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VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
Interviews with Faculty Authors
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Representative Documents: Websites Showcasing Faculty Research

Lenn Goodman on religious pluralism and values

Listen to an interview with Lenn Goodman, Professor of Philosophy and Andrew Mellon Professor of Humanities, about his soon-to-be-published book Religious Pluralism and Values in the Public Sphere.

William Franke on the Unsayable

Listen to an interview with William Franke, Professor of Comparative Literature, Italian, and Religious Studies, about his forthcoming book A Philosophy of the Unsayable.

Phil Ackerman-Lieberman on a “Jew’s best friend”

Listen to an interview with Philip Ackerman-Lieberman, Assistant Professor of Jewish Studies and Law and Affiliated Assistant Professor of Islamic Studies, about the recent book A Jew’s Best Friend?: The Image of the Dog throughout Jewish History, which he edited with Rakefet Zaleshik.

Sandra Barnes on Black Megachurches

Divinity Librarian Chris Benda interviews Sandra Barnes, Professor of Sociology of Religion and Professor of Human and Organizational Development, about her recent book, Live Long and Prosper: How Black Megachurches Address HIV/AIDS and Poverty in the Age of Prosperity Theology. Listen to the interview now or download it.
With the exception of Poe, no American writer has proven as challenging to biographers as the author of The Red Badge of Courage. Stephen Crane’s short, compact life—”a life of fire,” he called it—continues to be surrounded by myths and half-truths, distortions and outright fabrications. Mindful of the pitfalls that have marred previous biographies, Paul Sorrentino has sifted through garbled chronologies and contradictory eyewitness accounts, scoured the archives, and followed in Crane’s footsteps. The result is the most complete and accurate account of the poet and novelist written to date.

Janet Abbate: Recoding gender

Today, women hold only a quarter of computer science degrees and technical computing jobs, and the stereotype of the male computer geek seems to be everywhere in popular culture. Few people know that women were a significant presence in the early decades of computing in the United States and Britain—indeed, in the 1950s programming was often considered woman’s work. In Recoding Gender, Janet Abbate explores the untold history of women in computer science and programming from the Second World War to the late twentieth century.
Exemplary ambivalence in late nineteenth-century Spanish America addresses the curiously "bad" examples written into Spanish American creole narratives from the end of the 19th century. Such narratives, authored by the post-independence creole elite, seek to shape their readers by prescribing socio-political ideals for the Spanish American republics. This study interrogates the ideological fissures within postcolonial social and racial mythologies, reading exemplarily as an unintentional narrative of creole writing subjects' social fears.

Max O. Stephenson and Laura Zanotti: Building walls and dissolving borders

Walls play multiple social, political, economic and cultural roles and are linked to the fundamental question of how human beings live together. Globalization and urbanization have created high population density, rapid migration, growing poverty, income inequality and frequent discontent and conflict among heterogeneous populations. The writers in this volume explore how walls are changing in this era, when social "containers" have become porous, proximity has been redefined, circulation has intensified and the state as a way of organizing political life is being questioned. The authors analyze how walls articulate with other social boundaries to address feelings of vulnerability and anxiety and how they embody governmental processes, public and social contestation, fears and notions of identity and alterity.

Matthew Heaton: Black skin, white coats

Black Skin, White Coats is a history of psychiatry in Nigeria from the 1950s to the 1980s. Working in the contexts of decolonization and anticolonial nationalism, Nigerian psychiatrists sought to replace racist colonial psychiatric theories about the psychological inferiority of Africans with a universal and egalitarian model focusing on broad psychological similarities across cultural and racial boundaries.

Corinne Noirot: Entre Deux Airs