anthology of political ideas in the Mashreq and Maghreb aims to give an account of the way in which the government of populations, the organization of societies, justice and the common good have been thought, formulated and set in motion from 1920 to 2011. Composed of legal writings, press articles, and public speeches, it brings together “producers” of ideology with diverse profiles: men from religious institutions, men of letters, intellectuals, activists and political leaders.

This project wishes, on the one hand, to decompartmentalize the categories of “nationalists”, “Islamists”, “leftists” and “liberals”, in order to show the numerous circulations. Thus, many activists and intellectuals went from the left to Islam after 1967 and then to liberalism from the 1980s. On the other hand, it wants to insist on the way in which these ideas inform power relations. They are not mere statements aimed at giving an ethical horizon to politics, but discursive weapons used in the context of political struggles.

Structured around four main themes - the boundaries of the umma; the exercise of political power, emphasizing the centrality of the authoritarian paradigm; the economy and development; and self-criticism (with a particular focus on the endogenous factors of the “Arab unhappiness”) - this book questions the link between ideology and the revolutionary process, and invites us to examine the role of ideas in triggering uprisings.

“Yasser Arafat, Gamal Abdel Nasser, Hafez al-Assad, Muammar Gaddafi, Saddam Hussein, but also Sayyid Qutb, Messali Hadj, Hassan Al-Banna, Michel Aflak: this series of texts makes it possible to realize the role of political ideas in triggering the uprisings.”

Blandine Genthon, editor

Associate researcher at the Center for Sociological Research on Law and Penal Institutions and at the Observatory of Arab and Muslim Worlds, Leïla Seurat is the author of The Foreign Policy of Hamas (CNRS Editions, 2015; published by Bloomsbury in 2022).

A specialist in the contemporary Arab world, Jihan Sfeir is a professor at the University of Bruxelles. She has published The Palestinian exile in Lebanon: the time of origins 1947-1952 (Karthala, 2008).
Isfahan
History and Archaeology of a Persian Capital
Philippe Revault

A survey of the spirit of a primordial garden city, capital of the Empire. This synthesis accessible to the general public is completed with a rich and elegant iconography.

In the center of a mountainous cirque, Isfahan emerges from the arid Iranian plateau. An oasis from which emerge sparkling domes, the high turrets of minarets and the rumor of a caravan city.

Since the 17th century, all travelers have kept an unforgettable memory of this marvelous city, combining the trappings of an imperial capital and the most unexpected amenities of a commercial crossroads.

An absolute work of art, this preserved jewel of Shah Abbas I (1588-1629) unites urban planning, architecture and ornament. Around a main axis - the Chahār Bāgh - is articulated a myriad of azure palaces, pavilions with shimmering earthenware, while squares, canals and gardens draw arabesques structured by water and vegetation.

The architect Philippe Revault, who worked on its renovation, shows us all the visible facets of this garden city. But he also seeks to know how the idea of this garden city was formed, how it should be thought with the philosophical and theological renaissance of the duodecimal Shiism, which allowed the blossoming of the “school of Isfahan”.

Jean-Claude Golvin, architect and archaeologist, who directs the collection “The Spirit of Places”, presents here three original reconstructions of Isfahan.

Philippe Revault, architect and teacher at ENSA Paris-La Villette, has worked in North African and Middle Eastern cities, basing his creations on a reflexive analysis of local societies in their historical context. An expert with UNESCO, his projects concern old city centers as well as large housing projects in France and unplanned neighborhoods in cities of the South.

World rights available
Size: 17 x 23 cm
Pages: 300
List price: 29 €
Publication Date: November 2022

In the same collection – upcoming titles –
Roman Athens
Amarna (Egypt)
“Spirit of Places”: a collection to discover the originality, the personality and the spirit of major sites of European and Near Eastern archaeology and history, from Antiquity to the modern era.
Sex, Taxes and Kinship
A Social History in the Modern Era, 1450-1850
Sandro Guzzi-Heeb

Micro-historical studies that allow a better understanding, over time, of the factors that make sexual cultures evolve.

Contrary to a persistent idea, the “modern family” did not appear in the eighteenth century: it originated in the early modern period, with the establishment of marriage as defined by the religious reforms of the sixteenth century. With the emergence of the State and its powerful engine, taxation, the power begins to be interested in the intimate life of its subjects and to legislate on sex. Under the influence of economic transformations, from proto-industrialization to the spread of salaried work, new models of organization of kinship and gender relations were affirmed.

Moving away from a cultural approach, which has been dominant in recent decades, the author draws on case studies, conducted in particular in Switzerland, and compares them with the major developments perceptible on a European scale. He focuses his attention on the diversity of experiences, examining the sometimes contradictory realities of the peasantry, the working classes and the elites. Various practices according to the context, the environment or the political and religious allegiance can thus be presented. In this perspective, the romantic ideal of love-passion and intimacy, which has long dominated representations of married life, appears above all as a powerful instrument of social and cultural distinction.

A synthesis to better understand the legacies that still weigh heavily on our conceptions of sexuality, family and conjugal relations.

“A beautiful journey through the modern era, based on the most recent works. The practices and politics of sex in light of the creation of modern states, industrialization and the development of capitalism.”

Nathalie Lempereur, editor
Atlas of Medieval Muslim Worlds
Directed by Sylvie Denoix & Hélène Renel

From the houses of wisdom in Baghdad to the great mosque of Cordoba, from the salt caravans in the Sahara to the military conquests of Nubia, from Marco Polo to the successors to Genghis Khan, this magnificently illustrated and unprecedented atlas offers a fascinating overview of the Muslim Middle Ages.

The aim of this Atlas is to provide a broad overview of the political and military, economic and social, religious and cultural history of the medieval Muslim worlds from late antiquity to the early modern period. It is based on nearly two hundred original maps at all scales, accompanied by texts, source extracts and illustrations.

The Islamic conquests contributed to the formation of a vast set of territories where Muslims held political power, dominating peoples with different customs, languages and religions. It spanned three continents - from al-Andalus in the west to Islamicized India in the east - and opened onto two major maritime spaces, the Mediterranean and the Indian Ocean. This atlas explores the routes taken by merchants, pilgrims, travelers, students and scholars; it attests to the extent of the urban phenomenon as well as the wealth of exchanges in this area as a whole, and gives an account of its insertion into a world-economy in formation.

The Muslim communities were separated into different branches: the Sunnis and the Shiites, but also into a myriad of other minority currents that mark the religious topography to this day. If the fratricidal struggles were important, the conflicting relations with different enemies from outside - conquests and jihad, crusades and invasions - reshaped the internal balances as well as the external borders. The diplomatic activity that took place throughout Eurasia and from the Atlantic to the Pacific, the circulation of ideas and literary or architectural models, testify, beyond commercial exchanges, to the extent of the networks developed over the centuries.

“The civilization called Islam, certainly unified by the Muslim religion, is a real mosaic. And it is indeed an atlas of the medieval Muslim worlds that we have in our hands. Erudite, this work is also a beautiful book.”

Le Monde, September 2022

“This book will quickly become a must-have for students and teachers.”

La Cliothèque, July 2022

“These worlds that are revealed to us here bear witness to a richness that is too often disdained. The Middle Ages, however, here as elsewhere, display complex dynamics of relationships that are very instructive to discover.”

Archéologia, July-August 2022
The Sultanate of Mali

Regressive History of a Medieval Empire
(21st-14th century)

Hadrien Collet

How has the history of Mali been thought and told since the Middle Ages? This volume inaugurates the Zena collection, directed by Marie-Laure Derat and François-Xavier Fauvelle, which aims to publicize and disseminate current historical research on Africa.

Between the eighth and fifteenth centuries, a number of city-markets, city-states, kingdoms and sultanates existed in the Sahel. The most famous and best documented of these political formations is the Sultanate of Mali (13th-15th centuries). The epic of Sunjata, a monumental text of oral tradition, and the “Manden Charter”, sometimes presented as the first declaration of human rights, are all related to it. It is mentioned in several of the “Timbuktu manuscripts” written in the 17th century. In the mid-14th century, Ibn Battuta is said to have stayed in the capital of the sultanate, recounting his journey in his famous Rihla. A few decades earlier, in 1323-1325, his leader Mansa Musa had made headlines among Mamluk scholars during his pilgrimage to Mecca via Cairo. It is then, without doubt, that we are closest to medieval Mali.

In the absence of internal sources, this major pole of Africa in the Middle Ages can only be accessed through these glimpses of it over time. Hence the need for an archaeology of knowledge, capable of unraveling and understanding the multiple transformations in the ways of understanding Mali, from the 14th century to the present day. This book is devoted to this ambitious undertaking, which, in a regressive manner, restores the metamorphoses of the representations of Mali, in order to better illuminate what it is possible to know about its history.

“A highly original “regressive history” that, perhaps more than the kingdom itself, sheds light on the way it has been seen and “thought” over the centuries, the metamorphoses of its representations and the influence they may have today on those who occupy its territory. A fascinating epic.”

Le Point, June-August 2022

“Hadrien Collet delivers a fundamental work for the understanding of the history of Africa.”

L’Histoire, September 2022
Long Term World-Peoples
Chinese, Indians, Iranians, Greeks, Jews, Armenians
Michel Bruneau

Why do some peoples manage to go through history, not without profound upheavals, but maintaining a link to their highest antiquity? In this sharp comparative essay, the author looks for the reasons of this perennity.

Only a few peoples in the world, who have become nations, can boast of a multi-millennial longevity, from Antiquity to the present day: the Chinese, the Indians, the Iranians, the Greeks, the Jews and the Armenians. Despite conquests, partial assimilation or colonial domination, these six long term world-peoples have succeeded in maintaining - or restoring - their language, their culture and/or their religious specificity, and in reconstituting an independent state. The Chinese and Iranians relied on a vast territorial base and successive dynasties. The Greeks and Indians alternated between recurrent political fragmentation and periods of imperial unification. The Jews and Armenians were dispersed very early on in the Mediterranean and Eurasian space, and then worldwide. Unlike the Egyptians, none of them transformed themselves through contact with their conquerors. What are the factors which can explain the longevity, influence and resilience of these six peoples? What role did religions, societal structures, political institutions and languages play in the ability of these peoples to survive for nearly three millennia? Their comparison should allow us to better understand the geohistorical significance of this concept of “long term world-peoples”.

“Here is a book called to make date like the precedents of this great historian whose fascination for the trajectories of these “world peoples” since Antiquity is obvious.”

Conflicts, April 2022

Geographer, specialist in geohistory, director of research emeritus at the CNRS, Michel Bruneau is the author of Diasporas and transnational spaces (Anthropos, 2004), Asia between India and China (Belin, 2006), From Asia Minor to Turkey (CNRS Editions, 2015, translated in Arabic, Turkish & Greek) and Eurasia (CNRS Editions, 2018, translated in Arabic & Chinese NS).
Thinking the Mediterranean
Past and Present
Colette Jourdain-Annequin & Paul Claval

A geographer and a historian offer us a great history of the Mediterranean and of the unity of this space. From myths and maps to the most contemporary art and literature, a look back at a space with a strong cultural identity.

The Mediterranean... the deep blue of the coves and the pink of the roofs, the dark soil of the slopes and the vineyards, the ashen green of the olive trees and the dark spire of the cypresses, the dry stones and the fountains... The Mediterranean is also Algiers the White, the white and the blue of so many Greek islands, the mineral vision of the “dead cities” of the Levant, the song of the norias, the warm color of the sands of the deep East.

In this portrait with two voices, that of a historian and that of a geographer, this Mediterranean world is revealed and the way it has been thought, shaped and constantly reinvented by the Ancients, the Moderns and our contemporaries. The Mediterranean, multiple and diverse, is nevertheless marked by an astonishing unity, very early felt. How can we explain this acute awareness of a space, of a particular environment - this “Mediterraneanity”?

Colette Jourdain-Annequin and Paul Claval retrace the way in which the Greeks, Romans and later botanists, geographers, artists and historians perceived this inland sea, based on the climate, landscapes, myths, cartography, languages, religions, know-how and shared ways of life. The nineteenth century was a powerful vector for the idealization of this territory, before Braudel laid the foundations of any study on the subject. It is a space unified by widely shared traits, but also a place of complex exchange made of conflicts or rivalries, which emerges from this study.

“History is a geo-history, a combination of human action in the face of environmental constraints, outside of any form of determinism. Such is this book, composed in 9 chapters that embrace the long time, and that are of a beautiful readability. Another beautiful proof of the very strong link between history and geography. [...] Nice program and nice demonstration!”

Historiens et Géographes, August 2022
Reclaiming the Public Space
Nilüfer Göle, Richard Rechtman, Sandra Laugier, Yves Cohen

Since 2010, there has been an increase in the number of occupations of public places around the world. From Algiers to New York, from Kiev to Cairo, from Santiago to Paris: democracy becomes concrete. Sociology, history, philosophy and anthropology: each author offers here an analysis of these movements from a different point of view.

Maidan, Tahrir, Gezi, Occupy Walt Street, Nuit debout... The square movements that emerged during the 2010s in different parts of the world have renewed public space and signaled a new way of doing politics. Each time, individuals from all walks of life gather to resist the powers that be, to proclaim their presence without putting forward a leader, to share emotions, to experience a new conviviality “on the spot” and to celebrate their diversity. These citizens take up questions of general interest in order to have a concrete impact on the common good. Democracy seems feasible, here and now.

How can we understand the meaning of these movements? Do they really herald a new political era? Or are they only isolated epiphenomena? So far, they have “naturally” run out of steam, or have been stifled by violent repression. Do they represent only an ephemeral dream? Nothing is less certain. The effects of some of them continue even after their extinction, as in the case of Maidan. Above all, they highlight a fundamental trend: the now impossible vertical meeting between a heterogeneous society that claims a real space and a national political power that renounces its capacity to act in the face of global problems such as the financial crisis, environmental devastation, the expansion of terrorism and growing poverty. The aspiration carried by these occupations of the public square still has a long way to go.

“I liked this book very much because it simply shows, through four different perspectives, how these occupations of public places are the implementation of a direct democracy, without representation. These occupations can have long-term effects, despite the ephemeral nature of the mobilizations.”

Blandine Genthon, editor

Nilüfer Göle is a sociologist and director of the PublicDemoS project, which aims to rethink “democracy” through the public place.

Richard Rechtman is an anthropologist. He has worked extensively on victims of mass crimes. He is notably the author, with Didier Fassin, of The Empire of Trauma (Flammarion, 2007; published in English by Princeton UP in 2009).

Sandra Laugier is a philosopher. She has conducted numerous works on civil disobedience and radical democracy. She has notably co-edited The power of weak ties (CNRS Editions, 2020).

Yves Cohen is a historian and author of The century of leaders (Amsterdam, 2013).

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Publication Date: September 2022
The Great Satan, the Shah and the Imam
Iran/US Relations until the 1979 Revolution
Yann Richard

From the Second World War to the 1979 hostage-taking, Yann Richard analyzes 40 years of misalliance between Iran and the United States. The novelty of the book lies in its willingness to understand the Iranian point of view, and thus to take into account the point of view of the Shah, the Islamists and the hostage takers.

November 4, 1979: a few months after the Islamic Revolution, nearly 300 students broke through the wall of the American Embassy in Tehran and took 66 diplomats and employees hostage. Why such a brutal and spectacular rupture in relations between Iran and the United States? To answer this question, Yann Richard relies on American and Iranian sources. In 1945, when the young Mohammad-Rezâ Pahlavi had just ascended the throne, the United States was perceived as the only country capable of freeing Iran from the Soviet threat and the heavy British tutelage. However, the American position soon showed its ambiguity, especially during the 1953 coup d’état which overthrew Prime Minister Mossadeq, who had promoted the nationalization of oil. Maintained in power thanks to the Americans, the shah became their best ally in the region. Enriched by oil revenues and leading a huge army, he ruled alone. Violently repressed demonstrations precipitated his fall and paved the way in 1979 for Khomeini’s establishment of the Islamic Republic of Iran. The posture of the American armed with good feelings had been transformed into that of an unscrupulous dominator. The Iranians had gazed enviously at Hollywood and consumerist prosperity. They were shown the mark of the collar that kept Iran in chains. It is the meaning of the Islamic Revolution and the hostage-taking to break this chain.

"At the heart of this book is a speech by Khomeini from 1964 showing an incredible virulence towards the United States. This speech, which had never been translated in extenso, already announced the Revolution, nearly 15 years before 1979."

Blandine Genthon, editor
Beyond Crime
Ethnography of a Global Gang
Martin Lamotte

A surprising dive into the history, the functioning, and the transformations of one of the main gangs of New York in the 1990s, originally from Puerto Rico, also installed in Ecuador and Spain.

Born in Puerto Rican prisons, established in the penitentiaries and streets of New York in the 1990s, La Asociación was one of the main gangs in the American metropolis at the time of the “war on crime” initiated by Mayor Rudy Giuliani. However, the Nétas, as they call themselves, officially broke away from drug trafficking and violence at the turn of the 2000s, when they also expanded to Ecuador and then to Madrid and Barcelona in Spain. How does such an organization function, divided into chapters and hierarchical? What motivates it beyond financial gain and protection from rivals? This trajectory of a transnational criminal structure turning its back on crime invites us to question the gang beyond the cinematographic, televisual or musical imaginary that is attached to it, in order to shed light on the solidarity that can bind its members, its cultural, social or political ambitions, and the resources it can offer to a population stuck on the margins of the capitalist economy.

“Films and series have developed a whole imaginary world around the gang, which makes it a modern counterpart of a mafia that is also widely fantasized. At a distance from this image of a rational and pyramidal criminal organization, Martin Lamotte shares with us the daily life of marginalized people in our societies who find in this common commitment a way to protect themselves in a violent context and to give meaning to their trajectory, by inscribing it in a collective and in a history.”

Thomas Hirsch, editor

IN THE SAME COLLECTION

The Dawn has risen on a Dead Man
Adèle Blazquez

War through Law
Adam Baczko

DETAILS

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Pages: 300
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Publication Date: November 2022
How to get out of violence?
Issues and Limits of Transitional Justice
Sandrine Lefranc

Supported by international institutions and NGOs, does the “transitional justice” implemented in countries ravaged by civil wars, dictatorships or genocides succeed in rebuilding peace and democracy? This is the central question of this rigorous and critical book.

Transitional justice refers to the art of pacifying societies in the aftermath of violent periods - whether dictatorships, civil wars or even genocides. International organizations and government advisors have been developing it since the 1990s. Criminal prosecutions, dialogues, investigations and public debates organized by truth commissions to establish the reality of the abuses, material or symbolic reparations to the victims, reforms of the judicial system and security services: it is first and foremost a question of breaking with the past. The promoters of these initiatives also undertake to “heal” societies perceived as sick and to offer recognition to traumatized victims. They intend to create peaceful and tolerant individuals for the future who can ensure peace.

Some people see in the significant development of these various approaches a continuous extension of human rights and a decisive contribution to the making of just peace. But is violence a disease? Are political criminals really punished by these appeasement mechanisms? What do we really know about what the victims of political violence want?

This wide-ranging investigation traces the emergence and rise of transitional justice, analyzes the trajectories of its actors, and examines the gaps between consensual moral declarations and concrete implementations, from Argentina to South Africa, from Peru to Rwanda. By questioning its various presuppositions as well as its concrete results, it thwarts a number of self-evident facts and opens the way to a renewed reflection on the modalities for ending violence and the determinants of peace.

“Sandrine Lefranc [...] takes a critical approach in a well-documented book that synthesizes twenty years of reflection and empirical work on the subject. This specialist in international justice and memorial policies explores with great rigor and precision the founding texts of transitional justice, but also the experiments conducted in South Africa after apartheid or in Chile after the military dictatorship.”

Le Monde, May 2022

“In this book, which is a real practical guide, Sandrine Lefranc [...] proposes concrete measures for States confronted with an explosion of violence - a civil war for example: subordination of the army to the civil power, creation of a status for the victims, training of the governors in human rights...”

Le Monde diplomatique, October 2022
History of Islamist Mobilisations (19th-21st century)
Directed by François Burgat & Matthieu Rey

A comprehensive historical study exploring, in their variety, the expressions of Islamism over the past two centuries.

More than ever, Islamism polarizes, worries and questions. After so many studies and polemics, the book does not seek to define once again the “essence of Islamism” or to refine the descriptive typology of its different expressions (Salafism, Wahhabism, Muslim Brotherhood, etc.). It is more ambitious in proposing a global social and political history.

In order to offer a world tour of these mobilisations, from Algeria to Indonesia and from Nigeria to Iran, François Burgat and Matthieu Rey have asked specialists in these various geographical areas to broaden the focus of the analysis. Far from the clichés about “the birth of Islamism in the 1970s”, their work goes back to the 19th century and shows how the process is more structural. This dive into the Islamist world is structured around five major historical moments, from the shuddering to the contemporary recompositions, via the colonial shock and the age of revolutions.

In the same movement, it manages to correlate the major socio-economic and political changes in the relationship between the West and the Muslim worlds with the indigenous responses, not only cultural, to these upheavals.

“**Their book is not yet another history of ideas, but rather a political history of social and cultural practices that crossed the entire Muslim world from the beginning of the nineteenth century, from Africa to Asia, in reaction to the invasive and colonizing modernity of the West.**”

*Le Monde*, March 2022

“The refusal to adopt a defensive or security perspective is one of the original features of this book. As well as the attention to lesser-known pages of the history of these currents that are so present today.”

*La Croix*, March 2022

François Burgat, director of research at the CNRS, has devoted most of his work to the study of Islamist currents in the Arabic world. Matthieu Rey, researcher at the CNRS (Ifpo), is a specialist of the history of political systems in Iraq and Syria in the 1950s. He is currently working on political practices in South Africa and the Middle East in the 18th and 19th centuries.

**DETAILS**

*Sold in Arabic*  
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*Pages: 448*  
*List price: 26 €*  
*Publication Date: February 2022*
Benevolence in International Relations
Frédéric Ramel

From individuals to NGOs and institutions, this essay delivers a plea for this moral principle too often accused of mawkishness. Without denying the reality of violent logics, the author calls for the recognition and amplification of solidarity movements - whether it’s climate treaties, moderation in the use of force or humanitarian action - to better account for another globalization that is taking shape, beyond nations.

By making benevolence a component of international relations, this book offers a more sensitive view of our times and a toolbox for future political action. For benevolence does not only rhyme with mushiness and good intentions. And it is not confined to neutrality or to the hegemony cultivated by certain states. As a moral disposition, it is found in many diplomatic conducts, from commemorations to negotiations. As a practice, it promotes non-nuisance, temperance and care for the more vulnerable. It is reflected in the restraint in the use of force in international law, the protection of global public goods, or the hospitality of ordinary people towards migrants. But it is above all at the heart of an ancient global political project, the solidarity of Bourgeois, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize in 1920. For there is a natural, de facto solidarity that binds us all to each other, nations and individuals alike. Recognising the effects of these interdependencies is crucial for all of humanity.

Exploring and describing lucidly these forms of benevolence is a necessity. It opens up ways to reinterpret the past, but also to act within our world, given the threats and risks that affect us, from pandemics to climate change.

“The conceptual basis of the book is impressive, and brings back to mind writings relatively marginalized by the state-realistic dominance of the last two centuries.”
Politique étrangère, June 2022

“There is some irony in evoking benevolence at a time when Europe, after the brutal invasion of Ukraine by Russia, is plunged into one of its most serious crises since the Second World War. The interest of Frédéric Ramel’s book lies in the fact that it puts this “affective disposition towards others” back at the center of his patient reflection at a time when realpolitik seems to be much more fashionable.”
Sciences humaines, June 2022
The Value of the Footballer
Socio-history of a Collective Production
Manuel Schotté

A vast investigation on soccer as a social fact, to understand a major phenomenon of our societies.

Today, soccer stars are among the most prominent media personalities and, alongside the heads of the largest companies or the financial elites, among the best paid employees in the world. This situation, which is the source of so many discussions and press articles expressing surprise at seeing working-class employees, mostly from the working and middle classes, join the ranks of the great fortunes, is the subject of this survey. Why can excelling at soccer lead you - if you are a man - to fame and fortune?

Taken seriously, the question actually implies multiplying the angles of view. How did modern soccer become established and formalized in the 19th century? What are the dynamics of valorization, driven by club presidents, the media and fans, that contributed to its growing popularity throughout the 20th century? How was the wage market structured, at the turn of the 21st century, in favor of the players, and in particular a small minority of them?

Seemingly trivial, the question leads to a renewed reflection on the production of value - symbolic and financial - as well as the manufacture of great men in contemporary societies.

"Why do footballers earn so much money? To answer this recurrent question, which is the subject of recurrent arguments in the café, in the stands or in the media, it is actually necessary to take up the whole social and economic history of soccer. Manuel Schotté does it in a very pedagogical way and develops an analysis that allows to understand also other sports and more generally the place given to "great men" (rather than women) in our democratic regimes based on equality in law."

Thomas Hirsch, editor

Professor of sociology at the University of Lille, specialist in issues related to sport, talent and charisma, Manuel Schotté has notably published The construction of "talent", Sociology of the domination of Moroccan runners (Raisons d’âger, 2012).

DETAILS

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Pages: 300
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Publication Date: November 2022
Do you meme?
From Parody to Digital Pandemic
François Jost

The first investigation on a major phenomenon of digital culture: the meme. A semiologist’s analysis of a new form of expression and communication that has become massive.

The memes, these images or sequences of still or animated images, transformed and diverted, flood the web and our messaging systems. Nobody escapes them. They circulate on the Internet, within everyone’s reach, to make us laugh, to criticize or to make us think. Sometimes looked at with contempt, this new manifestation of the pop culture conceals a complex world, which it is necessary to penetrate to seize all its richness. Because if the memes are humorous forms, they say a lot about the world, the actuality and about ourselves. Not only to make fun, but also to denounce, to support a cause or simply to express our fears, as we saw during the pandemic. Popular, proliferating, and massive, the culture of the meme deserved to be deciphered. With his semiologist’s eye, François Jost dissects the mechanics of this culture, revealing its motives, uses and social and political roles. A fascinating excursion into our daily digital life.

“The author’s analysis is fascinating, giving an unsuspected historical and scientific depth to the phenomenon!”

“François Jost’s book has the merit of making this “sort of visual Esperanto” more intelligible and of communicating the author’s taste for these digital objects that play on “this dialectic between repetition and variation (...) at the center of all the works that have fascinated us.” The reading will have moreover all interest to be made with a screen within reach, because the quoted references give irresistibly desire to go to explore in situ this abundant “memic culture”.”

Professor emeritus at the Sorbonne Nouvelle, semiologist, founder of the Center for the Study of Media Images and Sounds, François Jost is the author of numerous books on images and media, including *The cult of the banal* (CNRS Editions, 2007; translated in Spanish and Slovak), *Spitefulness in action in the digital age* (CNRS Editions, 2018) and *Media: Getting out of the hate?* (CNRS Editions, 2020).
To Communicate is to Negotiate

Dominique Wolton

Communication? An essential political issue of this century, when differences have never been so visible and violent. How to avoid that fear turns into hatred of the other? How to succeed in negotiating and living together? How to prefer words to blows?

Globalization, despite its infinite technical promises, has not reduced our difficulties in communicating. Lost in the interactive solitudes, each one seeks the other, alas, rarely at the appointment.

Negotiate. To cohabit. Everything to avoid the failure of communication and the risk of war. Europe is the paradoxical success of this. Never in agreement, but always together.

Communication, we dreamed it would be perfect, technical and immediate, it turns out to be fragile, political and human. Communication, in the end, is always the risk of the other.

This book is part of a trilogy on a political theory of communication: To inform is not to communicate (2021), To Communicate is to Negotiate (2022) and Thinking incommunication (2023).

“Dominique Wolton defends the place of advertising creation, while calling to rebel against technological fascination.”

Le Monde, July 2022
Literature

A data visualization

Alexandre Gefen & Guillemette Crozet

Thanks to the collaboration of a specialist in contemporary literature and an outstanding graphic designer, Literature. A data visualization reports, through infographics, on the stakes of this major art.

Did you know that the first Nobel Prize in music (before Bob Dylan) was awarded to the Indian author Rabindranath Tagore in 1913; that Lucinda Riley is the most translated author in the world; that the very first print run of the first volume of Harry Potter was 500 copies; that The Little Prince exists in 382 languages; that the worldwide sales of the manga One Piece have now surpassed those of Asterix; that without Les Précieuses ridicules, there would never have been a Moliere; that in H. G Wells’ The Time Machine (1895) begins in the year 802 701; that Sophocles’ Oedipus King is considered the very first detective story in history?

This is what you will discover by immersing yourself in this magnificent and abundant computer graphics book. In a hundred pages, this book offers a new graphic style, as rich as it is playful, to a readership now influenced by visual and digital cultures. Thanks to datavisualization, the reader will be immersed in the world of literature, to meet its history, its genres, its authors, its works and their circulation, but also its readers.

From the cartography of Balzac’s imaginary France to the history of the African epic Mvet Ekang, via the lexical network of the Count of Monte Cristo, the different forms of poetry from the Middle Ages to the present day, and the description of the Classic of Poetry, the first Chinese work, this book is not content to simply give graphic representations of literary history and genres. It offers an original, off-center and offbeat approach to the idea of literature and a very rich and global panorama of the different forms it has taken over the centuries.

“We can’t imagine to what extent the colorful graphics, the original aesthetic forms, or the unexpected representations, can allow us to apprehend books and literature in a different way. A great gift to give to anyone who loves to read.”

Blandine Genthon, editor
The Internet
A data visualization
Tristan Mendès France, Quintin Leeds

Explore the contours of the web all over the world, and dive into the digital cultures thanks to a rich and playful infographic!

Do you know where the word «spam» comes from? Did you know that we will soon have Wifi on Mars, or that the first electronic message exchanged between two computers was in 1965? Or, finally, that Filipinos spend the most time on social media each day?

In just one hundred pages, this impressive computer graphics book with its abundant material offers a new graphic style, as rich as it is playful, to a readership that now and into the future will be influenced by visual and digital cultures. Thanks to data visualisation, the reader is immersed in the world of the Internet, encountering its history, technology, main players, excesses and promises. From the mapping of submarine cables across the globe to the disturbing invasion of connected objects, from the activism of leaders on social networks, and the exploration of Internet games to the challenges of online information, this book outlines the contours of the web around the planet. It also reviews how the Internet is fundamentally changing the daily life of its five billion users and their relationship with the world.

Thanks to the collaboration of an Internet specialist and an outstanding graphic designer, this work reflects the major challenges of our time and our ultraconnected world.

“Stunned! Yes, one comes out of the reading of this data visualization book a little stunned. The retina remains impressed by the festival of colors offered by hundreds of graphics, all of very high quality and very accessible, thanks to the talent of Quintin Leeds. The brain pitches under the mass of data, collected and processed by Tristan Mendès France [...]”

Les Echos, November 2021

“The book Internet translates in a very visual way significant data on the development of the Web and its omnipresence in our lives. A clear, entertaining and informative book.”

La Croix l’Hebdo, November 2021

Tristan Mendès France is a specialist in digital cultures and an associate lecturer at the University of Paris.
Quintin Leeds is a graphic designer. He studied graphic design at the Duperré School of Applied Arts in Paris and has worked mainly in magazine and newspaper publication, including as art director of two French national daily newspapers, Libération and Le Monde.
The Last Empire of the Press
A Sociology of Journalism in Japan
César Castellvi

In this study of the Japanese press, the author deciphers its originality, its strengths and weaknesses, and the challenges and transformations it faces today.

In the face of the decline of the press in the West, the Japanese press shows good health and an unexpected resistance to new technologies, having the highest circulation daily newspapers in the world (Yomiuri Shinbun, around 8 million copies per day and Asahi Shinbun, 6 million). Leading national media, the Japanese press also stands out for its atypical model: there is no recognized school or professional training, no representative trade union, no press card, even though the daily press alone has more than 20,000 employees working as reporters.

In this well-documented book, the result of a field investigation in the offices of one of the country’s largest newspapers, the author explores the functioning of a singular, yet typical model of work organization within 20th century Japanese capitalism. A model that is nowadays shaken by a crisis of vocations, the end of the anonymity of journalists and a decline in circulation in recent years, asking the question: could it be that the last empire of the press is dying out?

This book was awarded the Okamatsu Prize of the French Society of Japanese Studies (2019) and the Shibusawa-Claudel Prize (2021).

“In this well-documented book, César Castellvi [...] makes an inventory of the Japanese press, thanks to which we understand both its strengths and its weaknesses at a time when information, which has become a vital issue in our societies, is accessible through multiple other channels.”

Zoom Japon, February 2022
Towards a New Theology in Islam
For a Polyphonic History
Constance Arminjon Hachem

Navigating between three poles (Egypt, Iran and Turkey), the author traces the doctrinal evolution of Islam in recent decades between expectations and a more modern alternative, identifying the key moments that organize the debate.

The numerous reaffirmations of Muslim orthodoxy, as well as the many political and social expectations concerning a "reform" of the religion, conceal to a large extent the rhythm and motives of contemporary theological thought in Islam. This survey, which situates the “new theology” in the long term, attempts to trace its development since the late 1980s. It highlights the key issues around which the reflections of the main Egyptian, Iranian and Turkish theologians are organized - from Nasr Hâmid Abû Zayd and Hasan Hanafi, to Ömer Özoý and Ilhami Güler, via Abd ol-Karîm Sorûş, Mohammad Mojtahed Shabestarî, Mohsen Kadiwar and Mostafà Malekiyân.

Proceeding to a critical inventory of religious knowledge, this constellation of authors contributes indeed to redefine faith and religious experience, to rethink the relations between Islam and other religions, and even to redefine the nature and the status of the Koran, proposing in this way various ways to refound dogmatics. This polyphonic history is an erudite and fascinating dive into the doctrinal evolution of Islam in recent decades, and it succeeds in making us hear these new melodies within a still dominant classical line.

“More than a book, a library: Constance Arminjon Hachem gives us access to a whole body of Arabic and Persian literature that renews the way we look at the doctrinal evolution of Islam and makes room for the voices that, contrary to the discourse on the return to orthodoxy, make this religion evolve today.”

Thomas Hirsch, editor

Constance Arminjon Hachem, lecturer at the École Pratique des Hautes Études, pursues research on the currents of thought and institutions of contemporary Islam, in particular aspects of Shiite religious and political modernity.

World rights available
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 384
List price: 26 €
Publication Date: June 2022
Animals in the World
Five Questions about Aristotle’s Biology
Pierre Pellegrin

The author explores the links between Aristotle’s biological treatises and the whole of his work, thus initiating a “biological turn” in the approach to Aristotelian thought.

Author of a polymorphous work - from physics to politics, from logic to biology - Aristotle is a multiple scholar, driven by the ambition to describe and understand both the world down there, characterized by contingency, and the world of the stars, immutable and eternal. In the wake of the biological turn initiated some forty years ago, Pierre Pellegrin brings to the forefront zoology as it unfolds in the great biological treatises: the History of Animals, the Parts of Animals and the Generation of Animals.

The questions of spontaneous generation, of hypothetical necessity, of the relations between the parts and their hierarchy or between genesis and structure are here taken up, situated and grasped according to their internal logic. Aristotle’s originality is particularly evident in his zoological enterprise, which had no precedent and only found a successor at the turn of the 19th century, when Georges Cuvier, in particular in his Lessons in Comparative Anatomy, took up his program, thus opening a new scientific field.

Beyond the relationship of the biological treatises to modern science - which animates, and sometimes misleads, current research - this investigation, nourished by an exceptional familiarity with the work of the Stagirite, allows us to highlight an “Aristotelian thought”, characterized by anti-reductionism, confidence in sensitive knowledge and anti-empiricism. This in-depth approach renews the understanding of Aristotle’s global approach and, in a way, revives it.

“A book for specialists but also for all those who want to understand the philosopher’s unique way of thinking.”
Le Monde des Livres, June 2022

Pierre Pellegrin is a philosopher and researcher at the CNRS. He is a specialist in ancient philosophy and the author, among others, of Endangered Excellence: On the Political Philosophy of Aristotle (Classiques Garnier, 2017; published in English by State University of New York Press, 2020) and Aristote (PUF, 2022). He has also translated several of Aristotle’s treatises.

World rights available (except English)
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 328
List price: 25 €
Publication Date: May 2022
Policies of Vulnerability

Marie Garrau

In her essay, Marie Garrau considers the notion of vulnerability in all its aspects, political, philosophical, sociological and moral in order to propose a more humane form of democracy.

In the last twenty years, the notion of vulnerability has become omnipresent in public debate and political discourse. There are countless references to “vulnerable” groups, populations or individuals. But what this vulnerability consists of? And what are the moral and political implications? It is to these questions that this book is devoted to.

Thinking about vulnerability requires navigating between several pitfalls. It is necessary to recognize that vulnerability is a common structure of existence, and as such universally shared, without, however, failing to take into account its differential variations and its unequal distribution, i.e. the fact that some people are rendered particularly vulnerable by certain types of social organization. Vulnerability must therefore be understood from a double perspective, philosophical and sociological. It will then be possible to define a policy of vulnerability, aiming at the recognition of our common fragility and the fight against the social processes that induce its intensification.

Monaco Philosophical Encounters Prize 2019

“If the concept of vulnerability could be considered as a trifle, this impressive sum of precision consecrates it as a field of philosophical reflection in its own right.”

*Sciences humaines*, November 2018

“It is thus to a dense and rich reflection, philosophical and anthropological, that the author invites us, with humanity and rigor, it would be a shame to do without it.”

*Le média social*, July 2019

Marie Garrau is a lecturer in social and political philosophy at the University of Paris-Panthéon Sorbonne and a member of the Institute of Legal and Philosophical Sciences of the Sorbonne. Her current research focuses on contemporary conceptions of autonomy, power and domination. She has notably published *Care and attention* (PUF, 2014), and co-edited with Delphine Prévost *The negative freedom* (Hermann, 2018).

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 370
List price: 25 €
Publication Date: May 2018
The Amazonian Puzzle
Ethnic Categories and Social Mobilizations
Véronique Boyer

Indigenous, black or Indian: how do Amazonian populations define themselves? What are the social effects of ethnic categorizations?

Many Amazonian populations are now taking advantage of the 1988 Constitution to ask for recognition by the State as culturally differentiated social groups that are likely to enjoy specific territorial rights: either as “traditional populations”, “indigenous peoples” or “quilombola communities”, i.e. descendants of black maroons. Nevertheless, there are unexpected individual and collective circulations between these ethno-legal categories.

If the Indians or the quilombolas seem to be able to embody a “pure” type, the same cannot be said of the “traditional populations”, qualified by the dominant groups as caboclos, a notion associated with indolence, ignorance, superstition, resignation and indistinction of origins. The populations that refuse this exogenous appellation sink into a kind of nominal invisibility despite the evidence of their presence.

The book approaches this theme of identity repositioning starting from a singular case where, in an Amazonian village, three brothers consider in a distinct way their ethnic inscription in genealogies supposed, according to the administrative framework, to be excluded (one declares himself black, the other Indian and the third wants to be “the one and the other”). All three referred to a family “mixture” (mistura). In a way quite different from the scholarly term “mestiçagem” or “miscigenação,” which implies the production of something new, “mixture” suggests accumulation without implying miscibility. This conception is the basis for the exercise of a right to choose, for oneself and for one’s relatives, the particular traits relevant to a given moment of a collective social trajectory and to make them public.
The Taboo of Incest across Societies
Maurice Godelier

A reflection that highlights the main teachings of anthropology on the social reality of incest.

What does incest consist of? Is it universally prohibited? Does this prohibition concern only “biological” kinships or does it extend to various “social” kinships, such as those that are formed today in so-called blended families but which also exist in many other societies?

This prohibition plays a fundamental role in the functioning of the multiple kinship systems studied throughout the world. But where does it come from? Can we think, with Claude Lévi-Strauss, that the prohibition of incest alone marks the passage from nature to culture? And how can we understand, then, the continuing tension between the proclaimed, institutionalized prohibition and the incestuous practice which, everywhere, remains?

Travelling through space and time, this reflection highlights an essential fact, the spontaneously asocial and undifferentiated character of human sexuality and the need for a social regulation of this spontaneity.

“One of the great qualities of L’Interdit de l’inceste à travers les sociétés, this small book written for a wide audience, is its clarity and its concern to stick to the essential.”

_Lire Magazine littéraire_, November 2021

“A brief and useful history of anthropologists’ explanations for a universal notion.”

_Sciences humaines_, June 2022

 DETAILS

Sold in English and in German
Size: 14 x 20,5 cm
Pages: 128
List price: 15 €
Publication Date: October 2021
**Kant and the Ambivalence of the World**

Michaël Fœssel

"The enigma is precisely that it seems obvious that the world exists for us": it is this enigma that Kant confronts from his first writings. Throughout his work, the philosopher never ceases to specify the relationship to the world, whether from the point of view of sensitivity, knowledge or morality. He thus opens a new horizon for mankind, as "inhabitant of the world". In this book, Michaël Fœssel revisits the "house of Kant" in its nooks and crannies, and puts the rationality of the edifice to the test, in a fruitful confrontation between Kant, Husserl and Heidegger. A strong and invigorating reading.

Michaël Fœssel, professor of philosophy at the École Polytechnique, is notably the author, after works on Kant, of *After the end of the world* (Seuil, 2012), *The Time of Consolation* (Seuil, 2015) and *Red light district* (PUF, 2022).

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**The Imagined, the Imaginary and the Symbolic**

Maurice Godelier

Lévi-Strauss held that "the real, the symbolic and the imaginary" are three separate orders. Maurice Godelier demonstrates the contrary: the real is not separate from the symbolic and the imaginary. Godelier’s book goes to the strategic heart of the social sciences, for to examine the nature and role of the imaginary and the symbolic is also to attempt to account for the basic components of all societies and ultimately of human existence. And these aspects in turn shape our social and personal identity.

Maurice Godelier is a world-renowned anthropologist. Among the many honors he has received are the CNRS Gold Medal and the Alexander von Humboldt prize. His major works include *The Making of Great Men*, *The Metamorphoses of Kinship*, *The Enigma of the Gift*, and, more recently, *Lévi-Strauss: A Critical Study of His Thought*.

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**Women Astronomers**

Yaël Nazé

Yaël Nazé retraces the career of a few important scientists who have one thing in common: their gender. The book follows the pattern of major discoveries, each field giving rise to a description of the astronomical phenomena concerned and a story in which we find the great female figures of astronomy.

Yaël Nazé is an astrophysicist specialising in massive stars and the author of several popular works, including *Travelling in space* (CNRS Éditions, 2013).
The End of a Great Division
Pierre Charbonnier

The relationship between man and his social organization and the natural environment has long been studied in the context of an opposition between nature and society. But the ecological crisis invites us to question this division, and to reconsider the meaning of this divide. The aim of this book is to shed light on the ambiguities of the modern relationship with nature, by re-reading from the point of view of nature this history marked by three works, Durkheim’s *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life*, Lévi-Strauss’ *Wild Thought* and Philippe Descola’s *Beyond Nature and Culture*.

**Pierre Charbonnier** is a research fellow at the CNRS. His work focuses on the relationship between the social sciences and the environmental question, from both an epistemological and political point of view. He is the author of *Affluence and Freedom* (La Découverte, 2019; published by Polity Press in 2021) and *Ecological culture* (Presses de sciences Po, 2022).

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History of Maritime Empires
Cyrille P. Coutansais

From the Phoenicians to the British colonists, from Carthage to Zanzibar, from Philip II of Spain to Napoleon, from the battle of Lepanto to the battle of Midway, and up to the American naval hyperpower, the life and death of maritime empires are presented here in a masterful fresco, with maps to support it.

**Cyrille P. Coutansais** is research director at the Centre for Strategic Marine Studies and a teacher at Sciences Politiques (maritime economy). He is the author of numerous works, in particular *The Atlas of Maritime Empires* (translated into Chinese and Japanese) and *Men and the Sea* (translated into Chinese).

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Cholera
Haiti 2010-2018: History of a Disaster
Renaud Piarroux

Epidemiologist Renaud Piarroux traces his struggle to expose the responsibility of the United Nations in the cholera epidemic that killed tens of thousands of people in Haiti in 2011, less than a year after the devastating earthquake that hit the country. A gripping investigation into a political and scientific scandal.

**Renaud Piarroux** is a professor at the Faculty of Medicine of Sorbonne University, a researcher at the Institut Pierre Louis of Epidemiology and Public Health, and head of department at the Pitié-Salpêtrière Hospital.
A Bourdieu reader: An International Approach
Directed by Gisèle Sapiro

An interdisciplinary and worldwide dictionary that updates the state of knowledge on the French sociologist in nearly 600 entries written by sociologists, political scientists, philosophers, historians, anthropologists, literary scholars... The entries cover the concepts and currents of ideas with which the sociologist interacted, as well as his favorite authors and his relationships with his contemporaries, his works, the journals, editions, and associations he founded, the key events, and the main countries where his work was received. Biographical aspects, the groups he created, and his political commitments are also addressed.

Recipient of the CNRS Bronze Medal, Gisèle Sapiro is a study director at the School of Higher Studies in the Social Sciences and a member of the European Centre for Sociology and Political Science.

Critical Dictionary of the Anthropocene

With 330 entries from "Bee" to "Wetland", written by 200 contributors, this multidisciplinary dictionary sheds light on old and new debates about the Anthropocene as well as a galaxy of concepts and notions that revolve around it, such as "catastrophe", "agro-ecology" or the media-friendly notion of "transition". A reference dictionary on a concept that has become unavoidable.

This dictionary was coordinated by the Cynorhodon group of 16 geographers.

Dictionary of the Law of Religions
Directed by Francis Messner

From Europe to Asia, including the American continent, Africa and Oceania, this dictionary of the law of religion offers a complete panorama of the management of religion by public authorities, while shedding light on the relationships woven over the centuries between the confessional rights specific to each religion, national laws and international law.

This dictionary is an indispensable guide to understanding the current evolution of religious practices and their consideration by religious authorities and public policies in light of contemporary legal pluralism.

Francis Messner is director of research at the CNRS. He is a specialist in the law of religions in Europe from a comparative and interdisciplinary perspective. He is notably co-director of the _Treatise on the French Law of Religion._
History of European Literature
Directed by A. Benoit-Dusausoy, G. Fontaine, J. Jedrzejewski, T. Muhidine

The result of the collaboration of more than 200 European academics, critics and writers, this major survey of European literature from antiquity to the present day will be of interest to scholars and students alike who wish to situate the works in their time. Period by period, each one offers a European tour, a focus on a genre of the time, and the evocation of a handful of leading authors. This third edition is enriched by a chapter dedicated to the writing of the 21st century, composed of short portraits of today’s writers.

This book is edited by Annick Benoit-Dusausoy, professor of French literature at the Lycée Saint-Louis in Paris, Guy Fontaine, creator of the European writers’ residence villa Marguerite Yourcenar, Jan Jedrzejewski, professor of English and comparative literature at the University of Ulster and Timour Muhidine, lecturer in Turkish language and literature at INALCO.

Ecology and Geography
Philippe Pelletier

The analysis of the intersecting history of these two disciplines from the beginning of the 19th century to the present day allows us to discover both their relationship, often tumultuous, and their social or political function. It explains why, from the second half of the twentieth century onwards, ecology took precedence over geography in the environmental approach, signalling the triumph of the “living” over the “social” or the “spatial”.

From Malthus to the Meadows report, via Elisée Reclus and John Muir, a synthesis of 150 years of reflection and debate on environmental issues.

Author of numerous books and articles on Japan and geography, Philippe Pelletier is professor emeritus of geography at the Université Lumière-Lyon 2 and has notably co-edited the Critical Dictionary of the Anthropocene (CNRS Éditions, 2020).

Dictionary of Privateers and Pirates
Directed by Gilbert Buti & Philippe Hrodej

Buccaneers, freebooters, boardings, raids, sharing of catches, treasure hunts, cannonades… Privateers and pirates mark out maritime life with their exploits and populate our imagination. From the Yellow Sea of China to the waters of the Caribbean, the 600 entries in this historical dictionary bring to life these colorful characters, from the most emblematic to those forgotten by history.

Gilbert Buti is a specialist in maritime economies and coastal societies in the Mediterranean in modern times. Philippe Hrodej is a specialist in the history of colonial trade and freebooters in the modern era.
"La Documentation photographique": a journal published by CNRS Editions
Every two months, a new issue presents a question of history or geography
analyzed by a specialist of the subject.
- An educational and well-documented approach
- An accessible and precise summary of the subject in ten pages
- Twenty-three double-pages of documents commented by the author (photographs,
  computer graphics, works of art, maps, texts, etc.).

Size: 21 x 29.7 cm
Pages: 64
List price: 9.90 €

Byzantium
The Emperor, the Empire, the State
Éric Limousin

For a long time, it was difficult to situate Byzantium in the field of historical
discipline. Ancient or medieval history? Western or Eastern?
The Byzantine Empire shares many characteristics with the Eastern and Muslim
world: the city is at the center of the organization of society, and the emperor’s
mission is to establish a universal power. Like the Western kingdoms of the early
Middle Ages, it took on a Roman-Christian heritage and transformed it, but it
stood out by maintaining a strong state, embodied by the emperor.

Éric Limousin is a lecturer
in medieval history at the
University of Bretagne Sud.
L'AUTHOR

Penser l’Europe à l’échelle mondiale invite aussi bien à dessiner les limites variables de l’Union qu’à observer son influence sur les grands enjeux planétaires : valeurs démocratiques, droits humains, régulation du marché, neutralité climatique, etc. C’est aussi montrer les dépendances, interactions et rivalités qui existent entre cet ensemble original et les autres régions du monde. Un volume pour mieux comprendre la singularité de l’Union européenne.

MICHEL FOUCHER
Géographe et diplomate, il a dirigé le Centre d’Analyse et de Prévision du ministère de l’Europe et des Affaires étrangères. Il a servi comme Ambassadeur de France dans les pays Baltes (Lettonie) entre 2002 et 2006.
From history to physics, from art to anthropology, CNRS Éditions has an extensive catalogue of reference books, albums and essays, all of which have been carefully chosen and edited to match the highest standards both in terms of scientific accuracy and reading experience.

Thanks to this, the publishing house has become not only a showcase for research carried out by French universities and research institutes, but also the first port of call for the intellectual world. Its authors provide readers with the keys to learn, confront, debate and face the current changes of the world and succeed in bringing the achievements of contemporary thinkers to a broader public.