# Contents

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>About Verso</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Technology</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Work</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ecology</td>
<td>9</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Politics</td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Feminism</td>
<td>19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Philosophy</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Art and Culture</td>
<td>24</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>History</td>
<td>29</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>America</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Britain</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Verso Books is the largest independent radical publisher in the English-speaking world, with a list that encompasses trade and academic titles in politics, current affairs, history, philosophy, social sciences and literature.

Launched by *New Left Review* in 1970, Verso—the left-hand page—has offices in London and New York and publishes, on average, 90 books a year.


For a full list of Verso’s titles, please visit our website, [www.versobooks.com](http://www.versobooks.com).
The Revenge of the Real
Post-Pandemic Politics
Benjamin Bratton

Technology, Politics, Science: Can the world govern itself differently after the Coronavirus?

The global pandemic should be seen less as a “state of exception” than a revelation of multiple pre-existing conditions.

_The Revenge of the Real_ envisions a post-pandemic politics based upon the imperatives that have revealed themselves during the emergency. It demands that we imagine an epidemiological view of society, on a planetary scale: the need to rethink how governments interact with each other and their populations, as well as how we live, work and, perhaps, thrive with each other. The lockdown has forced new norms - social distancing, models and curves, masks and quarantine - that we have to accommodate into everyday lives. How do these alter what it means to mean care for one another? How do they impact on our relationships with automation and “surveillance”? What kind of society do they portend?

Bratton proposes a radical rethinking of what a post-pandemic politics could be, and should be, one that demands, rather than delays, a coordinated, pragmatic, equitable response to the biopolitical challenges that define the 21st century.

_Benjamin Bratton_ is Professor of Visual Arts and Director of the Center for Design and Geopolitics at the University of California, San Diego. He is Program Director of The New Normal programme at Strelka Institute of Media, Architecture and Design in Moscow. He is also a Professor of Digital Design at The European Graduate School and Visiting Faculty at SCI_Arc (The Southern California Institute of Architecture). He is the author of the hugely influential _The Stack_ as well as _The New Normal_ and _Terraforming_.

Praise for _The Stack_:

“Endlessly thought-provoking, this amazing book is both cognitive mapping and a projective geometry of the new dimensions of technological reality we live in.”

_Kim Stanley Robinson_

“Imagines a design brief for the whole world while floating or falling through all the ever-efflorescent plasmas and atmospheres of digital information.”

_Keller Easterling_

June 2021
160 pages
How Google, Facebook and Amazon threaten our Democracy

What is the impact of surveillance capitalism on our right to free speech? The internet once promised to be a place of extraordinary freedom beyond the control of money or politics, but today corporations and platforms exercise more control over our ability to access information and share knowledge to a greater extent than any state. From the online calls to arms in the thick of the Arab Spring to the contemporary front line of misinformation, Jillian C. York charts the war over our digital rights. She looks at both how the big corporations have become unaccountable censors, and the devastating impact it has had on those who have been censored.

In *Silicon Values*, leading campaigner Jillian C. York looks at how our rights have become increasingly undermined by the major corporations’ desire to harvest our personal data and turn it into profit. She also looks at how governments have used the same technology to monitor citizens and threatened our ability to communicate. As a result our daily lives, and private thoughts, are being policed in an unprecedented manner. Who decides the difference between political debate and hate speech? How does this impact on our identity, our ability to create communities and to protest? Who regulates the censors? In response to this threat to our democracy, York proposes a user-powered movement against the platforms that demands change and a new form of ownership over our own data.

**Jillian C. York** is Director for International Freedom of Expression at the Electronic Freedom Foundation. She is also a founding member of the feminist collective Deep Lab. She was named by *Foreign Policy* as one of the top 100 intellectuals on social media and has written for the *Guardian*, Al Jazeera and *Foreign Policy*. She is based in Berlin.

“One of the leading scholars on internet control and censorship.”

*Boston Globe*
Medium Design
Knowing How to Work on the World

Keller Easterling

Everyone is a designer: making sense of the world

How do we formulate alternative approaches to the world’s unresponsive or intractable dilemmas – from climate cataclysm to inequality to concentrations of authoritarian power? Easterling argues that the search for solutions is a mistake. Instead, she offers the perspective of medium design, one that considers not only separate objects, ideas and events but also the space between them. This background matrix with all its latent potentials is profoundly underexploited in a culture that is good at naming things but not so good at seeing how they connect and interact.

In case studies dealing with everything from automation and migration to explosive urban growth and atmospheric changes, Medium Design looks not to new technologies for innovation but rather to sophisticated relationships between emergent and incumbent technologies. It does not try to eliminate problems but rather put them together in productive combinations. And it offers forms of activism for modulating power and temperament in organisations of all kinds.

Keller Easterling is an award-winning writer, architect and Professor at Yale. She is the author of Extrastatecraft: The Power of Infrastructure Space, Enduring Innocence, which was named Archinect’s Best Book of 2005, and Organization Space. She is also the author of two essay-length books: The Action Is the Form and Subtraction. Her writing and design work was included in the 2014 and 2018 Venice Biennales. Easterling is a 2019 United States Artist Fellow in Architecture and Design and the recipient of the 2019 Blueprint Award for Critical Thinking.

In praise of Extrastatecraft:

“Establishes Keller Easterling’s growing reputation as the savviest student of post-national spatial and infrastructural forms.” Arjun Appadurai, author of The Future as Cultural Fact

“An essential text for anyone with a stake in the built environment, architect and citizen alike.” Architectural Review
Automation and the Future of Work

Aaron Benanav

Consensus-shattering account of automation technologies and labour-market malfunctions

Silicon Valley titans, politicians, techno-futurists and social critics have united in arguing that we are living on the cusp of an era of rapid technological automation, heralding the end of work as we know it. But does the much-discussed ‘rise of the robots’ really explain the looming jobs crisis?

In Automation and the Future of Work, Aaron Benanav uncovers the structural economic trends that will shape our working lives far into the future. What social movements, he asks, are required to propel us into post-scarcity if technological innovation alone can’t deliver it? In response to calls for a universal basic income which would maintain a growing army of redundant workers, he offers a counter-proposal.

Aaron Benanav is a Researcher at Humboldt University of Berlin and a contributor to New Left Review.

“A powerful and persuasive explanation of why capitalism can’t create jobs or generate incomes for a majority of humanity.” Mike Davis, author of Set the Night on Fire

“A rare book that manages to soberly assess the contemporary landscape while keeping a clear eye on our utopian horizons. This is an important intervention into current discussions around technology and work – and a must-read for anyone who believes capitalist decay is not the only future.” Nick Srnicek, author of Platform Capitalism

“A highly quantitative analysis of the nature of contemporary unemployment flowers into something quite different and unexpected: a qualitative argument for the invention of new collective capacities in a world where work is no longer central to social life.” Kristin Ross, author of Communal Luxury

“An excellent, insightful account of the contours of our present labour crisis. Benanav articulately makes the case for a post-scarcity future.” Robert Skidelsky, biographer of John Maynard Keynes
The tragedy of the worker

Jamie Allinson, China Mieville, Richard Seymour and Rosie Warren

The future of the worker in the Anthropocene

The climate crisis is so comprehensive in its reach, so thorough in its unsettling effects, that it has called into question not only the foundations of a certain kind of socialism, but also the Enlightened verities upon which both capitalism and its opposition have sought their foundation.

The current state of the planet, the capitolocene, is a direct result of extractive appetites of capitalism. The threats of climate change are already here and, if we continue along the same path, ensure an apocalypse. The tragedy of the worker is, therefore, twofold, forced to work in unsupportable condition that contribute to the worlds destruction, or, fight for liberation and inherit a world potentially beyond salvation. What is to be done to create a planet where the prospects of a communist horizon are a new dawn rather than a planetary twilight? In this brilliant, stringently argued pamphlet the authors set out a new way to think about the Anthropocene and demands an alternative future that seeks to repair and restore our world, and ourselves.

Collectively the editors of Salvage magazine

Jamie Allinson is a Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Relations at Edinburgh University

China Mieville is the author of a number of highly acclaimed and prize-winning novels including, most recently, The Last Days of New Paris. His nonfiction includes October.

Richard Seymour is a journalist who writes regularly for the Guardian, the London Review of Books, and Jacobin. His most recent books include The Twittering Machine and Corbyn.

Rosie Warren is Chief Editor of Salvage magazine and an editor at Verso.
**Overtime**

*Why We Need a Shorter Working Week*

Kyle Lewis and Will Stronge

Why we should all work less! A radical and pragmatic manifesto for tackling the twin crises of work and care in contemporary capitalism

The time we spend at work is neither natural nor inevitable. Instead, the amount of time we spend working is a political, cultural and economic question. *Overtime* explains what a shorter waged working week means, as well as its history and its political implications. The authors argue that any long-term plan for a sustainable, just economy must involve a reduction in the time we spend working.

Kyle Lewis is Associate Lecturer in the Department of Health and Social Sciences at the University of the West of England, and a researcher at the think tank Autonomy.

Will Stronge is the co-director of the think tank Autonomy, and a researcher in Politics and Philosophy at the University of Brighton.

---

**Breaking Things at Work**

*The Luddites Were Right about Why You Hate Your Job*

Gavin Mueller

An exhilarating challenge to the way we think about work, technology, progress, and what we want from the future

Nineteenth-century English textile workers responded to the introduction of new technologies by smashing them to bits. The movement has been derided as a backwards-looking and an ineffectual effort to stem the march of history; for Gavin Mueller, the Luddites gets at the heart of the antagonistic relationship between all workers, including us today.

*Breaking Things at Work* is an innovative rethinking of labour and machines, leaping from textile mills to algorithms. The future stability and empowerment of working-class movements will depend on subverting or halting the spread of these technologies. This resistance is already present in neo-Luddite efforts of hackers, pirates, and dark web users who are challenging surveillance and control.

Gavin Mueller teaches at the University of Amsterdam and edits for *Jacobin* and *Viewpoint Magazine*. 
Corona, Climate, Chronic Emergency

War Communism in the Twenty-First Century

Andreas Malm

What does the pandemic tell us about the climate breakdown, and what should we do about it?

The economic and social impact of the coronavirus pandemic has been unprecedented. Governments have spoken of being at war and find themselves forced to seek new powers in order to maintain social order and prevent the spread of the virus. Andreas Malm demands that this war-footing state should be applied on a permanent basis to the ongoing climate front line. He offers proposals on how the climate movement should use this present emergency to make that case. There can be no excuse for inaction any longer.

Andreas Malm teaches at Lund University. He is the author of The Progress of this Storm and of Fossil Capital, which won the Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Memorial Prize.
White Skin, Black Fuel
On the Danger of Fossil Fascism
Andreas Malm and the Zetkin Collective

What does the rise of the far right mean for the battle against climate change?

In recent years, the far right has done everything in its power to accelerate global heating. On the brink of breakdown, the forces most aggressively promoting business-as-usual have surged – always in defence of white privilege, against supposed threats from non-white others. Where have they come from?

In the first study of the far right in the climate crisis, White Skin, Black Fuel presents an eye-opening sweep of a novel political constellation, and reveals its deep historical roots. Fossil-fuelled technologies were born steeped in racism. None loved them more passionately than the classical fascists. Now right-wing forces have risen to the surface, professing to have the solution – closing borders to save the climate. Epic and riveting, White Skin, Black Fuel traces a future of political fronts that can only heat up.

Andreas Malm is a scholar of Human Ecology and author of, among other books, Fossil Capital and The Progress of this Storm.

The Zetkin Collective is a group of scholars, activists and students working on the political ecology of the far right.

How to Blow Up a Pipeline
Learning to Fight in a World on Fire
Andreas Malm

Why resisting climate change means combatting the fossil fuel industry

In this lyrical manifesto, noted climate scholar (and saboteur of SUV tires and coal mines) Andreas Malm makes an impassioned call for the climate movement to escalate its tactics in the face of ecological collapse. We need, he argues, to force fossil fuel extraction to stop – with our actions, with our bodies, and by defusing and destroying its tools. We need, in short, to start blowing up some oil pipelines.

Andreas Malm teaches Human Ecology at Lund University, Sweden. He is the author of The Progress of This Storm and Fossil Capital, which won the Isaac and Tamara Deutscher Memorial Prize.

French: La Fabrique; German: Matthes & Seitz; Italian: Ponte alle Grazie; Spanish: Errata Naturae
To save our future we must rewild the earth!

Our fossil fuel-driven society has run out of time. Only by rapidly giving up our reliance on carbon can we pay down the debt of fossil capital and buy a liveable future without a mass extinction or global warming.

In this visionary and incisive manifesto, environmental scholars Troy Vettese and Drew Pendergrass outline the structural, economic, and social changes de-carbonisation will require. Drawing from detailed environmental modeling of our planet’s many possible futures, Vettese and Pendergrass argue that we will need to give half of the earth’s land, now used for agricultural and meat production, back to nature, rewilding half the earth.

The only political program that can give us a livable half-earth, they argue, is socialism: a planned socialist society can constrict the destructive forces ravaging our world – fossil fuels, cars, aviation, meat, and real estate – while expanding renewable energy systems, organic agriculture, public transport, and health and education systems.

*Half-Earth Socialism* argues that we can consciously and democratically direct human society’s interaction with nature and, in fact, if we want any kind of livable future on this planet, we must.

**Troy Vettese** is an environmental historian and a William Lyon Mackenzie King research fellow at Harvard University. His reviews and essays have appeared in *n+1, Jacobin, Bookforum, Salvage, New Left Review,* and *In These Times.*

**Drew Pendergrass** is a PhD student in Environmental Engineering at Harvard University. His environmental writing has been published in *Harper’s* and *Current Affairs.*
Beyond Barbarism
A Manifesto for a Planet on Fire
Laurie Laybourn-Langton and Mathew Lawrence

A radical manifesto for how to deal with climate breakdown

Building on the debates surrounding the Green New Deal, debates that both authors have been central to, Lawrence and Laybourn-Langton argue that it is not enough to merely spend our way out of the crisis. Instead we need to rapidly reshape the purpose of the economy, away from the emphasis on endless growth and towards creating a healthy and flourishing environment for everyone. This must be based on the principles of internationalism and democratic ownership of the economy.

Laurie Laybourn-Langton is Director of the UK Health Alliance on Climate Change, and a Senior Research Fellow at IPPR. Mathew Lawrence is founder and Director of Common Wealth, an institution dedicated to ownership for a democratic economy and deep systems change. He has published widely, including co-authoring Labour’s influential Alternative Models of Ownership report.
The Care Manifesto
The Politics of Interdependence

The Care Collective

We are in the midst of a global crisis of care. How do we get out of it?

*The Care Manifesto* puts care at the heart of the debates of our current crisis: from intimate care, care for the natural world, to a caring state. We live in a world where carelessness reigns. *The Care Manifesto* puts forth a vision for a truly caring world. We must reimagine the role of care in our everyday lives, making it the organising principle in every dimension and at every scale of life. We are all dependent on each other, and only by nurturing these interdependencies can we cultivate a world in which each and every one of us can not only live but thrive.

*The Care Collective* was formed in 2017. Each member coming from a different discipline, it has been active both collectively and individually in diverse personal, academic and political contexts. Members include: Andreas Chatzidakis, Jamie Hakim, Jo Littler, Catherine Rottenberg, and Lynne Segal.
Mutual Aid
Building Solidarity During this Crisis (and the Next)
Dean Spade

How to organise to meet immediate needs in your community and work toward lasting change

This book is about mutual aid: why it is so important, what it looks like, and how to do it. It provides a grassroots theory of mutual aid, describes how mutual aid has been a part of all larger, powerful social movements, and offers concrete tools for organizing. Mutual aid isn’t charity: it is a form of organising where people get to create new systems of care and generosity so we can survive.

Dean Spade is an Associate Professor at Seattle University School of Law. Dean’s writing has appeared in the Chronicle of Higher Education, Out, In These Times, Social Text, and Signs.
What is care and who is paying for it?

In this groundbreaking book, Emma Dowling charts the multi-faceted nature of care in the modern world, from the mantras of self-care and what they tell us about our anxieties, to the state of the social care system. She examines the relations of power that play profitability and care off in against one another in a myriad of ways, exposing the devastating impact of financialisation and austerity.

*The Care Crisis* enquires into the ways in which the continued off-loading of the cost of care onto the shoulders of underpaid and unpaid realms of society, untangling how this off-loading combines with commodification, marketisation and financialisation to produce the mess we are living in. *The Care Crisis* charts the current experiments in short-term fixes to the care crisis that are taking place within Britain, with austerity as the backdrop. It maps the economy of abandonment, raising the question: to whom care is afforded? What would it mean to seriously value care?

**Emma Dowling** teaches at the Friedrich Schiller University in Jena. She writes for the *Financial Times, New Humanist, Red Pepper, LuXemburg* and *OpenDemocracy.*
The Corona Crash
How the Pandemic Will Change Capitalism

Grace Blakeley

Free market, competitive capitalism is dead

In *The Corona Crash*, leading economics commentator Grace Blakeley theorises about the epoch-making changes that the coronavirus brings in its wake. We are living through a unique moment in history. The pandemic has caused the deepest global recession since the Second World War. Meanwhile the human cost is reflected in a still-rising death toll, as many states find themselves unable - and some unwilling - to grapple with the effects of the virus. Whatever happens, we can never go back to business as usual. This crisis will tip us into a new era of monopoly capitalism, argues Blakeley, as the corporate economy collapses into the arms of the state, and the tech giants grow to unprecedented proportions.

**Grace Blakeley** is a Staff Writer at *Tribune* magazine and author of *Stolen*. She appears regularly in the media as a political and economic commentator, including appearances on *Question Time, This Week*, and *BBC Breakfast*.

“Grace Blakeley asserts the need for Covid-19 to be a global wake-up call.”
*Guardian, Biggest Books of Autumn 2020*
The Great Recoil
Politics after Populism and Pandemic

Paolo Gerbaudo

Is populism the future for the Left?

In this era of economic crisis, social distress, and ecological threats, the term ‘populism’ has come to sum up anxiety about our political future. While it is mostly associated with right-wing demagogues such as Donald Trump, Matteo Salvini and Jair Bolsonaro, various figures of the ‘post-crash left’, such as Bernie Sanders, Jeremy Corbyn and Pablo Iglesias have also been branded ‘populist’, for the way they express that distrust of the elites and belief in ordinary people that have become key motifs of our zeitgeist.

The Great Recoil suggests that we have entered a post-neoliberal and populist era, in which the idiom of sovereignty, protection and control has become hegemonic on both the left and the right. Weaving concepts from classics such as Plato, Machiavelli, Hobbes, Gramsci, Polanyi and Schumpeter with commentaries on the words and deeds of contemporary populist leaders, the book argues that populism is successful because it captures widespread anger at the chaos unleashed by globalisation and a popular demand for community and security that is politically ambiguous. Rather than casting itself as anti-populist, the left needs to articulate this idiom for progressive ends, developing a post-global socialism committed to protecting the people and controlling the markets while reasserting the power of the state.

Paolo Gerbaudo is a sociologist and political theorist based at King’s College London where he acts as Director of the Centre for Digital Culture. He is the author of Tweets and the Streets, The Mask and the Flag and The Digital Party. He has written for the New Statesman, Guardian, and other publications.

Praise for The Digital Party:

“A brilliant book.” John Harris, Guardian

“An important contribution to the conceptualisation of digital parties and the understanding of their evolution.” Donatella Della Porta, author of Movement Parties in Times of Austerity

“With a rare mix of narrative flair and analytical insight, Gerbaudo tells the riveting story of how tech-savvy leaders and ‘connected outsiders’ have reshaped politics in the digital era.” John Postill, author of The Rise of Nerd Politics

May 2021
288 pages
The Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems
An Intersectional Political Economy
Nancy Folbre

A major new work of feminism from the MacArthur Award–winning economist

In this groundbreaking new work, Nancy Folbre builds on her previous reformulation of Marxian political economy, drawing on a larger body of scientific research, including neoclassical economics, sociology, psychology, and evolutionary biology, to answer the defining question of feminist political economy: why is gender inequality so pervasive? Exploring intersecting inequalities based on class, gender, age, race/ethnicity, and citizenship, and their implications for political coalitions, *The Rise and Decline of Patriarchal Systems* sets a new feminist agenda for the twenty-first century.

Nancy Folbre is Professor Emerita at the Political Economy Research Institute at the University of Massachusetts, Amherst. She is a Senior Fellow of the Levy Economics Institute at Bard College and the author of *Greed, Lust, and Gender*, *Valuing Children*, and *The Invisible Heart*.

Neither Vertical nor Horizontal
A Theory of Organisation
Rodrigo Nunes

How do we organise in a world after both Occupy and the Sanders campaign?

For something so often described as essential, political organisation remains a surprisingly under-theorised field.

Nunes redefines the terms of organisational theory, and argues that organisation must be understood as always supposing a diverse ecology of different initiatives and organisational forms. Drawing from a wide array of sources and traditions Nunes develops a grammar that eschews easy oppositions between ‘verticalism’ and ‘horizontalism’, and offers a fresh approach to enduring issues like spontaneity, leadership, democracy, strategy, populism, revolution, and the relationship between movements and parties.

Rodrigo Nunes is Assistant Professor at the Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro. He is the author of *Organisation of the Organisationless* and of numerous articles.
Feminist Antifascism
Counterpublics of the Common
Ewa Majewska

An incisive theoretical manifesto arguing that feminism is the only route to an antifascist global future

In this exciting, innovative work, Polish feminist philosopher Ewa Majewska maps the creation of feminist counterpublics around the world – spaces of protest and ideas, community and common struggle – that can challenge the emergence of fascist states as well as Western democratic “public spheres” populated by atomised, individual subjects.

Drawing from Eastern Europe and the Global South, Majewska describes the mass labour movement of Poland’s Solidarność in 1980 and contemporary feminist movements across Poland and South America, arguing that it is outside of the West that we can see the most promising left futures.

Ewa Majewska is a feminist philosopher of culture and Affiliated Fellow at the Institute of Cultural Inquiry (ICI) in Berlin, Germany.

Feminist International
How to Change Everything
Verónica Gago

A leader of Latin America’s powerful new women’s movement rethinks the meaning of feminist politics

In this brilliant and kaleidoscopic look at the emerging feminist international, Verónica Gago uses the women’s strike as both a concept and a collective experience. At once a gripping political analysis and a theoretically charged manifesto, Feminist International draws on the author’s rich experience with radical movements to enter into ongoing debates in feminist and Marxist theory: from social reproduction and domestic work to the intertwining of financial and gender violence, as well as controversies surrounding the neo-extractivist model of development, the possibilities and limits of left populism, and the ever-vexed nexus of gender-race-class.

Verónica Gago is a leader in Argentina’s #NiUnaMenos movement (Not One More!), as both a theoretician and an activist. She is also a Professor of Social Sciences at the University of Buenos Aires.

French: Divergences; German: Unrast
Taking A Long Look
Essays on Culture, Literature, and Feminism in Our Time
Vivian Gornick

One of our most vital and incisive writers on literature, feminism, and knowing one's self

For nearly fifty years, Vivian Gornick's essays, written with her characteristic clarity of perception and vibrant prose, have explored feminism and writing, literature and culture, politics and personal experience. Drawing on writing from the course of her career, Taking a Long Look illuminates one of the driving themes behind Gornick's work: that the painful process of understanding one's self is what binds us to the larger world.

In these essays, Gornick explores the lives and literature of Alfred Kazin, Mary McCarthy, Diana Trilling, Philip Roth, Joan Didion, and Herman Melville; the cultural impact of Silent Spring and Uncle Tom's Cabin; and the characters you might only find in a New York barber shop or midtown bus terminal. Even more, Taking a Long Look brings back into print her incendiary essays, first published in the Village Voice, championing the emergence of the women's liberation movement of the 1970s.

Alternately crackling with urgency or lucid with insight, the essays in Taking a Long Look present one of America's most beloved critics at her best.

Vivian Gornick is a writer and critic whose work has received two National Book Critics Circle Award nominations and been collected in The Best American Essays 2014. Gornick was a legendary writer for Village Voice, chronicling the emergence of the feminist movement in the 1970s, and a respected literary critic. Her works include the memoirs Fierce Attachments – ranked the best memoir of the last fifty years by the New York Times – The Odd Woman and the City, and Unfinished Business, as well as the classic text on writing The Situation and the Story.

“It’s impossible not to fall in love with Gornick on the page.”
Rachel Cooke, Observer

March 2021
304 pages
The Third Unconscious
Franco "Bifo" Berardi

A wide-ranging exploration of the present, and the future, of the Unconscious

The Unconscious knows no time, it has no before-and-after, it does not have a history of its own. Yet, it is not always the same. As it emerges in the life of people and societies, the Unconscious is shaped by ever-changing historical conditions: its form depends on the unique ‘psychosphere’ of each historical age. In the early twentieth century, Freud characterised the Unconscious as the dark side of the well-ordered framework of Progress and Reason. At the end of the past century, Deleuze and Guattari described it as a laboratory: the magmatic force that ceaselessly brings about new possibilities of imagination. Today, at a time of viral pandemics and in the midst of the catastrophic collapse of capitalism, the Unconscious has begun to emerge in yet another form. In this book, Franco ‘Bifo’ Berardi vividly illustrates the form in which the Unconscious will make itself manifest for decades to come, and the challenges that it will pose to our possibilities of political action, poetic imagination, and therapy.

Franco ‘Bifo’ Berardi was the founder of the pirate station Radio Alice in 1976. One of the most prominent members of Autonomia, he worked closely with the French psychoanalyst Felix Guattari throughout the 1980s. His latest books in English are Futurability and Phenomenology of the End.

“As a diagnostician, Berardi is among the sharpest.” Slate

“Bifo is a master of global activism in the age of depression. His mission is to understand real existing capitalism. Sense the despair of the revolt, enjoy this brilliant ‘labour of the negative’!” Geert Lovink, Founding Director of the Institute of Network Cultures

March 2021
224 pages
Towards a form of aggressive nonviolence.

Judith Butler’s new book shows how an ethic of nonviolence must be connected to a broader political struggle for social equality. Further, it argues that nonviolence is often misunderstood as a passive practice that emanates from a calm region of the soul, or as an individualist ethical relation to existing forms of power. But, in fact, nonviolence is an ethical position found in the midst of the political field. An aggressive form of nonviolence accepts that hostility is part of our psychic constitution, but values ambivalence as a way of checking the conversion of aggression into violence. One contemporary challenge to a politics of nonviolence points out that there is a difference of opinion on what counts as violence and nonviolence. The distinction between them can be mobilised in the service of ratifying the state’s monopoly on violence.

Considering nonviolence as an ethical problem within a political philosophy requires a critique of individualism as well as an understanding of the psychosocial dimensions of violence. Butler draws upon Foucault, Fanon, Freud, and Benjamin to consider how the interdiction against violence fails to include lives regarded as ungrievable. By considering how ‘racial phantasms’ inform justifications of state and administrative violence, Butler tracks how violence is often attributed to those who are most severely exposed to its lethal effects.

Judith Butler is Maxine Elliot Professor of Comparative Literature and Critical Theory at the University of California, Berkeley. She is the author of numerous books including Precarious Life (Verso, 2004), Frames of War (Verso, 2009), and Towards a Performative Theory of Assembly (Harvard University Press, 2015).

Arabic: Dar Soual
Catalan: Cultura 21
Chinese (complex): Business Weekly
Chinese (simplified): Shanghai Literature and Publishing
Danish: Klim
French: Fayard
German: Suhrkamp
Greek: Alexandria
Italian: Nottetempo
Japanese: Seidosha
Korean: Munhakdongne
Portuguese (Brazil): Boitempo
Portuguese (Portugal): Edicoes 70
Russian: Higher School of Economics
Spanish (world): Paidos
Turkish: Metis
Jameson’s first full-length engagement with Walter Benjamin’s work

The Benjamin Files offers a comprehensive new reading of all of Benjamin’s major works and a great number of his shorter book reviews, notes and letters. Its premise is that Benjamin was an anti-philosophical, anti-systematic thinker whose conceptual interests also felt the gravitational pull of his vocation as a writer. What resulted was a coexistence or variety of language fields and thematic codes which overlapped and often seemed to contradict each other: a view which will allow us to clarify the much-debated tension in his works between the mystical or theological side of Benjamin and his political or historical inclination. The three-way tug of war over his heritage between adherents of his friends Scholem, Adorno and Brecht can also be better grasped from this position, which gives the Brechtian standpoint more due than most influential academic studies. Benjamin’s corpus is an anticipation of contemporary theory in the priority it gives language and representation over philosophical or conceptual unity; and its political motivations are clarified by attention to the omnipresence of history throughout his writing, from the shortest articles to the most ambitious projects. His explicit programme – “to transfer the crisis into the heart of language” or, in other words, to detect class struggle at work in the most minute literary phenomena – requires the reader to translate the linguistic or representational literary issues that concerned him back into the omnipresent but often only implicitly political ones. But the latter are those of another era, to which we must gain access, to use one of Benjamin’s favorite expressions.

Fredric Jameson is Distinguished Professor of Comparative Literature at Duke University. He was a recipient of the 2008 Holberg International Memorial Prize. He is the author of many books, including Postmodernism, or, The Cultural Logic of Late Capitalism; A Singular Modernity; The Modernist Papers; Archaeologies of the Future; Valences of the Dialectic and Representing Capital.
Investigative Aesthetics
Matthew Fuller and Eyal Weizman

What is the role of political art?

The words investigative and aesthetics seem like an uneasy match. But this book claims that expanded aesthetic practices can powerfully reshape our approach to the question of truth. Shifts in technology and new ways of thinking together offer a means of searching for facts and understanding them anew.

This book proposes that the current period is defined by new forms of “aesthetic power” composed both by sensing, detection and prediction and the torrential proliferation of images and data. To evade and oppose this form of state-corporate domination we can learn to join the dots between traces within our interwoven digital, built and natural environments.

Investigative aesthetics can also enable new collaborative forms of verification. Rather than rely on official expertise, it calls for an open process that combines the perspectives of communities exposed to state or corporate violence with those of artists, activists and scientists. This new practice takes place equally in the field, the art studio, the scientific laboratory, online and in the streets, as it strives towards the construction of a new “common sensing.”

Matthew Fuller is Professor of Cultural Studies at the Department of Media and Communications, at Goldsmiths, University of London. He is the author of Media Ecologies, and with Andrew Goffey, Evil Media.

Eyal Weizman directs the Centre for Research Architecture and the international investigative project, Forensic Architecture. He is the author of Hollow Land, The Least of All Possible Evils, and Forensic Architecture. After a hugely acclaimed exhibition at the ICA, Forensic Architecture was shortlisted for the 2018 Turner Prize. They have exhibited around the world, and in 2019, their work was included in the Whitney Biennial.
Capitalism and the Camera

Essays on Photography and Extraction

Edited by Kevin Coleman and Daniel James

A provocative exploration of photography’s relationship to capitalism, from leading theorists of visual culture

Photography was invented between the publication of Adam Smith’s *The Wealth of Nations* and Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels’s *The Communist Manifesto*. Taking the intertwined development of capitalism and the camera as their starting point, the essays collected here investigate the relationship between capitalist accumulation and the photographic image, and ask whether photography might allow us to refuse capitalism’s violence – and if so, how?

Drawn together in productive disagreement, the essays in this collection explore the relationship of photography to resource extraction and capital accumulation, from 1492 to the postcolonial; the camera’s potential to make visible critical understandings of capitalist production and society, especially economies of class and desire; and the ways the camera and the image can be used to build cultural and political counterpublics from which a democratic struggle against capitalism might emerge.

With essays by Ariella Aïsha Azoulay, Siobhan Angus, Kajri Jain, Walter Benn Michaels, T. J. Clark, John Paul Ricco, Blake Stimson, Chris Stolarski, Tong Lam and Jacob Emery.

**Kevin Coleman** is an Associate Professor of History at the University of Toronto and author of *A Camera in the Garden of Eden*.

**Daniel James** is the Bernardo Mendel Chair in Latin American History at Indiana University and the author of *Resistance and Integration* and *Doña María’s Story*.

May 2021

336 pages
Glitch Feminism
A Manifesto

Legacy Russell

A new manifesto for cyberfeminism

Simone de Beauvoir said, “One is not born, but rather becomes, a woman.” The glitch announces: One is not born, but rather becomes, a body.

The divide between the digital and the real world no longer exists: we are connected all the time. What must we do to work out who we are, and where we belong? How do we find the space to grow, unite and confront the systems of oppression? This conflict can be found in the fissures between the body, gender and identity. Too often, the glitch is considered a mistake, a faulty overlaying, a bug in the system; in contrast, Russell compels us to find liberation here. In a radical call to arms, Legacy Russell argues that we need to embrace the glitch in order to break down the binaries and limitations that define gender, race, sexuality.

Glitch Feminism is a vital new chapter in cyberfeminism, one that explores the relationship between gender, technology and identity. In an urgent manifesto, Russell reveals the many ways that the glitch performs and transforms: how it refuses, throws shade, ghosts, encrypt, mobilises and survives. Developing the argument through memoir, art and critical theory, Russell also looks at the work of contemporary artists who travel through the glitch in their work. Timely and provocative, Glitch Feminism shows how an error can be a revolution.

Legacy Russell is a writer and curator. She is the Associate Curator of Exhibitions at the Studio Museum in Harlem. As the founding theorist of Glitch Feminism, her academic, curatorial, and creative work focuses on gender, performance, digital selfdom, internet idolatry, and new media ritual. Russell has written for the New Inquiry, the White Review, Guardian and others. Her work has been featured Vogue, the New York Times and Glamour magazine. She is the recipient of the Thoma Foundation 2019 Arts Writing Award in Digital Art and a 2020 Rauschenberg Residency Fellow.
**Culture and Politics**

Class, Writing, Socialism

Raymond Williams

Edited by Phil O’Brien

Brand new collection of essays from one of the founders of cultural studies, Raymond Williams

Raymond Williams was a pioneering scholar of culture and society, and one of the outstanding intellectuals of the twentieth century. In this, a collection of difficult to find essays, some of which are published for the first time, Williams emerges as not only one of the great writers of materialist criticism, but also a thoroughly engaged political writer.

Raymond Williams was Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge and was later appointed University Professor of Drama. His books include *Culture and Society*, *The Long Revolution*, *Marxism and Literature*, and many others.

---

**The World in a Grain of Sand**

Postcolonial Literature and Radical Universalism

Nivedita Majumdar

Radical universalism vs postcolonial theory

*The World in a Grain of Sand* makes an argument for literature from the Global South against the grain of cultural studies, especially postcolonial theory. It critiques the valorisation of the local in cultural theories, typically accompanied by a rejection of universal categories since the latter are viewed as Eurocentric projections. This privileging of the local, however, usually results in an exoticisation of the South. In contrast, Majumdar offer that we can reject Eurocentrism while embracing a non-parochial form of universalism.

Nivedita Majumdar is Associate Professor of English at John Jay College, City University of New York. She has published widely on Anglophone literature, gender, and cultural theory.
Culture Strike
Art and Museums in an Age of Protest
Laura Raicovich

A leading activist museum director explains why museums are at the center of a political storm and how they can be reimagined

In an age of protest, culture and museums have come under fire. Protests against museum funding (like the Metropolitan Museum accepting Sackler family money) and boards (such as the Whitney appointing tear gas manufacturer Warren Kanders) – to say nothing of demonstrations over exhibitions and artworks – have roiled cultural institutions across the world, from the Guggenheim Abu Dhabi to the Akron Art Museum. Meanwhile never have there been more calls for museums to work for social change.

In this book, Raicovich shows how art museums arose as colonial institutions bearing an ideology of neutrality that masks their role in upholding capitalist values. And she suggests how museums can be reinvented to serve better, public ends.

Laura Raicovich was President and Executive Director of the Queens Museum. She is the author of At the Lightning Field and A Diary of Mysterious Difficulties.

Elegy for Mary Turner
An Illustrated Account of a Lynching
Rachel Marie-Crane Williams

Foreword by C. Tyrone Forehand
Introduction by Mariame Kaba
Preface by Julie Buckner Armstorng

A lyrical and haunting depiction of American racial violence and lynching, evoked through stunning full-colour artwork

In late May 1918 in Valdosta, Georgia, ten black men and one black woman – Mary Turner, eight months pregnant at the time – were lynched and tortured by mobs of white citizens. Through hauntingly detailed full-colour artwork and collage, Elegy for Mary Turner names those who were killed, identifies the killers, and evokes a landscape in which the NAACP investigated the crimes when the state would not, when white citizens baked pies and flocked to see black corpses, and when black people fought to make their lives – and their mourning – matter.

Rachel Marie-Crane Williams is an artist and teacher, currently an Associate Professor at the University of Iowa in Art and Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies. She has worked with incarcerated women since 1994.
The Invention of Sicily

A Mediterranean History

Jamie Mackay

A fascinating cultural history of this most magical of islands

Sicily has always acted as a gateway between Europe and the rest of the world. Fought over by Phoenicians and Greeks, Romans, Goths and Byzantines, Arabs and Normans, Germans, Spanish and French for thousands of year, Sicily became a unique melting pot where diverse traditions merged, producing a unique heritage and singular culture.

In this fascinating account of the island from the earliest times to the present day, author and journalist Jamie Mackay leads us through this most elusive of places. From its pivotal position in the development of Greek and Roman mythology, and the beautiful remnants of both the Arab and Norman invasions, through to the rise of the bandits and the Cosa Nostra, The Invention of Sicily charts the captivating culture and history of Sicily.

Mackay weaves together the political and social development of the island with its fascinating cultural heritage, discussing how great works including Lampedusa's masterpiece The Leopard and its film adaptation by Visconti, and the novels of Leonardo Sciascia, among many others, have both been shaped by Sicily's past, and continue to shape it in the present.

Jamie Mackay is a writer and translator based in Florence. His work has appeared in the Guardian, the TLS, Frieze and elsewhere.
Going to My Father’s House

A History of My Times

Patrick Joyce

A historian’s personal journey through complex questions of immigration, home and nation

From Ireland to London in the 1950s, Derry in the Troubles to contemporary, deindustrialised Manchester, Joyce finds that ties of place, family and the past are difficult to break. Why do certain places continue to haunt us? What does it mean to be British after the suffering of Empire and of war? How do we make our home in a hypermobile world without remembering our pasts?

Patrick Joyce’s parents moved from Ireland in the 1930s and made their home in west London. But they never really left the homeland. And so as he grew up among the streets of Paddington and Notting Hill and when he visited his family in Ireland, he felt a tension between notions of home, nation and belonging. Going to My Father’s House charts the historian’s attempt to make sense of these ties and to see how they manifest in a globalised world. He explores the places – the house, the street, the walls and the graves – that formed his own identity. He asks what place the ideas of history, heritage and nostalgia have in creating a sense of our selves. He concludes with a plea for a history that holds the past to account but also allows for dynamic, inclusive change.

Patrick Joyce is Emeritus Professor of History, University of Manchester. He is a leading British social historian and has written and edited numerous books of social and political history, including The Rule of Freedom, Material Powers and The State of Freedom.

“I can’t think of another historian around who could write something so suggestive and profound, so much on both a minor and major scale, constantly tracing the connections between the two. This is a memoir which is intellectually very sophisticated but also beautifully written and often very personal.” Paul Ginsborg

“So gifted a writer that he enriches those topics that remain elusive while also being starkly present. This is a rare kind of writing. It is in effect a form of meditation on the societies that are forming and melting around us in the present. Only a voice such as this can alert us to these historical worlds.” Seumas Deane, author of Reading in the Dark

July 2021
368 pages
America’s Jail

How Law and Order Made Rikers Island Hell on Earth

Jarrod Shanahan

The first definitive history of America’s most notorious jail and the violent rise of New York City’s law enforcement

*America’s Jail* is the first definitive history of Rikers Island, arriving as New York City debates its possible closure. Though now indelibly associated with the worst parts of America’s criminal justice system, it was designed initially as a place of reform, where the rehabilitative promise of incarceration might have been realized.

A thrilling narrative account of the prison’s descent into infamy, *America’s Jail* delivers an urgent intervention into the nationwide conversation about the future of mass incarceration. Written by a former inmate, Jarrod Shanahan draws from extensive archival research, decades of journalism, interviews, prisoner testimonials, and first-hand experience, showing the necessity of prison abolition.

*Jarrod Shanahan* is an Assistant Professor of Criminal Justice at Governors State University and the author of dozens of articles, short stories, and zines. He is a former inmate at the Eric M. Taylor Center at Rikers Island.
How to Abolish Prisons
Lessons from the Movement Against Imprisonment

Rachel Herzing and Justin Piché

What is prison abolition?

This book provides a trenchant guide to prison abolition, explaining why the solution to the criminal justice crisis is ending policing, imprisonment, and mass surveillance, and building a society that creates alternatives to punishment and carceral solutions to social contradictions. The book details and evaluates abolitionist projects throughout North America that provide alternative models, and reveals what it means to work for abolition today, what are ways to “de-carceralize” society.

Rachel Herzing is a co-founder of Critical Resistance, a national grassroots organization dedicated to abolishing the prison industrial complex. She is a co-director of the Center for Political Education and was a Soros Justice Fellow of the Open Society Institute.

Justin Piché is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Criminology at the University of Ottawa and co-editor of the Journal of Prisoners on Prisons.

Gunpower
The Structure of American Violence

Patrick Blanchfield

A unique and unblinking look at America’s past, present, and future relation to guns

Every fatal shooting in America is followed by the same predictable cycle of horror, outrage, and resignation. But the acrimonious debates of gun rights versus gun control, pro-gun versus anti-gun, Democrat versus Republican, ultimately obscure something far more essential: the totalizing dominance of a uniquely American system of social control. Patrick Blanchfield calls this system ‘Gunpower.’ Gunpower is about how people navigate survival in a society where guns are understood, one way or another, to be bedrock to the social order, and where their presence conditions the horizon of what is politically thinkable in the first place.

Patrick Blanchfield is a freelance writer and Associate Faculty at the Brooklyn Institute for Social Research. His work has appeared in The New York Times, The Washington Post, The Nation, n+1, and many other venues.
The Shadow of the Mine

Coal and the End of Industrial Britain

Huw Beynon and Ray Hudson

The rise and fall of Britain’s most important industry

No one personified the age of industry more than the miners. *The Shadow of the Mine* tells the story of King Coal in its heyday – and what happened to mining communities after the last pits closed.

Coal was central to the British economy, powering its factories and railways. It carried political weight, too. In the eighties the miners risked everything in a year-long strike against Thatcher’s shutdowns. Defeat foretold the death of their industry. Tens of thousands were cast onto the labour market with a minimum amount of advice and support.

Today, British politics all of a sudden revolves around the coalfield constituencies which lent their votes to Boris Johnson’s Conservatives in 2019. Even in the Welsh Valleys, where the “red wall” still stands, support for the Labour Party has halved in a generation.

Huw Beynon and Ray Hudson draw on decades of research to chronicle these momentous changes through the words of the people who lived through them.

**Huw Beynon** is Emeritus Professor of Social Sciences at Cardiff University and author of, among other books, *Working for Ford*, which has become a classic.

**Ray Hudson** is Professor of Geography at the University of Durham and a decorated member of the Royal Geographical Society. His books include *Approaches to Economic Geography*, winner of the Regional Studies Association Best Book Award 2017.

June 2021

336 pages
We’re Here Because You Were There

Immigration and the End of Empire

Ian Sanjay Patel

How citizens became immigrants: Britain’s failure to create a post-imperial nation

What are the origins of today’s hostile environment for immigrants in Britain? Using declassified documents from the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, this book tells a secret history of Britain’s role in the end of the age of empires in the 1960s.

During the postwar period, as Britain made a huge transfer of sovereign power to its former colonies, international demands for racial equality came to dominate world politics. Despite this new international recognition of racial equality, Britain’s colonial and Commonwealth citizens from the Caribbean, Asia and Africa were subject to a new regime of immigration control based on race. From the Windrush generation, who came to the UK from the Caribbean, to the South Asians who were forced to migrate from East Africa, Britain was caught between attempting both to restrict the rights of its non-white citizens and to redefine its imperial role in the world.

Under sustained international pressure, Britain appeared to be poised to make a final transition from a colonial to a postcolonial power, symbolised by its desire to join Europe, which eventually happened in 1973. But Britain’s post-imperial moment never arrived, subject to endless deferral and reinvention. Instead officials drew upon an imperial vision of the world to contain what it saw as a vast migration crisis. Citizenship itself was redefined along racial lines, fatally compromising the British Commonwealth and exposing the limits of Britain’s influence in world politics.

This book reveals an important untold global history of postwar immigration, uncovering the origins of the present crisis

Ian Sanjay Patel is a Fellow in Human Rights at the London School of Economics. His non-fiction writing has appeared in the New Statesman, the London Review of Books and elsewhere.

April 2021
352 pages
Agents and Representatives

Federico Campagna
Rights Manager
6 Meard Street
London W1F 0EG
Tel +44 207 437 3546
Fax +44 207 734 0059
federico@verso.co.uk

Japan
Tsutomu Yawata
The English Agency (Japan) Ltd.
Sakuragi Bldg, 4F
6-7-3 Minami Aoyama
Minato-ku, Tokyo 107-0062
Japan
Tel +81 3 3406 5385
Fax +81 3 3406 5387
tsutomu_yawata@eaj.co.jp

Portugal and Brazil
Gonçalo Gama Pinto
Ilídio Matos
Rua António Pedro, 68 - 4º Dto.,
1000-039 Lisboa
Portugal
goncalo.gamapinto@ilidiomatos.com

Turkey
Müge Gürsoy Sökmen
Metis Yayınları
Ipek Sokak 5
34433 Beyoğlu
İstanbul
Turkey
Tel +90 212 2454696
Fax +90 212 2454519
mugesokmen@metiskitap.com

www.versobooks.com