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LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Being part of a large public university is a constant reminder that education is about transformation. Students are changed by their time here, by their encounters with new ideas and with others who are different from themselves. Faculty are changed by their teaching, by their research and writing, and by their interactions with students and colleagues.

We find ourselves in a transformative time, with new challenges presented daily by the COVID-19 situation. In March, the Press responded to the state’s shelter-in-place order by immediately moving the entire staff to telecommuting, and we are adapting our processes to that remote working environment. We continue to work with authors in developing their projects and moving them through the stages of production, as well as attending to marketing and promotion. We are dedicated to serving the best interests of our authors, editors, and scholarly society partners as we navigate these troubled waters.

We are also dedicated to assisting our readers during this time. To that end, the Press has enabled open access to book and journal content on multiple platforms to aid study, teaching, and research.

Through June 30, 2020, the Press is providing free access to a wide selection of our journals through JSTOR and Project MUSE. Offerings include key journals in the fields of music, civil rights, ethnic history, Mormon studies, sports, and many other topics.

Our e-books are being made openly available to libraries on two platforms. We have added all backlist e-books to JSTOR’s collection of 37,000 titles from 83 publishers. This enormous scholarly resource is available to JSTOR-participating institutions that formerly did not have access to these titles. Institutions that register with JSTOR can access this collection for free through June 30, 2020. We are also participating in Oxford’s University Press Scholarship Online trial access program.

In these challenging and changing times, we are committed—in concert with many of our peer presses—to making changes in ways that meet the needs of students and scholars. Opening this content is one way of helping to make distance learning and teaching easier and more seamless. If there is a resource you need that hasn’t been included, please reach out. We are here to help.

Sincerely,

Laurie Matheson, DMA
The year 2019 marks the fifteenth anniversary of our series Latinos in Chicago and the Midwest, and we celebrated with events across the UI System.

On September 26, 2019, the Press donated a complete set of books from the Latinos in Chicago and the Midwest series to the student library at the La Casa Cultural Latino on the UIUC campus. The gift coincided with National Hispanic Heritage Month. The accompanying event included a warm welcome from Jorge Mena, assistant director of La Casa. Dawn Durante, acquisitions editor for the series, spoke about the history of the series and introduced José Ángel Navejas, who read from his book *Illegal: Reflections of an Undocumented Immigrant*. The attendees received free copies of the book from La Casa as part of its Hispanic Month initiatives.

On October 22, the Latino Cultural Center at UI Chicago hosted a celebration of the series with a panel, book display, and birthday cake. The panel of six speakers featured several authors from the series, including Navejas; Mérida M. Rúa, editor of *Latino Urban Ethnography and the Work of Elena Padilla*; Marc Zimmerman, author of *Defending Their Own in the Cold*; and John Flores, author of *Mexican Revolution in Chicago*. Durante and Laurie Matheson attended, along with an appreciative audience of about forty students, faculty, and friends of the Center.

The third event, on March 2, 2020, featured Frances Aparicio, the founding editor of the series, speaking on “Pleasure & Politics of Latino Popular Music” as part of the UIS Speaker Series at the Brookens Library Auditorium. UIS faculty and UIP Press Board member Hinda Seif introduced the speaker, and Matheson spoke briefly on the history of the series and the importance of peer review and other quality control measures that characterize university press publishing. Margo Chaney also represented the Press at the event, which included a reception, display of series titles, and book sale.
Behind the Book

DEGREES OF DIFFERENCE:
REFLECTIONS OF WOMEN OF COLOR ON GRADUATE SCHOOL

Kimberly D. McKee is an associate professor in the Integrative, Religious, and Intercultural Studies Department at Grand Valley State University. Denise A. Delgado received her Ph.D. from the Ohio State University and works as an analyst and trainer. Here they answer questions about their recently published book.

Q: Why did you decide to write this book?

We belonged to several women of color organizations, and we found that most of the women of color we knew had similar issues and struggles while in graduate school—racism and/or sexism from colleagues and professors, whitewashed or gender-biased curriculum, racially hostile students, unsupportive friends or family members, and isolation paired with imposter syndrome. There are some significant differences, particularly around class, country of origin, and language to name a few, so it couldn’t just be our voices writing our experience. We wanted to create something to elevate fellow women of color voices and explore the differences as well as the similarities in our experiences. The diversity of voices and positionality is our way of saying, “We hear you. We see you. You are good enough, and you’re not alone.” We also learned so much from the women who came before us and offered their mentorship, friendship, and support that we wanted to pass along that wisdom to others.

Kim: I hope this book opens the conversations about how to better support women of color and indigenous women graduate students and underscore how these women are not alone. We are not speaking from a singular experience. Rather, the contributors’ essays reveal a collective voice. I hope that reading the essays encourages women of color and indigenous women to seek one another to create community, while also remembering that allies come from unlikely places.

Q: What myths do you hope your book will dispel or what do you hope your book will help readers unlearn?

Denise: I hope we dispel the myth that you need to do it on your own. I struggled with anxiety during my time as a graduate student, and I often felt like I was out of place, but once I opened up to other women in my program about these issues, I found that many of them were experiencing the same thing and had thought I was confident and had everything under control. While I found friends my first year of graduate school, I didn’t seek out community until year two, and if there is one piece of advice I’d give, it’d be to find a community or make one yourself.

Kim: I hope this book opens the conversations about how to better support women of color and indigenous women graduate students and underscore how these women are not alone. We are not speaking from a singular experience. Rather, the contributors’ essays reveal a collective voice. I hope that reading the essays encourages women of color and indigenous women to seek one another to create community, while also remembering that allies come from unlikely places.

Q: What is the most important idea you hope readers will take away from your book?

We feel like the book is our way of saying, “Graduate school is hard, but here is some practical advice and tips on how we made it through. We wish you the best and can’t wait to see what you do in the future.” For faculty and administrators, we’ve provided a roadmap on various strategies that have worked for women in these programs in the hope that they will support their students by instituting some of these themselves or helping their students and faculty create them.

Utah Historical Quarterly
The Press recently acquired *Utah Historical Quarterly*, a journal published for the Utah State Historical Society since 1928. Edited by Holly George and Jedediah S. Rogers, *UHQ* showcases articles about Utah history and Utah’s presence as a western state. The Press is publishing Volume 88 in 2020, and UIP intends to maintain the accessible editorial style displayed by the journal during its ninety-year history. Featuring photography, book reviews, articles, artifacts, and oral history, the journal remains a great resource for research on the Beehive State.

Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought
*Dialogue: A Journal of Mormon Thought* is an independent quarterly established to express Mormon culture and to examine the relevance of religion to secular life. Edited by Latter-day Saints, *Dialogue* focuses on scholars who wish to bring their faith into dialogue with the larger stream of world religious thought and with human experience as a whole, and who hope to foster artistic and scholarly achievement based on their cultural heritage. The journal encourages a variety of viewpoints and in addition to scholarship includes artwork, poetry, creative writing, and personal accounts of faith.

Journal of Olympic Studies
The official publication of the Center for Sociocultural Sport and Olympic Research (CSSOR), the *Journal of Olympic Studies* is the preeminent international, multidisciplinary, peer-reviewed scholarly journal in the field of Olympic research. The *Journal of Olympic Studies* publishes high-quality academic work on the Olympic and Paralympic movements from scholars in the fields of history, philosophy, management, communication, classics, literature, anthropology, cultural studies, economics, marketing, and law.

Italian American Review
*Italian American Review* is a bi-annual, peer-reviewed journal of the John D. Calandra Italian American Institute. It publishes scholarly articles about the history and culture of Italian Americans, as well as other aspects of the Italian diaspora. The journal embraces a wide range of professional concerns and theoretical orientations in the social sciences and in cultural studies. The editors consider articles about such topics as migration, politics, labor, race and ethnicity, urban studies, gender studies, as well as various forms of cultural production (religious feasts, cinema, music, etc.), especially those addressing societal aspects.
Award Winners

JUNE 2019–JANUARY 2020

• When the Light is Fire, by Heather D. Switzer, won the Jackie Kirk Outstanding Book Award for scholarly work in gender and education from the Comparative and International Education Society.

• Queer Timing: The Emergence of Lesbian Sexuality in Early Cinema, by Susan Potter, won the John Leo and Dana Heller Award for Best Single Work, Anthology, Multi-Authored or Edited Book in LGBTQ Studies from the Popular Culture Association.

• Dockworker Power: Race and Activism in Durban and the San Francisco Bay Area, by Peter Cole, won the Philip Taft Labor History Book Award from the Labor and Working-Class History Association and the Cornell ILR School.


• In Search of Belonging: Latina, Media, and Citizenship, by Jillian M. Báez, won the Bonnie Ritter Outstanding Feminist Book Award from the Feminist & Women Studies Division of the National Communication Association.

• Mascot Nation: The Controversy over Native American Representations in Sports, by Andrew C. Billings and Jason Edward Black, won the Outstanding Book Award from the Communication and Sport Division of the National Communication Association. It also won the Best Book Award from the American Studies Division of the National Communication Association.

• Black Public History in Chicago: Civil Rights Activism from World War II into the Cold War, by Ian Rocksborough-Smith, won the Superior Achievement Award from the Illinois State Historical Society.

• Syrian and Lebanese Patrícios in São Paulo: From the Levant to Brazil, by Oswaldo Truzzi (translated by Ramon J. Stern), won the Evelyn Shakir Non-Fiction Award from the Arab American National Museum.

• In a Classroom of Their Own: The Intersection of Race and Feminist Politics in All-Black Male Schools, by Keisha Lindsay, won the Michael Harrington Book Award from the New Political Science Caucus of the American Political Science Association.


• Spirituals and the Black Entertainment Industry, by Sandra Jean Graham, won the Music in American Culture Award from the American Musicological Society.
African American figures and subjects continue to play a central role in the stories and scholarship offered by the Press. A number of recent releases highlight our commitment to publishing books on the African American experience in Chicago.

Denise LaSalle’s journey took her from rural Mississippi to the top of the charts and a long reign as a southern soul superstar. *Always the Queen* is LaSalle’s in-her-own-words story of a lifetime in music, where her stage presence and earthy lyrics about relationships connected with generations of female fans. She also talks about her off-stage success as a record label owner, entrepreneur, and genre-crossing songwriter.

Born to enslaved parents, Anthony Overton created a business empire that ranged from personal care products and media properties to insurance and finance. Robert E. Weems Jr. weaves the life story of an African American trailblazer through the eventful history of his times, from mentorship by Booker T. Washington through Overton’s fame as the first African American to head a major conglomerate to his up-and-down fortunes during and after the Great Depression.

Guided by Lerone Bennett Jr., the magazine’s senior editor and in-house historian, *Ebony* played a key part in educating millions of African Americans about their past. Bennett’s writing helped push representations of the African American past to the center of the nation’s cultural and political imagination. E. James West combines biography and cultural history to illuminates the intellectual role of the iconic magazine and its contribution to African American scholarship.

From the 1893 World’s Columbian Exposition to the start of the Great Depression, African Americans working across the landscape of the arts set the stage for an intellectual flowering that redefined black cultural life. Richard A. Courage and Christopher Robert Reed curate essays that unearth the transformative forces that supported the emergence of the individuals and social networks who became an African American cultural vanguard.

*The Heart of a Woman* is the first-ever biography of Florence B. Price, a composer whose career spanned both the Harlem and Chicago Renaissances, and the first African American woman to gain national recognition for her works. Through interviews and material from public and private archives, Rae Linda Brown illuminates Price’s major works and explores the depth of her achievement while tracing the composer’s personal life, teaching, and struggles.
On September 19, 2019, the University of Illinois Press held its Fall Publishing Symposium at the Institute for the Humanities on the campus of the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC). The full day event invited attendees to meet Press staffers and learn how to better navigate the academic books and journals publishing process. We were especially pleased that the afternoon sessions consisted wholly of UIC faculty from across disciplines engaging one another on a wide variety of publishing and professional development issues.

The symposium attracted forty attendees, the majority from the UIC system. Several community members attended as well. The Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs, the UIC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research, and the UIC University Library provided financial support. We are especially grateful to Linda Vavra, Associate Director of the Institute for the Humanities, for coordinating logistical support onsite at the Institute.

U of I Press staff members Danny Nasset, Dawn Durante, James Engelhardt, Alexa Colella, Laurie Matheson, Michael Roux, and Heather Gernenz were featured on the agenda. Julie Laut coordinated the symposium. Michael Roux, Kevin Cunningham, Ami Reitmeier, Jennifer Barbee, and James Engelhardt volunteered their time at the symposium. Denise Peeler helped with many organizational and communications tasks leading up to the event.

We were pleased that Elizabeth Branch Dyson, acquisitions editor at the University of Chicago Press, and Trevor Perri, acquisitions editor at Northwestern University Press, joined U of I Press acquisitions editors for the “Quick Conversations” with scholars at the start of the day. And Sandra Bolzenius, author of Glory in Their Spirit: How Four Black Women Took on the Army during World War II, traveled from Columbus, Ohio, to participate on “The Life of a Book” panel.
Year two of our publishing symposiums kicked off on February 14, 2020, at the Levis Faculty Center on the Urbana-Champaign campus. Approximately eighty people, including attendees from Illinois State University and the Chicago area, braved cold temperatures for a daylong series of events on the nuts and bolts of publishing.

**Barbara Wilson**, Executive Vice President and VP for Academic Affairs, whose office generously co-sponsors our symposiums, started the day with a warm welcome. The Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research’s Office of Research Advising and Project Development and the Illinois Program for Research in the Humanities (IPRH) co-sponsored the event.

Directors from two other Midwest university presses, **Tony Sanfilippo** (Ohio State University Press) and **Stephanie Williams** (Ohio University Press), joined **Laurie Matheson** for a roundtable on publishing in the twenty-first century moderated by **Antoinette Burton** (History; IPRH). Other panel topics included edited volumes and special journal issues, a dissertation-to-book discussion, and a talk on the second book and beyond.


A number of UIUC faculty shared their experiences and expertise with attendees. Press board members **Daniel Gilbert** (Labor & Employment Relations; History) and **Erik McDuffie** (African American Studies; History) served on panels, as did UIUC faculty members **Renée Trilling** (English; editor of *JEGP*), **Christina Bashford** (School of Music; U of I Press author), **Rini Bhattacharya Mehta** (Comparative & World Literature; Religion; U of I Press author), **Mimi Nguyen** (Gender & Women’s Studies; Asian American Studies), **Jamie Jones** (English), **François Proulx** (French & Italian), **Michael Silvers** (School of Music; U of I Press author), **Cara Finnegan** (Communication; U of I Press author), **Samantha Frost** (Political Science), and **Jeffrey Magee** (School of Music; College of Media; U of I Press author). **Matthew Ehrlich** (Professor Emeritus of Journalism and the Institute of Communications Research), author of *Kansas City vs. Oakland: The Bitter Sports Rivalry That Defined an Era* (2019), was part of the panel for “The Nuts and Bolts of Publishing Your Book.”
The Journals and Books divisions at the Press endeavor to present scholarship not as two separate entities, but as a unified whole beneath the UIP banner.

The field of Italian Studies offers a prime example. Like many areas of research on ethnicity, Italian Studies at UIP and across academia long ago outgrew the field of history to embrace an ever-expanding interdisciplinary mission.

Thus, the scope of Italian Studies at UIP ranges widely. The immigrant experience naturally plays a large part in our offerings.

The essays in Laura E. Ruberto and Joseph Sciorra’s two-volume *New Italian Migrations to the United States* covers topics like youth culture, how Italian American women embraced tarantella dance and music, and Italian-language radio. Recent journals articles include “The Southwest’s Uneven Welcome: Immigrant Inclusion and Exclusion in Arizona and New Mexico” by Robin Dale Jacobson, Daniel Tichenor, and T. Elizabeth Durden (the *Journal of American Ethnic History*) and Katherine Reed’s look at graffiti on Ellis Island in the same publication.

The enormous contribution by Italian Americans to pop culture is another rich source of research. In 2019, a special issue of *Italian American Review* focused on Italian American song and soundscapes. Our long commitment to books on the topic include John Caps’s biography of movie soundtrack icon Henry Mancini and Jonathan J. Cavallero’s *Hollywood’s Italian American Filmmakers*.

Finally, there’s the sacred relationship between Italian Americans and the kitchen. In her book *Migrant Marketplaces*, Elizabeth Zanoni looks at how food from the homeland helped Italian immigrants create new identities in New York City and Buenos Aires. *The Italian American Table*, by Simone Cinotto, shows how Neapolitan, Sicilian, and Calabrese immigrants added their food culture to the menu for people across the United States.
“A life-long reader, I am so excited to have the opportunity to market something I am so passionate about. Although I haven’t been here long, I’ve gained so much experience that has helped me grow both on a professional and personal level. I find my work so rewarding and look forward to coming in every weekday because I’m constantly challenged and encouraged to better myself!”

—Ali Wasielewski, Marketing Intern, junior in communications, public relations, and journalism

“Before working at the Press, I was unaware of the complexities of producing a book and the processes that are put into place in order to do so. Working in production has given me a newfound respect for the publishing field through the hands-on experiences that I have taken part in. Most importantly though, it has been rewarding to see words on a screen become beautiful, physical compositions. Another favorite part of my job is being able to work in the design department where I am able to see the ‘face’ of books come alive using various applications. I hope to eventually delve deeper into this field and create eye-catching covers and designs of my own!”

—Miah Emano, Production Intern, junior in graphic design

“What I love most about working at the Press is the diversity of information I have absorbed about the process of tackling a manuscript and being exposed to the fascinating subjects each book is written about! As a Creative Writing major, writing and editing are very important to me, and my wonderful supervisors have given me so much invaluable guidance and feedback that I can use both professionally and in my personal endeavors in the future.”

—Maddie Udelhofen, Editorial Student Assistant, freshman in creative writing and criminology

“I love being able to explore the variety of topics for book cover design. It allows me to play with Photoshop and expand my creativity by coming up with different concepts for one cover, at the same time designing to fit the author’s intention and marketing needs. It’s almost like an unknown and exciting journey!”

—Cynthia Liu, Design Intern, senior in graphic design

“Working as a marketing intern at the Press has been a fantastic opportunity. I have gained hands-on experience in marketing and data entry and learned about the world of publishing as well as the characteristics of a professional work environment. Every day I continue to learn and take on exciting new projects. My current coursework in business communication and informatics has directly connected to the work I do. One of my recent projects was helping research new independent bookstores and catering to their needs and interests. It was very interesting to find books that related to my specific audience. I greatly appreciate the welcoming environment and hard-working people in this office. I look forward to what’s to come.”

—Sara Horvath, Marketing Intern, sophomore in communication and informatics
The University of Illinois Press recently welcomed four new faculty board members.

**Michael R. Cheney** is a Professor of Communication and Associate Professor of Economics at the University of Illinois at Springfield. He was previously a Senior Fellow in the Institute of Government and Public Affairs at the University of Illinois. He served as the inaugural editor for the *Journal of Media Sociology*. He is the co-author of *From Iowa to the White House* (1989) and *Packaging the Presidents* (2008). He is co-editor of *Harold Innis’s History of Communications: Paper and Printing* (2015) and *Harold Innis Reflects Memoir and WWI Writings/Correspondence* (2016). He is currently working on “Are We There Yet? The History of Presidential Advertising in the Internet Age.”

**Daniel A. Gilbert** is an Associate Professor at the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign and specializes in U.S. labor and cultural history. He holds a B.A. in music from Wesleyan University and a Ph.D. in American Studies from Yale. His current research interests include the history of public employee unionism, the role of sports in the American workplace, and modern U.S. history. He was the 2014 recipient of the Baseball Research Award from the Society for American Baseball Research and the 2018 recipient of the John T. Dunlop Scholar Award from the Labor & Employment Relation Association. He is also the author of *Expanding the Strike Zone: Baseball in the Age of Free Agency*.

**Lisa Janicke Hinchliffe** is a Professor and the Coordinator for Information Literacy Services & Instruction at the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana. She holds a B.A. in philosophy from the University of St. Thomas and an M.Ed. in educational psychology and an M.S. in library science from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. Her research interests include teaching and learning, higher education, globalization, information literacy, library assessment and evaluation, library quality, and scholarly communications. She was the 2017 recipient of the Larry Romans Mentorship Award from the American Library Association’s Government Documents and Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Roundtables. She was also the 2015 recipient of the ACRL Instruction Section Miriam Dudley Instruction Librarian Award. She is the editor of the journal *Library Trends* and a contributor to *The Scholarly Kitchen*.

**Hinda Seif** is an Associate Professor of Women & Gender Studies and Anthropology at the University of Illinois at Springfield. She holds an M.A. in Women’s Studies from the University of Arizona and a Ph.D. in Cultural Anthropology from the University of California, Davis. Her research interests include Mexican migration and Latinx Studies; interactions of gender, race/ethnicity, class, sexuality, and nation; critical policy studies; and qualitative methods. Currently, Prof. Seif researches and writes about the Latinization of Chicago through the lives, work, and perspectives of women artists of Mexican ancestry in the city. Publishers of her work include *Latino Studies*, *North American Dialogue*, Stanford University Press, and Oxford University Press. Recent publications include “Visualizing Spaces of Empowerment in Chicanx/Mexicanx Chicago with Artist/Photographer Diana Solís” (Diálogo 2018) and “Space, Place and Belonging: Multidisciplinary Artist Nicole Marroquín” (GénEros, U. of Colima, Mexico, 2019).

Blues Legacy: Tradition and Innovation in Chicago by David Whiteis was reviewed in Publishers Weekly, which called it “a handy reference to Chicago blues.” New City also reviewed the book and said “Whiteis’ writing pulls you in exactly as sounds spilling out of a blues club on a summer night would pull you off the sidewalk to listen.”

Dissent magazine did a feature on the fortieth anniversary of the Working Class in American History series and reviewed To Live Here, You Have to Fight by Jessica Wilkerson, Dockworker Power by Peter Cole, and Labor’s Mind by Tobias Higbie.

The Journalist of Castro Street by Andrew Stoner was named a top read of 2019 by Plus Magazine. Quill magazine and Literary Hub both featured excerpts; KOED included the book in their holiday gift guide; Booklist, Times Literary Supplement, and the Gay and Lesbian Review reviewed it; and the Chicago Daily Herald and Aurora Beacon News did features on the book.

Joanna Russ by Gwyneth Jones was reviewed in PopMatters and named a Best Book of 2019, and was reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement, the Seattle Times, Locus Magazine, the Gay and Lesbian Review, and Fantasy and Science Fiction.

On Trend: The Business of Forecasting the Future by Devon Powers was reviewed in Inside Higher Ed and the author was interviewed in Vox's The Highlight about the trends industry.

PopMatters featured an excerpt from Rocking the Closet: How Little Richard, Johnnie Ray, Liberace, and Johnny Mathis Queered Pop Music by Vincent Stephens. The book also made The Advocate's best Queer Nonfiction in 2019 list and was reviewed on Arts Fuse and in the Gay and Lesbian Review.

Henry Kisor and Christine Goodier, authors of Traveling with Service Animals; were interviewed by the Chicago Tribune about their top travel tips. The book was also featured in Midwest Living in their Live Well section and reviewed in Booklist, which called it a “winner,” and Library Journal, which called it “a highly recommended resource.”

Alice in Pornoland: Hardcore Encounters with the Victorian Gothic by Laura Helen Marks was reviewed in the Times Literary Supplement.

Highlights for Earl Scruggs and Foggy Mountain Breakdown: The Making of An American Classic by Thomas Goldsmith include an excerpt and interview in the Raleigh News & Observer, interviews on WUNC, WHUP and WBPR, and a review in No Depression that called it “essential reading.”

Phil Jamison, author of Hoedowns, Reels, and Frolics, was interviewed on Radiolab about square dancing.

Sophonisba Breckinridge: Championing Women’s Activism in Modern America by Anya Jabour was reviewed in Booklist, which called it “a compelling biography that resurrects the life and times of this noteworthy feminist.”

Diary of a Philosophy Student Vol. 2 by Simone de Beauvoir and translated by Barbara Klaw and edited by Barbara Klaw, Sylvie Le Bon de Beauvoir, Margaret A. Simons, and Marybeth Timmermann was reviewed in the New York Review of Books.

Victor Arnautoff and the Politics of Art by Robert Cherny was mentioned in a New York Review of Books piece on the George Washington High School mural controversy.

A History of the Ozarks Volume 2: The Conflicted Ozarks by Brooks Blevins was reviewed in the St. Louis Post-Dispatch, which called it “a well-researched and detailed account of the violent life of the Ozarks during and after the Civil War.”

Michael Dorf and George Van Dusen, the authors of Clear it with Sid! Sidney R. Yates and Fifty Years of Presidents, Pragmatism, and Public Service, were interviewed on WGN’s Politics Tonight and WCPT’s Ben Joravsky Show, and the Chicago Jewish News did a feature article on the book.


Beyond Respectability by Brittney Cooper made Zora Magazine's list of 100 Best Books by African American Women Authors.

The Rise and Fall of the Associated Negro Press by Gerald Horne was listed by the Black Press Research Collective as one of the best books of the decade.

The Arithmetic of Listening by Kyle Gann was reviewed in The Wire, which called it “a lot of fun.”
Q: Why did you decide to write this book?

We decided to write *African Art Reframed* for a number of reasons. There are very few books that look at African and African American museums as their main topic. We therefore wanted to do a comparative study of African museums in global context. We also wished to present a compelling collection of visual materials, including images of museums, examples of African art, and photographs of the museum directors, curators, and artists that we interviewed. Finally, we hope to contribute to the growing literature on museum practices. The book was initially intended to be the third entry in Bennetta Jules-Rosette’s studies of Black Paris (all of which she has published with the University of Illinois Press), but it became a much larger and more comprehensive study.

Q: Who were your biggest influences?

In many ways, the book began as a response to Simon Njami’s groundbreaking 2004 *Africa Remix: Contemporary Art of a Continent* exhibition and catalogue. We developed the theory and method of digital unmixing as the first step toward communicating what Njami stages as a remix. Another significant influence was Dean MacCannell’s *The Tourist* (1999), which continues to remain incredibly useful and relevant in a world of increasingly global flows. The book as whole is dedicated to the memory of the extraordinary Africanist scholar Teshome H. Gabriel and to the museums, curators, and creators of African art.

Q: What is the most interesting discovery you made while researching and writing your book?

One of our most interesting discoveries revolved around “curating the curators,” and our research into the relationship between museum curators and contemporary African artists. In order to address these issues, we developed a multi-pronged model of dialogue that weaves together interview data, museum site visits, works of art, and audience responses. We also discovered interesting and complex interactions and networks between the curators and the artists, and we learned that many artists respond to museums via new artworks.

Q: What is the most important idea you hope readers will take away from your book?

The book presents a nodal model of museum transformations. The model offers a useful typology for classifying and analyzing a diversity of museums and galleries in terms of their collections, mission statements, and architecture. We hope that museum researchers and audiences will adopt this model as a technique for navigating museums. We also introduce the theory and method of unmixing, which isolates significant aesthetic and semiotic elements from works of art. Audiences often ask us for guidance on how to gain access to and interpret the contents of museums. After reading the book, we hope that they will begin to see any museum that they visit in terms of the nodal categories that we have developed and, once inside the museum, that they will begin to unmix and remix the artifacts and artworks on display.

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