AN ANTHROPOLOGICAL TROMPE L’OEIL FOR A COMMON WORLD
AN ESSAY ON THE ECONOMY OF KNOWLEDGE
Alberto Corsín Jiménez

Key Points

- Explores key elements in early modern political philosophy
- Inquires into the cultural epistemology fuelling the aggrandizement and miniaturisation of description
- Charts an itinerary for an internal anthropology of theorizing

Summary
Our political age is characterized by forms of description as “big” as the world itself: talk of “public knowledge” and “public goods,” “the commons,” or “global justice” create an exigency for modes of governance that leave little room for littleness itself. Rather than question the politics of adjudication between the big and the small, this book inquires instead into the cultural epistemology fueling the aggrandizement and miniaturization of description itself. Incorporating analytical frameworks from scientific studies, ethnography, and political and economic theory, this book charts an itinerary for an internal anthropology of theorizing. It suggests that many of the effects that social theory uses today to produce insights are the legacy of baroque epistemological tricks. In particular, the book undertakes its own trompe l’oeil as it places description at perpendicular angles to emerging forms of global public knowledge. The aesthetic “trap” of the trompe l’oeil aims to capture knowledge, for only when knowledge is captured can it be properly released.

“This is a brilliant, extraordinarily learned, innovative, thought-provoking, and invaluable exploration into contemporary practices of knowledge-making.... It explores key elements in early modern political philosophy with zest and insight—and explores the ways, sites, and practices within which such key elements of perception...figure in contemporary social analysis.” - Don Brenneis, University of California, Santa Cruz

“...a daring, well-written and potentially refreshing genealogical foray into the ontological, epistemological, even cosmological underpinnings of modernity.” - Bjørn Enge Bertelsen, University of Bergen

About the Author
Alberto Corsín Jiménez is a Senior Scientist at the Spanish National Research Council in Madrid. He is the editor of Culture and Well-Being: Anthropological Approaches to Freedom and Political Ethics (Pluto, 2008) and The Anthropology of Organisations (Ashgate, 2007). His current work examines the rise of an urban commons movement and the development of open-source urban hardware projects by architects, artists, and academics.

Series: Volume 1, Ethnography, Theory, Experiment

More details on this title can be found here

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A Myth of Origins
NEW TITLE
COLONIAL COLLECTING AND DISPLAY
ENCOUNTERS WITH MATERIAL CULTURE FROM THE ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS
Claire Wintle

Key Points

- First study dedicated to the historical collecting and display of the material cultures of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands
- Critiques established conceptions of the act of collecting
- Queries the notion of a homogenous British approach to material culture from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands

Summary
In the late-nineteenth century, British travelers to the Andaman and Nicobar Islands compiled wide-ranging collections of material culture for scientific instruction and personal satisfaction. Colonial Collecting and Display follows the compelling history of a particular set of such objects, tracing their physical and conceptual transformation from objects of indigenous use to accessioned objects in a museum collection in the south of England. This first study dedicated to the historical collecting and display of the Islands' material cultures develops a new analysis of colonial discourse, using a material culture-led approach to reconceptualize imperial relationships between Andamanese, Nicobarese, and British communities, both in the Bay of Bengal and on British soil. It critiques established conceptions of the act of collecting, arguing for recognition of how indigenous makers and consumers impacted upon "British" collection practices, and querying the notion of a homogenous British approach to material culture from the Andaman and Nicobar Islands.

"An excellent, thought-provoking text on the material culture and popular representations of the Andaman and Nicobar Islands. There is detailed primary research combined with a sophisticated theorisation of museological and collecting processes. The book demonstrates a nuanced understanding of Western perceptions of these cultures from the mid-19th to mid-20th century, and will clearly contribute to the growing literature on postcolonialism, collections and museums." · Louise Tythacott, University of Manchester

"This book brings new information and interesting insights into the fields of history, material culture studies and museum studies... It is well written, well researched, scholarly, and accessible." · Sandra Dudley, University of Leicester

About the Author
Claire Wintle is a Lecturer in the History of Art and Design at the University of Brighton. She holds degrees from the Universities of Manchester and Sussex and has worked in collections and public programs at the Royal Pavilion and Museums, Brighton & Hove, and National Museums Liverpool.

Series: Volume 4, Museums and Collections

More details on this title can be found here

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NEW TITLE
SUPERCINEMA
FILM PHILOSOPHY FOR THE DIGITAL AGE
William Brown

Key Points

- An innovative perspective on cinema in the digital age
- Studies the way in which digital special effects and editing techniques require a new theoretical framework in order to be properly understood
- Looks at the relationship between the spectator, and film which utilises digital technology, to maximum effect

Summary

Drawing on a variety of popular films, including *Avatar, Enter the Void, Fight Club, The Matrix, Speed Racer, X-Men* and *War of the Worlds*, *Supercinema* studies the ways in which digital special effects and editing techniques require a new theoretical framework in order to be properly understood. Here William Brown proposes that while analogue cinema often tried to hide the technological limitations of its creation through ingenious methods, digital cinema hides its technological omnipotence through the use of continued conventions more suited to analogue cinema, in a way that is analogous to that of Superman hiding his powers behind the persona of Clark Kent. Locating itself on the cusp of film theory, film-philosophy, and cognitive approaches to cinema, *Supercinema* also looks at the relationship between the spectator and film that utilizes digital technology to maximum, “supercinematic” effect.

"The author presents ... an innovative perspective on cinema in the digital age. From the opening page, we encounter an articulate writing voice that presents a broad agenda for the study of contemporary cinema – with *Fight Club* standing in as a constant reference point."  - Warren Buckland, Oxford Brookes University

"This is an excellent, provocative book that I enthusiastically recommend... The author succeeds in helping to forge a new paradigm by which to conceptualize and theorize cinema in the era of the digital. This is important work, because too often, when writing about contemporary cinema that is “digital” either in its technical specifications or aesthetics, we are forced to rely on terminology and concepts imported from pre-digital cinema."  - Nicholas Rombes, University of Detroit Mercy

About the Author

William Brown is Senior Lecturer in Film Studies at the University of Roehampton, London. He has written articles for journals and edited collections with a particular emphasis on the use of digital technology on contemporary cinema across a range of national and transnational contexts. He is also a filmmaker, having made three feature films since 2009.

More details on this title can be found here

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NEW TITLE
TAX JUSTICE AND THE POLITICAL ECONOMY OF GLOBAL CAPITALISM, 1945 TO THE PRESENT
Edited by Jeremy Leaman and Attiya Waris

Key Points

- An informed review of the existing literature on political economy
- Explains the intellectual accomplishments of the great early and mid-20th century writers on global economic justice
- Links together the questions of tax, justice and development
- Discusses the contradictory effects of contemporary taxation systems in a globalized economy, and the urgency of their reform as a precondition for social justice

Summary
Tax “justice” has become an increasingly central issue of political debate in many countries, particularly following the cardiac arrest of global financial services in 2008 and the subsequent worldwide slump in trade and production. The evident abuse of tax systems by corporations and rich individuals through tax avoidance schemes and offshore shadow banking is increasingly in the public eye. Above all, the political challenges of recovery and structural reform have raised core issues of burden-sharing and social equity on the agendas of both civil society groups and political elites. Democratic states need tax revenue to fund public goods and combat public “bads” with any degree of legitimacy. The contributions to this book discuss the haphazard evolution of contemporary taxation systems, their contradictory effects in a globalized economy, and the urgency of their reform as a precondition for social justice.

“This is an insightful and intensely relevant collection providing a modern interpretation of political economy’s engagement with questions of tax law... What is clearly needed now, more than ever, is an informed review of the existing literature on political economy—and, in particular, of the significant intellectual accomplishments in this area of the great early and mid-twentieth century writers on global, economic justice. This literature is referenced throughout these essays, and this is very much to be welcomed.”

· Ann Mumford, Queen Mary, University of London

“This book addresses a topical issue, linking together the question of taxation, justice and development. I am not aware of another book that attempts to cover the topic so comprehensively... The core of the book consists of a good array of strong comparative and theoretical chapters. It is a good book and highly recommended.”

· Ronen Palan, University of Birmingham

About the Editors
Jeremy Leaman is Senior Lecturer in the Department of Politics, History and International Relations at Loughborough University. He is co-editor of Journal of Contemporary European Studies and author of several books, including The Bundesbank Myth (Palgrave, 2001) and The Political Economy of Germany under Chancellors Kohl and Schröder: Decline of the German Model? (Berghahn Books, 2009). He is a member of the Tax Justice Network and the EuroMemo Group.

Attiya Waris is Senior Lecturer in the Commercial Law Department at the University of Nairobi and Vice-Chair of the Tax Justice Network. She is consulting editor of the Nairobi University Law Journal and a co-editor of the Journal of Australian Taxation. She has written numerous articles and reports on issues of taxation and taxation law, with particular reference to developing countries, and is author of Tax and Development: Solving Kenya’s Fiscal Crisis through Human Rights (LawAfrica, 2013) and co-author of Bringing the Billions Back: How Africa and Europe Can End Illicit Capital Flight (with Kristina Fröberg, Forum Syd, 2011).

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NEW TITLE
THE GADDI BEYOND PASTORALISM
MAKING PLACE IN THE INDIAN HIMALAYAS
Anja Wagner

Key Points

- Takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the social and religious landscapes as seen by the Gaddi people of Himachal Pradesh
- Paints a picture of contemporary Gaddi life that moves beyond their customary occupation as nomadic herders of sheep and goats
- Analyses religious practices and performances of social relations, as well as media practices and notions of aesthetics
- Contributes to the growing interest in approaches of practice within environmental anthropology

Summary

The Gaddi of North India are agro-pastoralists who rear sheep and goats following a seasonal migration around the first Himalayan range. While studies on pastoralists have focused either on the pastoralists' adaptation to their physical environment or treated the environment from a symbolic perspective, this book offers a new, holistic perspective that analyzes the ways in which people "make" place. Based on extensive fieldwork, this book not only describes a contemporary understanding of the Gaddi's engagement with the environment but also analyzes religious practices and performances of social relations, as well as media practices and notions of aesthetics. Thereby, the landscape in which the Gaddi live is understood as a network of places that is constantly being built and rebuilt through these local practices. The book contributes to the growing interest in approaches of practice within environmental anthropology.

"Accompanied by Latour, Ingold and Descola, Wagner takes the reader on a fascinating journey through the social and religious landscapes as seen by the Gaddi people of Himachal Pradesh. Linking kinship to photography, Shiva worship to para-gliding, music videos to pilgrimage, Wagner departs from clichés and stereotypes to reveal a picture of contemporary Gaddi life that moves beyond their customary occupation as nomadic herders of sheep and goats." - Richard Axelby, SOAS, London University

About the Author
Anja Wagner is Lecturer in Social Anthropology at the University of Münster. She received her doctoral degree in anthropology from the University of Heidelberg. Her studies have been supported by a scholarship from the German National Academic Foundation. She is the vice-spokesperson of the Himalayan studies group of the German Anthropological Association.

More details on this title can be found here
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NEW TITLE
THE NAZI GENOCIDE OF THE ROMA
REASSESSMENT AND COMMEMORATION
Edited by Anton Weiss-Wendt

Key Points
- Analyzes the patterns of persecution of the Roma in Nazi-dominated Europe
- Employs case studies across 6 countries to generate a critical mass of evidence indicating criminal intent on the part of the Nazi regime to destroy the Roma as a distinct group
- Includes essays on issues of German post-war legal responses, and development with regards to commemoration

Summary
Using the framework of genocide, this volume analyzes the patterns of persecution of the Roma in Nazi-dominated Europe. Detailed case studies of France, Austria, Romania, Croatia, Ukraine, and Russia generate a critical mass of evidence that indicates criminal intent on the part of the Nazi regime to destroy the Roma as a distinct group. Other chapters examine the failure of the West German State to deliver justice, the Romani collective memory of the genocide, and the current political and historical debates. However inconsistent or geographically limited, over time, the mass murder acquired a systematic character and came to include ever larger segments of the Romani population regardless of the social status of individual members of the community. The volume also discusses how the fluctuating definition of the “Gypsy” disadvantaged potential victims.

“Nearly seventy years after the end of the Second World War and the liberation of Auschwitz and Belsen, new facts concerning the Nazi genocide of the Roma and Sinti are still emerging. This volume is particularly valuable in revealing the full horror of the German occupation of the Soviet Union and the activities of the Einsatzgruppen.” - Donald Kenrick, author of Gypsies under the Swastika

“[this volume] provides an excellent overview and analysis of many key and previously understudied aspects of this complex and difficult topic. It combines several innovative regional studies with essays on the issues of German postwar legal responses and developments with regard to commemoration. By assembling high quality chapters from many of the leading scholars in the field, Anton Weiss-Wendt has made a major contribution to our understanding of the diverse fates of the Roma in the Holocaust.” - Martin Dean, Center for Advanced Holocaust Studies, United States Holocaust Memorial Museum (USHMM), Washington, D.C.

About the Editor

Series: Volume 17, War and Genocide

More details on this title can be found here

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