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La Documentation photographique
Death with the Naked Eye

Fanny Bocquentin

Death is an event experienced differently in different eras and cultures. Funeral practices, corpse management, mourning, artistic representations: a world tour of the relationship with death.

The pain of mourning and our powerlessness in the face of death are deeply rooted in our history, and have been forcefully expressed since the earliest writings of mankind. Since prehistoric times, human societies have gone to great lengths to tame death.

Through the thread of funerary rites, their temporality and materiality, the reader is invited to discover ancient practices, beliefs from elsewhere and universal invariants that invite us to rethink death and our relationship with the absent.

From the first burials dating back more than 100,000 years to the “organic funerals” of the 21st century, via the celebration of the “feast of the dead”, communication with the deceased and the future of ossuaries, this book explores the diversity and richness of our relationship with death, underlining our ability to come to terms with our grim fate.

Illustrated by Caroline Gamon.

Fanny Bocquentin is an archaeoanthropologist and researcher at the CNRS. She studies the social behaviors of the first sedentary communities in the Near East, in particular through funerary rites. She directs several archaeological excavations abroad, co-directs the funerary archaeology seminar at Université Paris Panthéon-Sorbonne and has published a large number of scientific articles.
“The Great Voices of Research” Series/Les Grandes Voix de la Recherche

In short and lively texts, the great voices of research retrace their careers, present their work, and share their passion with us. As mediators, they explore all areas of knowledge, introducing us to the latest scientific advances and the great challenges of science. Available as a printed book or audio book.

12 x 18 cm | 96 pages | 8 €

Chaos Theory
Étienne Ghys

The mathematical idea of chaos theory was popularized by the butterfly effect, according to which the flapping of a butterfly’s wings in Brazil could cause a tornado in Texas. Since Galileo and Newton, physics and mathematics have been crossed by this question of determinism. Étienne Ghys recounts the path taken by great scientists and gives us an insight into the conceptual scope of mathematical abstraction.

Winner of the CNRS scientific mediation medal, Étienne Ghys, director of research at the CNRS and professor at the École Normale Supérieure, is perpetual secretary of the French Sciences Society. He recently published A little history of the snowflakes (Odile Jacob, 2021) and A little history of the soccer ball (Odile Jacob, 2023).

Feminism, it thinks!
Geneviève Fraisse

The philosopher retraces her intellectual path by highlighting the cultural, political and ideological context that profoundly influenced her. From her readings to her militant and political commitments, from her research at the CNRS to her work in the European Parliament, Geneviève Fraisse’s life has never ceased to nourish her work.

Geneviève Fraisse is a French philosopher of feminist thought, director of research emeritus at the CNRS. Her books include Reason’s Muse (Folio Gallimard 1995; published by University of Chicago Press), The Gender Difference (PUF, 1996) and About consent (Seuil, 2007), all of which have been reedited many times.

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).
Amazing Physics
Edited by Séverine Martrenchard

Black holes, quantum physics, bosons, soap bubbles, earthquakes, plasma, etc.: 70 short texts, up-to-date with the latest research, to discover the fascinating richness and diversity of physics.

Physics is an age-old discipline that explores space and time. From the immensity of clusters of galaxies to the infinite smallness of elementary particles, from human scales - from the metre to the centimetre - to the nanoworld, from the extreme brevity of the electron's movement to the depths of the ages from which the first lights of the Universe reach us: the fields covered by this discipline have never ceased to amaze us.

This is the science of methodical experimentation that develops original instruments for observing matter, inert or living, in the laboratory or remotely. It is a science that still raises fundamental questions. But it is also the science that accompanies our daily lives, with its developments in the fields of materials, health, energy, climate, etc.

This book brings together 70 contributions from physicists who have recently been awarded a CNRS medal [the highest scientific research awards in France] for the originality and importance of their work. Abundantly illustrated and accessible to all science enthusiasts, Amazing Physics lifts the veil on the latest research in physics.

“To illustrate the richness of this field of research, 70 physicists, recently awarded a CNRS medal for the originality and importance of their work, make their contribution. Abundantly illustrated and accessible to all science enthusiasts, this book lifts the veil on the latest research in physics.”

CNRS Le Journal, September 2023

 DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 16 x 21 cm
Pages: 300
List price: 24 €
Publication date: October 2023
Amazing Infinities
Edited 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 to better understand the world around us.

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.

Rights sold in Chinese | November 2022 | 22 € | 300 pages | 978-2-271-14380-8

Amazing Reefs
Edited by Laetitia Hédouin

Gigantic reservoirs of biodiversity, coral reefs are extraordinarily complex and interconnected, each playing its part in the reef’s balance. Today, they are threatened by climate change. This book bears witness to the research being carried out to better understand and preserve these astonishing species.

Laetitia Hédouin is a biologist and a researcher at the CNRS.


Amazing Chemistry
Edited by Claire-Marie Pradier

A fascinating and original book on a field that we often leave school with. Chemistry is present in our daily lives, and its applications will be decisive in the future (time and space, the environment, energy, medical applications...). An unexpected journey to the heart of matter and its transformations.

Claire-Marie Pradier is director of research at the National Institute of Chemistry.

Rights sold in Chinese | April 2021 | 22 € | 328 pages | 978-2-271-13652-7

Amazing Life
Edited by Catherine Jessus

Around a hundred researchers from a wide range of disciplines have joined forces to bring to a wider public the revolution that has swept through the life sciences over the last twenty years, in the wake of advances in imaging methods, genetic sequencing and information technology. This collective shows how these advances and the discoveries they have made possible are leading us to revisit our old beliefs.

Catherine Jessus is biologist and research director at the CNRS.

**Why do we lean into turns?**

Sport Explained by Science in 40 Questions

Amandine Aftalion

With the 2024 Olympic Games around the corner, a book to better understand certain phenomena and improve sports performance.

Why does the sprinter decelerate before the finish line? Why does a golf ball have dimples? Why do we swim better underwater? Why, on a bike, is the faster you go, the more stable you are? Why squeeze your arms to do a pirouette? Is there a law of record evolution?

Amandine Aftalion answers 40 of these questions, using physics and mathematics presented in a simple and enjoyable way, to give us a better understanding of the practice of sport. At a time when Big Data is invading sport, we discover that predictive and deterministic equations remain the basis of sports performance analysis.

An easily accessible book for all those who practice or watch sport and ask themselves, "But why?".

“With her latest book, she aims to make science accessible to as many people as possible. Graphics, drawings and photos help readers to better understand the explanations written in a simple, highly educational style. [...] Enough to inspire scientific vocations? Enough to make you want to take up sport? And why not!”

*Les Échos*, September 2023

“With a few basic notions, mathematician Amandine Aftalion explains how top athletes perform.”

*Sciences & Médecine*, September 2023

“Whether you’re a runner, a swimmer, a Sunday walker or a ball player, this book will answer the questions you’ve always wondered about, and the ones you’ve never thought about. [...] The author’s fascination with the omnipresence of mathematics is contagious. It’s an exercise for the brain that makes you want to get started!”

*La Recherche*, October 2023

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**DETAILS**

World rights available  
(English rights already sold)  
Size: 14 x 22 cm  
Pages: 168  
List price: 20 €  
Publication date: August 2023

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How do scientists know...?

Collective work

How do we know what we know, and how can we be sure? A book to make understand and know the scientific process.

Science is built on observations and measurements, which give rise to reflections, which lead to theories, then validated, refined or abandoned. It is a collective construction, over time, and by definition always unfinished. It sometimes proceeds backwards: thus, the existence of black holes was first imagined as a simple mathematical curiosity in 1784 by the English astronomer John Mitchell, nearly two centuries before they were actually observed.

How do we know that the Universe is expanding? that black holes exist? that continents drift? that dark matter exists? the age of the Sun, the Earth, or this or that rock? that we are stardust? By answering these questions, this book shows how science is done, and explains the sometimes complicated concepts as simply as possible.

A didactic and entertaining book, of public use at a time when many people are worryingly distrustful of scientific results.

“This book is a fine example of successful scientific mediation, demonstrating how scientific knowledge is constructed by researchers following a rigorous approach in conjunction with the scientific community.”
À fond la science, May 2023

Claire Marc is a graphic designer specialized in scientific mediation (such as the book Everything You Wanted to Know About Climate Change(or Almost!)). For this project she worked with astrophysicists and geophysicists of the CNRS.

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 17 x 21 cm
Pages: 72
List price: 14 €
Publication date: May 2023
Understanding and Protecting the Forest
Alexandra Locquet, Claire Marc

A visual and educational summary to help you better understand how the forest works and the advantages of forest environments.

An interest in forests raises a wide range of issues, from ecological to socio-economic and political. How do they function? Are they natural? What role do they play in environmental crises? What are they used for? What are primary forests? Is it possible and desirable to reconstitute one?

Answering these questions is a necessity! Forests are essential to the cycle of life and provide many services: combating global warming, reducing the risk of disease, maintaining biodiversity, producing water and oxygen, providing food resources, and so on. It is essential to our health and that of our planet. Since the 1990s, however, the world’s forests have been steadily shrinking, with dramatic consequences.

Drawing on the work of botanists, ecologists, geographers, philosophers, agronomists, naturalists and foresters, this book is as visual as it is educational.

In collaboration with the Francis Hallé Association.

World rights available

Size: 17 x 21 cm
Pages: 150
List price: 18 €
Publication date: October 2023
Everything You Wanted to Know About Biodiversity (or Almost!)
Philippe Grandcolas, Claire Marc

Everyone has heard about climate change and the associated risks. Biodiversity, on the other hand, has been little talked about, even though we are probably approaching the 6th major extinction.

Of course, climate change and biodiversity are linked. But not only, and the latter must face its own problems, in which the climate plays no role: land artificialisation, water pollution, fragmentation of natural environments, etc.

But the question is vast and complex, and in order to address it, we need to ask some basic questions: what are we talking about when we talk about biodiversity? and what do we really know about it? isn’t it dangerous to worry more about the polar bear than the dung beetle? what role do micro-organisms play in the health of animals and soils? how fast does all this evolve? what makes a species disappear? and besides, how do we know if a species is endangered or not? what are the consequences, in the medium and long term? and... what can we do?

Under the apparent lightness of the design, this book covers fundamental issues, and gives an account of what we really know, as well as how we know it.

World rights available
978-2-271-14681-6 | 17 x 21 cm | 140 pages | 18 € | May 2023

Everything You Wanted to Know About Climate Change (or Almost!)
Anne Brès, BonPote, Claire Marc

“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!”; "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.

World rights available (sold in Korean)
CNRS 2023 Science Mediation Award
978-2-271-13977-1 | 17 x 21 cm | 136 pages | 18 € | March 2022
Before the "Senegalese infantryman", the myth of "martial races" and its implications. An investigation combining military history, colonial history, visual studies and the history of knowledge, to examine the role and effects of certain racial representations in history.

Popularized in 1910 as part of the project to recruit a "black force" in West Africa, the category of "martial race" was used in the French colonial empire from the 1850s to the end of the First World War. It was used to designate certain populations deemed particularly suited to bearing arms, for both biological and cultural reasons: the Bambara, Wolof and Toucouleurs of West Africa, the Sakalava of Madagascar and the inhabitants of the high plateaus of Vietnam all shared the dubious privilege of having been considered by the French as "born soldiers", predisposed to waging and enduring the extreme violence of the wars of the 19th and 20th centuries.

Based on military, medical and colonial archives, this study traces the emergence and development of a little-known category, the result of encounters between French officers and colonized populations, and measures the concrete and lasting consequences of racial stereotypes on the lives of individuals. It thus offers a new history of racial thought in France, attentive to its contradictions, practical effects and mirages.

"Stéphanie Soubrier's masterly book, based on a survey of numerous archives, is the first to offer a history of martial races in France. [...] It is sometimes said that French historiography is still struggling with the notion of race. The recently deceased American historian Tyler Stovall wrote that "to propose a study of the history of the idea of race in France" was like "walking through a minefield". With Races guerrières, Stéphanie Soubrier has established herself as our mine-clearing expert."

Libération, October 2023

"Many history books are content to deconstruct the stereotype. Stéphanie Soubrier's Races guerrières is the starting point for a broader investigation that constantly thwarts false evidence."

Le Monde, September 2023
Salonika, 1870-1920
Catherine Pinguet

All the facets of a vanished city, with never-before-seen photos.

Capital of Ottoman Macedonia, Salonika underwent an incredible metamorphosis in the 19th century. The “industrial” heart of the Empire, home to Turkish modernity until the reconquest by the Greeks in 1912, Salonika is a multi-ethnic, multi-faith city, a cultural crossroads and a haven where Sephardim banished from Spain and Ashkenazim expelled from Europe have sought refuge for centuries. A veritable Jerusalem of the Balkans.

Selecting images from the richest private collection of photographs dedicated to the Ottoman Empire, that of Pierre de Gigord, Catherine Pinguet paints a portrait of the city from the second half of the 19th century to the end of the First World War. She portrays the daily lives of the city’s inhabitants and the changes to their living environment: lively streets, commercial activities and trade guilds, new buildings, residential districts and the deprived outskirts where the first industries appeared. In addition, there are shots of major events, such as the Young Turk “revolution” of July 1908, of which Salonika was the cradle, and the fire of August 1917, which destroyed forever the historic quarters of the Jewish community. These flames heralded the end of an era, that of the great cosmopolitan cities of the Eastern Mediterranean, which disappeared one after the other, often in dramatic circumstances.

Catherine Pinguet is a research associate at the Center for Turkish, Ottoman, Balkan and Central Asian Studies. She is the author of Istanbul, photographers and sultans 1840-1900 (CNRS Éditions, 2011, translated in Turkish), Felice Beato (1832-1909). At the origins of war photography (CNRS Éditions, 2014, translated in Turkish) and An Armenian story. Photographers in the Ottoman Empire (Elytis, 2018).
Digging up the Homeland
A History of Archaeology in Palestine-Israel
Chloé Rosner

- From Jewish archaeology to Israeli archaeology: the history of a transformation
- A journey through Israeli intellectual life in the 20th century.

Archaeology has always had a close and ambiguous relationship with politics, between science, competition and exploitation. This is particularly true in the Holy Land, where the rediscovery of its extraordinary heritage in the 19th century was inseparable from the events that shook the history of Palestine.

The tombs of the Kidron Valley, the synagogues of Galilee, Hazor, Masada, etc.: this book shows how the exploration of these sites was used in the service of Zionism in Palestine and then in Israel. It shows how archaeologists not only unearthed the past, but also interacted in the present with the national, colonial, cultural, educational and linguistic ambitions and projects of the Jewish national movement and the Israeli state.

Combining archival research and political analysis, Chloé Rosner first traces the early days of archaeology in Ottoman Palestine, with its learned societies and antiquities collections, and then identifies the shift from a quest for the sacred to a heritage ‘inventory’ that would support the Zionist cause. Jewish archaeology, which became institutionalised in the early 20th century and became involved in the field during the British Mandate, played a prominent role in the creation of a "homeland" and helped to shape Israeli national archaeology between 1948 and 1967.
Archaeology of Judaism in Europe
Edited by Paul Salmana, Philippe Blanchard and Amélie Sagasser

Jewish quarters, synagogues and cemeteries: a book bringing together the latest archaeological discoveries in Europe as well as a summary of the major monuments of European Jewish heritage.

Over the last decade, archaeological research into the Jewish presence in Europe, from Antiquity to the 20th century, has made considerable progress, thanks in particular to the development of preventive archaeology and a new focus on Jewish sites. The increase in the number of excavations and the expansion of this field, both chronologically - now including the modern and contemporary periods - and methodologically, have led to major discoveries.

Focusing on the most significant recent excavations, 30 specialists from Austria, France, Germany, Israel, Italy, Poland, Spain and the United Kingdom examine places of worship (synagogues, ritual baths, etc.), the topography of medieval Jewish settlements and ghettos in the modern period, burial sites, Holocaust sites and the heritage value of the sites uncovered.

“The result of an increasing number of excavations, this book provides moving archaeological evidence of the daily life of Jewish communities in various European countries, and sheds a particular light on what archaeology can tell us about the Shoah.”

Le Pèlerin, September 2023

Paul Salmana is director of the Museum of Judaic Art and History in Paris. Philippe Blanchard is an archaeologist at the National Institute for Preventive Archaeological Research. He specialises in the study of medieval Jewish burial sites in France and Europe. Amélie Sagasser is a researcher at the German Historical Institute in Paris. She specialises in the Middle Ages, particularly Jewish history.

DETAILS

World rights available
ISBN: 978-2-271-14823-0
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 416
List price: 28 €
Publication date: October 2023
La Marseillaise around the World
From 1792 to the Present Day
Bernard Richard

From France to Poland, via China and Latin America, a worldwide history of La Marseillaise and its uses.

Composed in 1792, La Marseillaise became the national anthem in 1879, after various periods of prohibition under successive political regimes from the Revolution to the Third Republic. Bernard Richard offers us a history of this song in France and, above all, outside France. For, at the same time, this anthem of war and freedom spread throughout Europe and beyond. The memory, often idealized, of what has long been described as the “Great Revolution” encouraged the wide dissemination of La Marseillaise, but it was also a source of tension, provoking the creation of counter-Marseillaises. Singing it could be considered seditious or treasonous. All the more so as this hymn was often admired and reputed for its liveliness and ability to galvanize populations. The Belgian insurrection of 1830 was launched to the sound of La Marseillaise. The Poles sang it during many of their revolts against successive divisions of the country. There are a dozen Russian adaptations of the song. La Marseillaise was also sung in Beijing’s Tiananmen Square in 1989 by Chinese students opposed to the regime. In Spain, it was the song of the republican, democratic and revolutionary opposition, and has a special place in Latin America.

La Marseillaise has an international scope, recognized by many as a song for any people wishing to free themselves from an authoritarian regime and resist oppression and social injustice.

Foreword by Pierre Serna.
The Invention of a Border
Between France and Germany, 1871-1914
Benoit Vaillot

With the defeat of France in 1871, the border between France and Germany was moved from the Rhine to the Vosges. Almost all of Alsace, part of Lorraine, and over one and a half million people passed under the Reich’s flag. For almost half a century, the daily lives of the people living on the border were transformed. Benoit Vaillot is interested in analyzing the concrete relationship between the inhabitants and this new line. How do they cross it, bypass it and live with it? How do they take advantage of it or, on the contrary, feel sorry for it? How do they think about it, apprehend it and incorporate it into their lives?
The experience of the frontier is studied through a variety of subjects: the control of people, animals and goods; smuggling and espionage; the nationality strategies of the inhabitants; sporting and tourist practices; or the new challenges posed by the first world pandemics, and the development of the automobile and aeronautics. The Franco-German border between 1871 and 1914 was a veritable laboratory. In many respects, it bore the seeds of the profound transformations in national sovereignty and identity in Europe over the course of the twentieth century.

World rights available
978-2-271-14564-2 | 15 x 23 cm | 512 pages | 27 € | Sept. 2023

The Provinces of Time
Phantom Borders and Experiences of History
Béatrice von Hirschhausen

In recent decades, electoral maps of Ukraine and Poland have often shown the traces of past empires that shared these territories. Phantom borders are the traces left by defunct political entities in contemporary social practices. How and why do territorial boundaries, which no longer have a political reality, reappear after several generations? Why do they seem to have imprinted themselves on people’s minds?
Based on fieldwork carried out in Central and Eastern Europe, particularly Romania, Béatrice von Hirschhausen sets out to understand this fascinating phenomenon. Criss-crossed by the ancient frontiers of empires, the region offers a chance to observe some of their ghosts. It offers a veritable laboratory for studying the production of spaces: between history and culture, between routines and the imaginary. This geographical analysis of individual action and collective attitudes shows how societies think in terms of space. It allows us to explain behavior not in terms of a "we" identity or mentalities, but in terms of more or less stable local conventions: "here, we do it this way". A fresh look at cultural differences.

World rights available
978-2-271-14536-9 | 15 x 23 cm | 400 pages | 26 € | February 2023
A History of Rights around the World
Jean-Louis Halpérin

A large-scale fresco, an enlightening way to retrace world history.

In the age of global, transnational and connected history, is it possible to write a history of rights that is free of the Eurocentric viewpoint that has structured so many so-called "universal" histories since the 19th century? And how can we account for the development of law without lapsing into the classical discourse celebrating a supposedly uniform and unilinear progress?

This book takes up this dual challenge, taking us from the many inventions of law in antiquity (notably in China and Rome) to contemporary tensions linked to the rise of regional or transnational law. With a clear and pedagogical approach to the multiple dynamics of the circulation, confrontation and globalization of law, in particular through European colonization and its violence, it highlights the dual political nature of legal techniques: instruments of domination, but also weapons of defense and contestation.

At the cutting edge of international research in comparative law, this vast fresco is nonetheless a lively and accessible general introduction to law, its history and its many social and political roles.
Living the Great Army
Being a Soldier in Napoleon's Time
François Houdecek

Close to the soldiers’ daily lives, François Houdecek offers an embodied history of the wars of the Empire.

In fifteen years, Napoleon’s Great Army, an unrivalled war machine, achieved more victories than any other army before or since. Austerlitz, Jena, Moskowa, Leipzig and Waterloo have already been widely written about, but these battles are often analyzed from the point of view of strategy and tactics.

Yet the Napoleonic Wars were above all a human story. In France alone, some 2,300,000 men endured the anguish of waiting and departure, crossing the continent from one side to the other, the horrors of life in the field and the chaos of battle. Enthusiastic or resigned, deserter or hero, each reacted according to his own personal story. For 15 years, these soldiers were the central but anonymous players in a great human lottery, from which many never returned. They often kept notebooks in which they recorded daily details of the extraordinary adventures they encountered, and from the day after the imperial gesture, many of them recounted their military adventures. The sources are therefore abundant, and contrast with the silence of earlier periods, when the word of soldiers was so rare.

This is a story told from a man’s point of view, from recruitment and family abandonment to the difficult return to civilian life, via instruction and training, fraternity and solidarity, the importance of correspondence and the bonds maintained, the central role of love, the wounds and traumas of the war, and so on.

François Houdecek was editor of Napoleon’s Correspondence. He specializes in military and social issues under the Empire. The author of several collections of soldiers’ letters, he recently published the Cahiers de Sainte-Hélène du général Bertrand (1820-1821) (Perrin, 2021).
Living through the Hundred Years' War
Nine Historical Short Stories
Alain Demurger

From Emperor Charles IV to Valentine Visconti, from the anonymous preacher to a village of peasants: in nine portraits, Alain Demurger paints a vivid picture of the Hundred Years' War era.

Plague and epidemics, endless wars, famine, daily violence, flight, exile - this long litany makes up the reality of the 14th and 15th centuries. Death was omnipresent, indiscriminate and inconsiderate. The macabre dances that adorn the walls of some churches are seen as a direct consequence of these "misfortunes of the times". Yet on closer inspection, in art as in more intimate stories, another story emerges, rich in life and hope.

In nine short stories, Alain Demurger paints a unique and vivid picture of the 14th and 15th centuries: Pope Clement VI, Emperor Charles IV and King Charles V of France, the Duchess of Orleans Valentine Visconti, the mythomaniac adventurer Robert Masselin, the sanctified preacher Vincent Ferrier, the Jouvenel family of notables, the road captain and bailiff of Charles VII Denis de Chailly, the builders of the walls of Sainte-Eulalie in the Larzac region, the peasants of the Gâtinais region, placed in their family, social, economic or military context, all bear witness to a living society that rises again in the face of all scourges. Of course, we will always die, but we can survive, overcome evil and rebuild.
Before *Mein Kampf*

The Formative Years of Adolf Hitler

Anne Quinchon-Caudal

A study of Hitler’s early texts and speeches: how the worldview of the (future) Führer evolved between his move to Vienna in 1908 and his failed putsch in November 1923.

In *Mein Kampf*, the autobiography he wrote in 1924-1925, Hitler presents the image of himself as a perfect autodidact with a fully formed worldview. However, the thirty-year-old who entered politics at the end of the First World War did not have strong opinions, nor even strong anti-Semitic convictions.

Based on Hitler’s first texts, Anne Quinchon-Caudal traces the formative years of this soldier who, from 1919 onwards, found a second family in the German Workers’ Party. This party maintained more or less close relations with a nebulous group of nationalist and racist ideologists, who intended to defend the interests of the ”authentic” German people against a multitude of enemies who supposedly wanted the death of Germanness.

It was this environment that gave Hitler the language of his propaganda, words that resonated with the situation of a large fringe of the population. A population impoverished by the war and revolted by its consequences, which the politician harangued more and more radically during National Socialist Party meetings. But it was in this environment that Hitler met the man who was to become his master of thought: the anti-Semitic writer Dietrich Eckart.

Anne Quinchon-Caudal offers a history of Hitler’s ideas and their evolution, from the end of the Great War to the failure of the Brewery putsch in 1923.

"*This work shows Hitler as a son, not an accident, of our modernity.*" 
Nicolas Patin, foreword

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**DETAILS**

- **World rights available**
- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-13062-4
- **Size:** 15 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 390
- **List price:** 25 €
- **Publication date:** June 2023
Blank of the Maps and Algorithmic Black Boxes
Matthieu Noucher

In this accessible demonstration of critical cartography, Matthieu Noucher explores the politics of the blank of the maps.

Each map has its own unconscious or voluntary blanks. These gaps or omissions, as some have shown, have played a decisive role in history, particularly colonial history. Formerly the privilege of States, this power to whiten or blacken the map is now that of digital data. For the deluge of geographic information, produced by a multitude of actors, is not uniformly distributed over all territories, leaving entire areas empty.

As part of the emerging field of critical data studies, this innovative and singular research, abundantly illustrated, returns to the political stakes of maps and invites us to explore the deepest workings of cartography. By focusing on the Amazon, Matthieu Noucher deconstructs the gaps to question the meaning of the geonumerization of the world. To conduct his investigation, he focuses on three devices in particular: the detection of illegal gold mining, the measurement of biodiversity and the mapping of informal settlements.

This book leads to two modalities of resistance to the filling in of map blanks: counter-mapping (a geography of geonumerical ignorance that reveals forgotten, masked or destroyed knowledge) and cartographic fugue (a geography of geonumerical resistance that makes visible alternatives to dominant spatial representations). Two logics of cartographic indiscipline to apprehend the blanks of the maps as an opportunity to diversify our ways of seeing the world.

“What do cartographers’ voluntary or unconscious “omissions” mean? Geographer Matthieu Noucher has come up with the original idea of making them speak for themselves, supporting his argument with an analysis of a specific example: the Amazon. His fascinating investigation deciphers three current cartographic challenges: the production of naturalist data, by measuring biodiversity; tracking illegal gold mining; and identifying informal settlements.”

Les Cahiers de Science & Vie, September 2023

Matthieu Noucher is a geographer, researcher at the CNRS and deputy director of the French research network in geographic information sciences. He published The small maps of the Web (Rue d’Ulm, 2017) and co-edited the Critical Atlas of French Guyana (CNRS Éditions, 2020).

 DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 408
List price: 26 €
Publication date: May 2023
The Volga
The Legacy of Modernity
Pascal Marchand

The latest title of the series: the Volga, a river difficult to tame, with fragile ecosystems but with important economic stakes (fishing, caviar).

The cities of the Volga never experienced any great commercial development. In this respect, the Volga was never the Rhine. The impressive natural flooding of the Volga in spring did not allow time for agricultural development before the frosts of early September. In this respect, the Volga valley was never the Nile valley. So, what can we say about this river?

Volga Matushka, the "Little Mother Volga", has a special place in the hearts of Russians. The enormous overflows, high low water levels, transformation of the river after it has frozen have always struck the Russian imagination. The manna of fish, including sturgeon, that the annual flooding left him from the summer seemed magical.

In 1917, the Bolsheviks set out to tame the great river. It seemed to be a simple and grandiose plan: to hold back the water from the spring flood and release it as needed. However, they turned out to be extraordinarily complex. Conceived in 1932 and started in 1937, the project was immediately confronted with the sensitivity of natural balances. The works and the controversies accumulated, so that in 1990, when the regime which led the works collapsed, the development of the Volga was still not finished.

Controversy still rages over how to complete the last works, while the war changes the national directions and global warming further disrupts the established plans.

Pascal Marchand is a geographer specializing in Russia and the former USSR. He is the author of Geopolitical Atlas of Russia (Autrement, 2020) and Russia beyond good and evil (Le Cavalier Bleu, 2017).

IN THE SAME COLLECTION

The "Geohistory of a River" series aims to present the physiology, organic linearity and landscapes of the world’s greatest rivers, and also to approach them through their history and the imaginary worlds that build and transform them. As strongholds, circulation areas, and frontiers, rivers are at the heart of the ecological, economic and geostrategic issues that shape our world.
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.

"The architect Philippe Revault makes us discover all the visible facets of this garden city (urban forms, habitat, relationship to the climate, water) to understand how the very idea of this city was formed. An idea that Seyyed Mohsen Habibi and Negar Habibi, in their important contribution, relate to the philosophical and theological revival of Duodecimal Shiism and the "School of Isfahan"."

Diagonal, January 2023

"This scholarly work, superbly illustrated with plans, old maps, and photographs, by Philippe Revault, who himself participated in its renovation, is a remarkable introduction to the city that is now at the heart of the country's second largest agglomeration."

L'Histoire, February 2023
**“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.**

**Notre-Dame of Paris**
Dany Sandron

- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-12234-6
- **Size:** 17 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 358
- **List price:** 29 €
- **Publication Date:** 04/2021
- **Rights sold:** Chinese

**Novgorod**
Pierre Gonneau

- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-12713-6
- **Size:** 17 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 248
- **List price:** 29 €
- **Publication Date:** 09/2021
- **Rights sold:** Chinese

**Carthage**
Samir Aounallah

- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-13471-4
- **Size:** 17 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 240
- **List price:** 29 €
- **Publication Date:** 05/2020
- **Rights sold:** Chinese

**Paris in 1200**
Denis Hayot

- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-12144-8
- **Size:** 17 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 328
- **List price:** 29 €
- **Publication Date:** 12/2018

**Lascaux**
Romain Pigeaud

- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-11580-5
- **Size:** 17 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 192
- **List price:** 22 €
- **Publication Date:** 11/2017
- **Rights sold:** Chinese

**Palmyra**
Christiane Delplace

- **ISBN:** 978-2-271-12432-6
- **Size:** 17 x 23 cm
- **Pages:** 244
- **List price:** 29 €
- **Publication Date:** 03/2017
Capitalism in the Village
Oil, the State and Environmental Struggles in Amazonia
Doris Buu-Sao

An innovative investigation into the exploitation of natural resources in Amazonia, and the social and political ways of the extractive industry.

On June 5, 2009, after several months of protest against a law favoring the extraction of natural resources, clashes broke out between police and Indian demonstrators in northern Peru. Several dozen people were killed. In the aftermath of this violent episode, this groundbreaking investigation into the exploitation of nature in Amazonia explores the relationship between the oil industry, indigenous communities and Peruvian authorities.

It invites us to break with romantic readings celebrating the heroism of Indian resistance, as well as with the disillusioned view of those who deplore the inability of a people to take control of its own destiny. The man who marches for the Quechua Federation, armed with a spear and his face covered in war paint, may well reappear a few days later as a worker on the oil site, wearing a uniform similar to that of the workers from Lima.

To capture this complexity, the book highlights the deployment of the state and capitalism “from below”. Long-term observation reveals the variety of interactions between indigenous villages and the oil industry, and sheds light on how the political and economic order is both produced and contested on a daily basis.
The “Logics of disorder” series proposes a survey of places and times to analyze the conflicts that manufacture the social, describing the brutality of the contemporary world, destitution, dispossession, but also revolts, frictions and the field of possibilities.

**Beyond Crime**
Ethnography of a Global Gang

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.

Anthropologist and researcher at the CNRS, Martin Lamotte works on criminal structures in the United States, Central America and Europe.

World rights available | November 2022 | 24 € | 328 pages

**Armed Capitalism**
Sheriff and Bosses in Karachi

Laurent Gayer lifts the veil on a Pakistani textile industry governed by violence, illegality and corruption. This in-depth investigation is based on a large corpus of interviews with workers, senior executives, union activists, lawyers, labor inspectors and members of the police force. A book that reveals the other side of the production of our daily consumer goods.

Research director at the CNRS, Laurent Gayer is particularly interested in urban dynamics and violent mobilizations in India and Pakistan. He co-wrote Proud to punish (Seuil, 2021).

World rights available (sold in English) | February 2023 | 26 € | 416 pages

**The Dawn has risen on a Dead Man**
Armed Violence and Poppy Cultivation in Mexico

There, where a culture of silence and extreme violence reigns, Adèle Blazquez spent 18 months living with the locals. She recounts her journey, her encounters, the life of a population caught between an extremely deadly “war on drugs” and the daily grind of extreme poverty.

Adèle Blazquez holds a doctorate in anthropology from the École des hautes études en sciences sociales.

World rights available (sold in Spanish) | March 2022 | 24 € | 336 pages

**Waging War by Law**
The Taliban Courts in Afghanistan

How did the Taliban win the population’s trust? How did they manage to put themselves in a position to regulate social relations? With what consequences for Afghan society? Informed by extensive fieldwork in Afghanistan, this investigation offers new perspectives on this country and proposes innovative thinking on the place of law in civil wars.

Adam Baczko is a CNRS researcher at the International Research Center. He is the co-author of Syria. Anatomy of a civil war (CNRS Editions, 2016).

World rights available (sold in English) | September 2021 | 25 € | 384 pages
The Other Cold War?
The US-China Confrontation
Pierre Grosser

Will the economic tensions between the United States and China end in full-scale war? This is the question posed by the specialist in the history of international relations Pierre Grosser, who analyzes the confrontation between the two countries, accentuated by the war in Ukraine.

For almost a quarter of a century, a war between the United States and China has been predicted and feared. It now seems less unlikely, as rivalries continue to escalate.

Pierre Grosser, a historian of international relations, looks back at the relations between the two countries over the long term. Very tense during the first decades of the Cold War, which was hot in Asia, these relations seemed to be on the rails of cooperation after the normalization of the 1970s. But differences of opinion on both sides of the Pacific have only fuelled tensions, until the current confrontation.

Drawing on the rich debates about the causes and triggers of twentieth-century conflicts, he lists the elements that could lead the United States and China into war (including a critique of the "Thucydides trap" notion, which is regularly used to emphasize the inevitability of a confrontation between the two powers), as well as the things that could prevent it from happening.

“In a comprehensive book, historian Pierre Grosser reviews relations between China and the United States over the past century. By reviewing the historical precedents of competition between powers, he provides a valuable analysis of the risks of slippage.”

*Les Échos*, March 2023

“This professor at Sciences Po [...] has an encyclopedic culture, a real pedagogical talent and strong convictions. “L’Autre Guerre froide ?” is both very dense and very accessible.”

*Le Monde*, March 2023

“A fascinating perspective at a time when the rivalry between the two superpowers is crystallizing around the issue of Taiwan.”

*La Montagne*, April 2023
450 submarine cables carry 98% of the information flows, yet we don’t know much about them.

Today, more than 98% of the world’s information flows pass through the sea. Spread across the globe in a heterogeneous manner, 450 fiber optic submarine cables, allowing data to be transported at the speed of light, form an immense web. These cables are tools for economic and social development, essential infrastructure for everyday life, and instruments in the hands of States. However, they are largely unknown.

At a time of exponential growth in our data consumption, this book looks at the major issues raised by this infrastructure: how the technology works and the market, the political role played by these communication lines, the international legal framework, and the environmental challenge.

A complete overview of the subject.

“In this little essay full of information, Camille Morel wanted to look at the geopolitical significance of submarine cables in a context of high international tensions.”

Les Échos, March 2023

“In this didactic and detailed book, the author describes the reality and structure of this maritime technology and explains how it works. The opportunity to debunk the myths about its vulnerability.”

Conflicts, May 2023

“Here is a small, inexpensive book that will teach you a lot about a key infrastructure of globalization: the undersea cables that transmit our digital data. [...] The book dissects the organization of the market between producers, owners and installers of cables, each activity being controlled by a small number of players, with a rise in power of the Gafa and China (Hengtong). Who controls the cables controls the information.”

Alternatives économiques, May 2023
TV Series
Labs for Political Awakening
Edited by Sandra Laugier

A deciphering of some twenty series to highlight their ethical and political power.

Television series, like all “popular culture”, transform the definition of art: from an object of distinction, it becomes a work of moral and political education. By putting forward political questions, and by bringing radical answers to them, they awaken sensibilities on major contemporary issues.

Terrorist threats and espionage (Homeland, The Americans, The Office of Legends), personal ambition of leaders (Game of Thrones, Baron Noir), ethics of neoliberal capitalism (The Good Place), feminism and intersectionality (Orange is the New Black, I May Destroy You, Killing Eve), Israeli-Palestinian conflict (Fauda, Our Boys) racism and anti-Semitism (Lupin, Watchmen, The Plot Against America), the impact of fiction on geopolitical reality (Servant of the People), the fatality of social inequalities (The Wire, Engrenages), the apocalyptic threat (The Walking Dead), the excesses of new technologies (Black Mirror), the violence of the prison system (Orange is the New Black): on all these elements, series provide strong common cultural referents, which populate ordinary conversations and political debates. Their impact on democratic regimes, conceived as spaces for deliberation, contestation and social transformation, is major.

“The perspective of reflection is ambitious by making the series an artifact that has a direct impact on today’s society much more consequential and wider in terms of target audience than cinema itself. A new sociological and analytical look at the series.”

Mediapart, February 2023

“Some contributors even take on their subject with such verve and infectious enthusiasm that they make you want to watch the series as soon as the chapter is finished.”

La Croix, January 2023

“Placing politics at the heart of its questioning, this monograph demonstrates that the series are today strongly involved in the collective debate.”

Le Temps, January 2023

Sandra Laugier is a professor of philosophy at the University of Paris-Panthéon Sorbonne and a member of the Institut Universitaire de France. She has recently published Our Lives in Series (Flammarion, 2019), The Power of Weak Ties (with Alexandre Gefen, CNRS Editions, 2020), Praise for the Ordinary (Cerf, 2021).

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 392
List price: 25 €
Publication Date: January 2023
Is the Islamic State defeated?
Myriam Benraad

A succinct essay to understand what the Islamic State is and the practices of radical Islamism past and future.

The defeat of the Islamic State, an organization that emerged in Iraq in the fall of 2006, is clear: after the losses in Mosul and Raqqa, the terrorist group no longer administers any territory or population. Its resources have been destroyed. Its leadership has been wiped out by targeted strikes. Thousands of fighters have been killed or disabled. The Islamic State has been deprived, de facto, of any real capacity to act.

Yet the organization continues to be a concern, particularly with the resumption of attacks in its former strongholds and the transnational expansion of its struggle. Everywhere, the Islamic State still seeks to appeal to a disaffected youth, and many militants are still reportedly active, many having moved from Iraq and Syria to other terrains. Nor is the Islamic State’s ideology defeated, and the organization is not just about terrorist modus operandi: it continues to represent an uprising, a politics, a revolt, that we would be foolish to ignore.

“The great merit of Myriam Benraad, an attentive observer of radical Islam in the Middle East, is to teach us how to decipher the phenomenon of growth and geographical expansion of the Islamic State group, which almost everyone believes to be dead or in its death throes.”

Le Journal du dimanche, June 2023

“Myriam Benraad reflects on the root causes of the collapse of Daesh’s administrative organization, and sheds light on its current seductive power and strike force.”

Vatican News, May 2023

Details
World rights available
Size: 14 x 20.5 cm
Pages: 128
List price: 14 €
Publication Date: June 2023
When the West Takes over the World (15th-21st century)
Is It Possible to Modernize Without Being Westernized?
Maurice Godelier

A re-reading of the birth and rise of the modern world by a major figure in contemporary anthropology.

If modernization is a social phenomenon of borrowing which has taken many forms in the course of history, it must be noted that the West, since the 15th century, has imposed itself - often by arms or by propaganda - as the model of modernity. Voluntarily or not, hundreds of societies have been transformed under its influence, so that, for the first time, all of them have entered into the framework of a common history. But what were the different modalities of this vast mutation? To what extent have certain societies been able to integrate themselves into this overall movement while retaining specific traits, different from, or even opposed to, what was promoted by the West? For it is possible being westernized without becoming Western. And how can we distinguish between irreversible transformations and those that can be challenged today?

For a long time, the belief in progress led people to believe that economic development, the evolution of morals and political democratization went hand in hand. The collapse of this myth now allows us to better characterize what has really been at stake in the globalization driven by industrial capitalism, and thus to understand the challenges that await Western societies today, which are faced with exacerbated hostility and may be on the verge of losing the economic, political and military leadership that has fueled their expansion.

Drawing on a lifetime of research on the functioning of societies, Maurice Godelier offers here a re-reading of the birth and rise of the modern world, and an uncompromising assessment of the role and place of the West.

"After sixty years of field research, Godelier’s masterly reflection shows how Western domination has brought about transformations in most parts of the world since the 15th century."

Philosophie Magazine, June 2023

"With its controlled, clear and measured narrative, this compendium of contemporary world history should be of great service to students and the general public alike. [...] But reading it not only provides a wealth of indispensable historical keys. It also helps to put current processes into perspective, such as the widespread mistrust of democracy."

Le Monde, June 2023
The Migrants and US
Understanding Babel
Michel Agier

Changing the way we see migrants in order to change our relationship
to them, recognizing the existence of a political scene at the borders
that requires negotiation, and finally seeing the profound beauty of
these "worlds of Babel": this is what Michel Agier invites us to do in
this personal and committed essay.

Since 2010 and the numerous migrants from Iraq, Syria, South Sudan, Libya,
and today from Ukraine who have massed at the gates of Europe, the questions
concerning the reception or rejection of these displaced persons have been raised
with great acuity. Between fear and compassion, is there room for a shared,
universal principle, which would make migrants, rather than a problem, an
essential cause? In the name of what should we commit ourselves to people who
are not or not only "immigrant workers" or "political refugees", but migrants, that
is to say people on the move?

For over twenty years, Michel Agier has been investigating displaced persons,
seeing how they live in the places they pass through or end up inhabiting, and
has acquired a dispassionate vision of the multiple forms of popular migration. In
this book, he describes cosmopolitans instead of "migrants" and helps us to better
understand the newly created worlds of Babel.

Michel Agier is an
anthropologist, director
of studies at the EHESS
and director of research at
the IRD. His publications
include Managing the
unwanted. From refugee
camps to humanitarian
government (Flammarion,
2010), The cosmopolitan
condition. Anthropology in
the test of the identity trap (La
Découverte, 2013) and The
coming foreigner. Rethinking
Hospitality (Le Seuil, 2018).

DETAILS
World rights available
Size: 12 x 17 cm
Pages: 96
List price: 7 €
Publication Date: May 2023

IN THE SAME COLLECTION

To Communicate is to Negotiate
Dominique Wolton
Rights sold in Portuguese

Community, Society, Culture
Maurice Godelier
Rights sold in Arabic; Italian

The Return of Borders
Michel Foucher
Rights sold in Greek

+ 7000 copies sold
The Sea
A Data Visualization
Cyrille P. Coutansais & Guillemette Crozet

Did you know that the Vikings reached the coasts of America 500 years before Christopher Columbus? That barely 20% of the seabed is known? That we now eat more fish produced by aquaculture than by fishing? That most of Israel’s drinking water comes from seawater desalination?

That’s just one of the things you’ll discover when you immerse yourself in this magnificent and abundant data visualization book, which offers an original, offbeat approach to the history of the seas and contemporary issues linked to the marine world. Because the sea is at a turning point. The era of “happy globalisation” is drawing to a close, and geopolitical storms are looming. Another challenge, another rupture, that of environmental protection and the fight against global warming, the success or failure of which depends in part on the oceans and will have a profound impact on them.

This book uses data visualization resources to provide the keys to grasping these changes and understanding this new world, while leaving plenty of room for dreams and imagination. In the course of these pages, you will sail from the seven wonders of the oceans to naval fortresses, set out to conquer the One Piece and perhaps come across the Flying Dutchman or the sea goddess Mazu. You’ll be seduced by the incredible medical innovations derived from marine organisms, and you’ll no doubt look with curiosity at the laser weapons on board some warships, while the mechanism of Antikythera may not leave you unmoved...

Cyrille P. Coutansais is director of the research department at the Centre for Strategic Studies of the Navy and a lecturer at Sciences-Po. He is the author of numerous books on the sea, including The Atlas of Maritime Empires (translated into Chinese and Japanese) and Men and the Sea (translated into Chinese).
Guillemette Crozet is a datavisualist, information designer and cartographer.
Literature

A Data Visualization
Alexandre Gefen & Guillemette Crozet

Did you know that in 1913, the Nobel Prize for Literature was awarded to an Indian author, Rabindranath Tagore? 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 Sophocles’ *Oedipus King* is considered the very first detective story in history? This is what you will discover in this magnificent and abundant computer graphics book. Thanks to datavisualization, the reader will be immersed in the world of literature: 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.

*World rights available | November 2022 | 24 € | 108 pages*

The Internet

A Data Visualization
Tristan Mendès France & Quintin Leeds

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 graphic designer, this work reflects the major challenges of our time and our ultraconnected world.

*World rights available | November 2021 | 24 € | 112 pages*
The Imagined Jew
From Elsa Triolet to Romain Gary
Nelly Wolf

Why is there no French Jewish literature in the same way as American Jewish literature? In what ways does the writing of Jewishness run through some of the major novels of the 20th century?

"We have only one God! And we don't believe in it!"; "God doesn't exist... and we're his chosen people!" Jewish humor provides a model for thinking about the confusion that reigns in France around the notion of literary Jewishness. There is no such thing as French-language Jewish literature, and this book will tell you all about it.

But let’s be clear: a French-language Jewish writer is one whose Jewishness has an impact on the French-speaking literary world. Like the civic Jewishness that the Jewish citizen negotiates in the political arena, literary Jewishness is confronted with a broad spectrum of possibilities, of which camouflage and ostentation constitute the two extremes.

Through a luminous and delicate exploration of the works of Albert Cohen and Elsa Triolet, Anna Langfus and Bernard Frank, Romain Gary, Georges Perec, Patrick Modiano, Serge Doubrovsky or Nathalie Azoulai, this survey highlights the profound imprint of French-language Jewish literature on forms of writing (autobiography) or events in literary life (Goncourt prizes). The importance of memory, the centrality of the Shoah, the weight of discrimination, the phenomena of cultural appropriation and reappropriation, symbiosis and separatism: all the essential issues and themes of our modernity can be summed up in it.
Monte Cristo, the Trial!

Caroline Julliot

Is Monte Cristo guilty? A literary game, this work of considerable originality in its form allows a profound reflection on literature, democracy and justice.

Literature, by nature, calls for judgment. First, of the literary quality of the work, then of the characters. A novel always provokes a debate, where one discusses the rights and the legitimacy of each, the crimes, the misdeeds, the reasons and the pretexts. The reader then becomes the judge and does this as best he or she can, often instinctively.

In this book, you will exercise the high office that the power of fiction confers on you by examining a particularly difficult case. You will reopen a trial in which the accused has, for more than a century and a half, been dismissed for reasons of popularity. On the stand, Edmond Dantes, known as the Count of Monte Cristo, thrown into prison following a slanderous denunciation, and who takes the law into his own hands... hitting a few innocent people in the process.

To what extent are his actions morally reprehensible, even legally condemnable? Can revenge be just? Doesn’t the hero, from persecuted innocent, become as criminal as those he pretended to punish?

To examine his case from a legal point of view is to tear away the reading from the prism of the immediate reaction. It is to demonstrate that the questioning of the mythical scheme of the Superman is an integral part of the novelistic project. The stake, not only moral but also political, is essential here: the successful novel constitutes a common reference, suitable to the democratic debate on the norms and values founding our society.

“This judicial side-step highlights all the joys and possibilities of fiction, the immoral and delicious pleasure of reading.”

Nouvel Obs, May 2023

“This remarkably serious and humorous book undermines Coleridge’s proposition that literature is the domain of propositions simultaneously foreign to both the category of true and the category of false.”

Lire Magazine littéraire, June 2023

“Caroline Julliot glides dexterously from legal reasoning to theological hypothesis, from considerations on the premeditation that makes murder an assassination to highly speculative reasoning on the law of retaliation, the practice of vendetta, and the avenging hero.”

Marianne, June 2023

Caroline Julliot is a senior lecturer at the University of Le Mans and works on the relationship between politics, religion and literature from the French Revolution onwards. She is the author of two books on Romantic historiography (The Grand Inquisitor, 2010, and The Red Sphinx, 2019), and co-edited a collective work on Michel Houellebecq (2022). In 2017, she founded the Intercripol (International Crime Criticism) network with Pierre Bayard, where she coordinates a team of detectives who reopen the botched files of fiction.

DETAILS

World rights available
Size: 14 x 22 cm
Pages: 280
List price: 24 €
Publication Date: May 2023
Dictionary of Sacred Times
Edited by Philippe Martin

A highly accessible dictionary on sacred days and the faithful’s relationship with time.

Time is a key concept in religions and spiritualities. Not only because they punctuate the daily lives of believers and devotees, but also because they sometimes aim to master and dominate time. This dictionary travels to the four corners of the globe to explore the relationship that different forms of spirituality have with time. With its 170 entries, it covers cosmological time, the time of the great founding myths, as well as celebrated time, not forgetting sacred time, that which is not institutionalised.

Advent, Ramadan, Fasting, Prayer, Hanukkah, Creation, etc.: this dictionary, which draws on anthropologists, historians, sociologists and theologians, covers practices and festivals that are specific to a belief system, as well as concepts found in a variety of spiritualities.

Philippine Martin is professor of modern history at the University of Lyon. He is the author of History of the Mass (CNRS Éditions, 2016) and Pilgrims, 15th-21st century (CNRS Éditions, 2016).

World rights available
Size: 13 x 19 cm
Pages: 544
List price: 16 €
Publication Date: October 2023
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. The author shows indeed that Aristotle “biologist” was unique in the ancient world [...]. The meticulous examination of his approach allows us to grasp his specificity, and his possible fecundity today, in a completely different historical context.”

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.

DETAILS

World rights available (sold in English)
Size: 15 x 23 cm
Pages: 328
List price: 25 €
Publication Date: May 2022
Emerson : The Ordinary Sublime

Raphaël Picon

A contemporary of Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry David Thoreau and Henry James, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803-1882) is one of the greatest American thinkers. A prolific writer who rebelled against conformism and called for a rediscovery of the imperious and elusive life of nature. Faithful to an author who never separates life from thought, this intellectual biography is an itinerary for reading, weaving together an unsuspected interplay of resonances and dissonances between the writings and the different facets of Emerson's life as a pastor, naturalist, lecturer, essayist, poet and activist.

A Protestant theologian, Raphaël Picon (1968-2016) has stimulated renewed interest in France in the thought of Ralph Waldo Emerson, whose Address to Harvard Theology Students he also edited.

Fight, Save, Heal : A Story about Ants

Erik T. Frank

The author describes the fonctionnement of ants as a war army : how they prepare their attacks, how they fight... But also how they rescue their wounded, bring them back to the anthill to heal them and get them ready to fight again. The author narrates this incredible phenomenon, as well as his own adventure in a national park in the Ivory Coast.

Erik T. Frank, a researcher at the University of Würzburg (Germany), is a biologist specializing in ant behavior. In 2022, he was awarded the Emmy Noether Fellowship to continue his work. His research has been the subject of numerous documentaries.

The Power of Biodiversity

Philippe Grandcolas

Can an animal smile? Of course, or more precisely... it's because we're animals ourselves that we can! This role reversal is a sign of our relationship with the diversity of living things. We claim to dominate it. In reality, we misunderstand it, we mistreat it and we put ourselves in danger. By weakening biodiversity through our exactions, we threaten our crops, our livestock and our health. Philippe Grandcolas calls for a better understanding of biodiversity, so that we can better respect it on the eve of a global extinction crisis.

Philippe Grandcolas is an ecologist and deputy scientific director of the National Institute of Ecology and Environment of the CNRS. He is the co-author of Everything You Wanted to Know About Biodiversity (or Almost!) (CNRS Éditions, 2023).
Policies of Vulnerability

Marie Garrau

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 is this vulnerability referred to? And what are the moral and political implications? This book is devoted to these questions.

Marie Garrau is a lecturer in social and political philosophy at the University of Paris 1 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 Negative freedom. Uses and criticisms (Hermann, 2018).

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).

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 Sea: a Data Visualization, The (re)Localization of the World and Men and the Sea (translated into Chinese).
A Bourdieu reader: An International Approach
Edited by Gisèle Sapiro

A Bourdieu reader: An International Approach
Edited 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

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

Dictionary of the Law of Religions

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
Edited 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 Élisée 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
Edited by Gilbert Buti & Philippe Hródej

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 Hródej is a specialist in the history of colonial trade and freebooters in the modern era.
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.
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.

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