NEW AND UPCOMING TITLES IN THE STUDIES OF THE WEAI

WAITING FOR THE COOL MOON:
ANTI-IMPERIALIST STRUGGLES IN THE
HEART OF JAPAN’S EMPIRE
Wendy Matsumura
Duke University Press, 2024

In Waiting for the Cool Moon, Wendy Matsumura interrogates the erasure of colonial violence at the heart of Japanese nation-state formation. She critiques Japan studies’ role in this effacement and contends that the field must engage with anti-Blackness and anti-Indigeneity as the grounds on which to understand imperialism, colonialism, fascism, and other forces that shape national consciousness. Drawing on Black radical thinkers’ critique of the erasure of the Middle Passage in universalizing theories of modernity’s imbrication with fascism, Matsumura traces the consequences of the Japanese empire’s categorization of people as human and less-than-human as manifested in the 1920s and 1930s, and the struggles of racialized and colonized people against imperialist violence.

THE CHINESE COMPUTER:
A GLOBAL HISTORY OF THE INFORMATION AGE
Thomas S. Mullaney
The MIT Press, 2024

A standard QWERTY keyboard has a few dozen keys. How can Chinese—a language with tens of thousands of characters and no alphabet—be input on such a device? In The Chinese Computer, Thomas S. Mullaney sets out to resolve this paradox, and in doing so, discovers that the key to this seemingly impossible riddle has given rise to a new epoch in the history of writing—a form of writing he calls “hypography.” Based on fifteen years of research, this pathbreaking history of the Chinese language charts the beginnings of electronic Chinese technology in the wake of World War II up through to its many iterations in the present day.
From the toppling of the Qing Empire in 1911 to the political campaigns and mass protests in the Mao and post-Mao eras, revolutionary upheavals characterized China’s twentieth century. In *Revolutionary Becomings*, Ying Qian studies documentary film as an “eventful medium” deeply embedded in these upheavals and as a prism to investigate the entwined histories of media and China’s revolutionary movements.

Exploring a wide range of previously uninvestigated works and intervening in key debates in documentary studies and film and media history, *Revolutionary Becomings* provides a groundbreaking assessment of the significance of media to the historical unfolding and actualization of revolutionary movements.

The notion of beauty is inherently elusive: aesthetic judgments are at once subjective and felt to be universally valid. In *Beauty Matters*, Anri Yasuda demonstrates that by exploring the often conflicting yet powerful pull of aesthetic sentiments, major authors of the late Meiji (1868–1912) and Taishō (1912–1926) periods illuminated themes and perspectives that resonated broadly in modern Japanese society. This approach presents an alternative to conventional accounts in which Japanese literature before the modernist turn of the 1920s has tended to be defined by an insular focus on subjective representation and autobiographical realism.
In Search of Admiration and Respect: Chinese Cultural Diplomacy in the United States, 1875–1974
Yanqiu Zheng
University of Michigan Press, 2024

In Search of Admiration and Respect examines the institutionalization of Chinese cultural diplomacy in the period between high imperialism and the international ascendance of the People’s Republic of China. During these years, Chinese intellectuals and officials tried to promote the idea of China’s cultural refinement in an effort to combat negative perceptions of the nation. Yanqiu Zheng argues that, unlike similar projects by more established powers, Chinese cultural diplomacy in this era was not carried out solely by a functional government agency; rather, limited resources forced an uneasy collaboration between the New York-based China Institute and the Chinese Nationalist government.

From Japanese Empire to American Hegemony: Koreans and Okinawans in the Resettlement of Northeast Asia
Matthew R. Augustine
University of Hawai’i Press, 2023

This is the first comprehensive study of the dynamic and often contentious relationship between migrations and border controls in US-occupied Japan, Korea, and the Ryukyus, examining the American interlude in Northeast Asia as a closely integrated, regional history. This transregional history explains the process by which Northeast Asia and its respective populations were remade between the fall of the Japanese empire and the rise of American hegemony.
In *Beauty Regimes*, Genevieve Alva Clutario traces how beauty and fashion in the Philippines shaped the intertwined projects of imperial expansion and modern nation building during the turbulent transition between Spanish, US, and Japanese empires. Clutario takes readers through vivid scenes of beauty’s collision with empire: from sartorial confrontations between white women and Filipinas about beauty and power, the spectacular Manila Carnival Queen pageants, and the global industry of Philippine embroidery and lingerie to Manila’s high fashion designers and the exploitation of unfree labor in colonial prisons and schools. By demonstrating how beauty and fashion powerfully determined individual and cultural practices as well as national and transnational politics, Clutario offers new ways of understanding the centrality of beauty in the making of imperial and nationalist power.

Working for the administration remains one of the most coveted career paths for young Chinese. *Rejuvenating Communism: Youth Organizations and Elite Renewal in Post-Mao China* seeks to understand what motivates young and educated Chinese to commit to a long-term career in the party-state and how this question is central to the Chinese regime’s ability to maintain its cohesion and survive. Jérôme Doyon draws upon extensive fieldwork and statistical analysis in order to illuminate the undogmatic commitment recruitment techniques and other methods the state has taken to develop a diffuse allegiance to the party-state in the post-Mao era.
Satoru Hashimoto offers a novel way of understanding the origins of modern literature in a transregional context, drawing on Chinese-, Japanese-, and Korean-language texts in both classical and vernacular forms. He argues that modern literature came into being in East Asia through writerly attempts at reconstructing the present’s historical relationship to the past across the cultural transformations caused by modernization. Hashimoto examines writers’ anachronistic engagement with past cultures deemed obsolete or antithetical to new systems of values, showing that this transnational process was integral to the emergence of modern literature. A groundbreaking cross-cultural excavation of the origins of modern literature in East Asia featuring remarkable linguistic scope, *Afterlives of Letters* bridges Asian studies and comparative literature and delivers a remapping of world literature.

*Republican Vietnam* is the first collection of scholarly essays on the Second Republic since the end of the Vietnam War. It is also among the first to use republicanism as a lens to re-examine twentieth-century Vietnamese history, the Vietnam War, and the diaspora. The twelve essays together show how war, in tandem with external intervention, shaped South Vietnam’s economy, culture, and the life of every individual and family. By featuring works from Vietnamese and Vietnamese diasporic studies, this text takes the important step of bridging the two fields, laying the foundation for cross-disciplinary projects in the future.
Through the theoretical lens of literary territorialization, Miya Xie reconceptualizes modern Manchuria as a critical site for making and unmaking national literatures in East Asia. Xie ventures into hitherto uncharted territory by comparing East Asian literatures in three different languages and analyzing their close connections in the transnational frontier. By revealing how writers of different nationalities constantly enlisted transnational elements within a nation-centered body of literature, *Territorializing Manchuria* uncovers a history of literary co-formation at the very site of division and may offer insights for future reconciliation in the region.

This book explores Takamure Itsue’s (1894–1964) intellectual odyssey as Japan’s most notable pioneer in the study of women’s history. While dissecting the patriarchal norms undergirding the capitalist nation-state, she embraced matricultural paradigms that embodied life-sustaining and life-enhancing values through communal childrearing and matrilineal inheritance. Takamure, a visionary thinker, asked big-picture questions and addressed multifarious issues of contemporary relevance, including beauty standards, human trafficking, gross disparities in wealth, war and imperialism, science and religion, and humanity’s relationship with nature.
RECENT TITLES IN THE STUDIES OF THE WEAI

DREAM SUPER-EXPRESS: A CULTURAL HISTORY OF THE WORLD’S FIRST BULLET TRAIN
Jessamyn Abel
Stanford University Press, 2022

LEARNING TO RULE: COURT EDUCATION AND THE REMAKING OF THE QING STATE, 1861-1912
Daniel Barish
Columbia University Press, 2022

UNCERTAINTY IN THE EMPIRE OF ROUTINE: THE ADMINISTRATIVE REVOLUTION OF THE EIGHTEENTH-CENTURY QING STATE
Maura Dykstra
Harvard University Press, 2022

THE CONCRETE PLATEAU: URBAN TIBETANS AND THE CHINESE CIVILIZING MACHINE
Andrew Grant
Cornell University Press, 2022

THE SOUND OF SALVATION: VOICE, GENDER, AND THE SUFI MEDIASCAPES IN CHINA
Guangtian Ha
Columbia University Press, 2022

NARRATIVES OF CIVIC DUTY: HOW NATIONAL STORIES SHAPE DEMOCRACY IN ASIA
Aram Hur
Cornell University Press, 2022
Common Ground
Tibetan Buddhist Expansion and Qing China’s Inner Asia
Lan Wu
Columbia University Press, 2022

China Urbanizing: Impacts and Transitions
Edited by Weiping Wu and Qin Gao
University of Pennsylvania Press, 2022

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Columbia University Press, 2023

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The series Asia Perspectives: History, Society, and Culture presents works that cross the usual boundaries between scholarly monographs and works of general interest. Its aim is to publish serious original writings and significant translations for the general reader and for classroom use.

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