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Catalogue image from the cover of Experimental Cinemas in State Socialist Eastern Europe edited by Ksenya Gurshtein and Sonja Simonyi (Amsterdam University Press, 2021)

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Tamar Rotman

Hagiography, Historiography, and Identity in Sixth-Century Gaul

Rethinking Gregory of Tours

About Hagiography, Historiography, and Identity in Sixth-Century Gaul

Gregory of Tours, the sixth-century Merovingian bishop, composed extensive historiographical and hagiographical corpora during the twenty years of his episcopacy in Tours. These works serve as important sources for the cultural, social, political and religious history of Merovingian Gaul. This book focuses on Gregory's hagiographical collections, especially the Glory of the Martyrs, Glory of the Confessors, and Life of the Fathers, which contain accounts of saints and their miracles from across the Mediterranean world. It analyses these accounts from literary and historical perspectives, examining them through the lens of relations between the Merovingians and their Mediterranean counterparts, and contextualizing them within the identity crisis that followed the disintegration of the Roman world. This approach leads to groundbreaking conclusions about Gregory's hagiographies, which this study argues were designed as an “ecclesiastical history” (of the Merovingian Church) that enabled him to craft a specific Gallo-Christian identity for his audience.

BIOGRAPHY

Tamar Rotman specializes in late antique and early medieval history. Her research focuses on the role of hagiography and the cults of saints in the identity discourse of the early Middle Ages, giving special attention to the transmission of knowledge and cultural practices in the Mediterranean sphere. She is a visiting scholar at Columbia University and a Fulbright and a Rothchild post-doctoral fellow.
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS  
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS  
INTRODUCTION  
THE CULTS OF SAINTS  
GREGORY OF TOURS AND HIS WORK  
EAST & WEST  
THE AIMS OF THIS STUDY  
1. GREGORY OF TOURS  
THE LIFE OF GREGORY OF TOURS  
GREGORY OF TOURS AND HIS SAINTS  
MARTIN OF TOURS  
JULIAN OF BRIOUDE  
VITA PATRUM  
THE GLORY OF THE CONFESSORS  
THE GLORY OF THE MARTYRS  
AUTO-HAGIOGRAPHY  
CONCLUSION  
2. ‘WHEN THE SAINTS GO MARCHING IN’: EASTERN SAINTS IN MERovingian Gaul  
THE ITALIAN EVIDENCE  
THE EASTERN EVIDENCE  
GLORY OF THE MARTYRS  
POLYCARP  
THE SEVEN SLEEPERS OF EPHESUS  
THE FORTY MARTYRS OF SEBASTE  
SERGIUS  
COSMAS AND DAMIAN  
PHOCAS  
DOMITIUS  
GEORGE  
ISIDORE  
POLYEUCTUS  
GLORY OF THE CONFESSORS  
CONCLUSION: THE DISSEMINATION OF THE CULTS OF SAINTS  
3. THE MIRACULOUS HISTORY OF GREGORY OF TOURS  
LIBRI MIRACLORUM REVISITED  
GREGORY OF TOURS’S LITERARY APPROACH  
GREGORY OF TOURS’S HISTORIOGRAPHICAL PERCEPTION  
FROM HAGIOGRAPHY TO ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY  
A BRIEF HISTORY OF ‘ECCLESIASTICAL HISTORY’  
HISTORIOGRAPHICAL AND LITERARY CONTEXT  
4. ‘By Romans they refer to...’ (Romanos enim vocitant): History, Hagiography, and Identity  
WHOSE HISTORY IS IT ANYWAY?  
GALLO-CHRISTIAN IDENTITY
James Fitzmaurice, Naomi Miller, Sara Steen

**Authorizing Early Modern European Women**
*From Biography to Biofiction*

**About Authorizing Early Modern European Women**

The essays in this volume analyze strategies adopted by contemporary novelists, playwrights, screenwriters, and biographers interested in bringing the stories of early modern women to modern audiences. It also pays attention to the historical women creators themselves, who, be they saints or midwives, visual artists or poets and playwrights, stand out for their roles as active practitioners of their own arts and for their accomplishments as creators. Whether they delivered infants or governed as monarchs, or produced embroideries, letters, paintings or poems, their visions, the authors argue, have endured across the centuries. As the title of the volume suggests, the essays gathered here participate in a wider conversation about the relation between biography, historical fiction, and the growing field of biofiction (that is, contemporary fictionalizations of historical figures), and explore the complicated interconnections between celebrating early modern women and perpetuating popular stereotypes about them.

**BIOGRAPHY**

James Fitzmaurice is emeritus professor of English at Northern Arizona University and honorary research fellow at the University of Sheffield.

Naomi J. Miller is Professor of English and the Study of Women and Gender at Smith College.

Sara Jayne Steen was faculty member, chair, and dean at Montana State University and is president emerita of Plymouth State University.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Figures  
Acknowledgments  
1. Introduction: Biography, Biofiction, and Gender in the Modern Age (James Fitzmaurice, Naomi J. Miller, and Sara Jayne Steen)  
Section I: Fictionalizing Biography  
   2. (Barbara Mujica) Sister Teresa: Fictionalizing a Saint  
   3. (Catherine Padmore) Portrait of an Unknown Woman: Fictional Representations of Levina Teerlinc, Tudor Paintrix  
   4. (Prima Fox Hofrichter) An Interview with Dominic Smith, Author of *The Last Painting of Sara de Vos*: Capturing the Seventeenth Century  
   5. (Susanne Woods) Lanyer: The Dark Lady and the Shades of Fiction  
   6. (Marina Leslie) Archival Bodies, Novel Interpretations, and the Burden of Margaret Cavendish  
Section II: Materializing Authorship  
   7. (Susan Frye) Bess of Hardwick: Materializing Autobiography  
   8. (Sarah Gristwood) The Queen as Artist: Elizabeth Tudor and Mary Stuart  
   9. (Marion Wynne-Davies) 'Very Secret Kept': Facts and Re-Creation in Margaret Hannay's Biographies of Mary Sidney Herbert and Mary Wroth  
10. (Naomi J. Miller) Imagining Shakespeare's Sisters: Fictionalizing Mary Sidney Herbert and Mary Sidney Wroth  
11. (Linda Phyllis Austern) Anne Boleyn, Musician: A Romance Across Centuries and Media  
Section III: Performing Gender  
   12. (Sheila T. Cavanagh) Reclaiming Her Time: Artemisia Gentileschi Speaks to the Twenty-First Century  
   13. (Hailey Bachrach) Beyond the Record: *Emilia* and Feminist Historical Recovery  
   14. (James Fitzmaurice) Writing, Acting, and the Notion of Truth in Biofiction About Early Modern Women Authors  
15. (Emilie L. Bergmann) Jesusa Rodríguez's Sor Juana Inés de la Cruz: Reflections on an Opaque Body  
Section IV: Authoring Identity  
   16. (Margaret F. Rosenthal) From Hollywood Film to Musical Theater: Veronica Franco in American Popular Culture  
   17. (Julia Dabbs) The Role of Art in Recent Biofiction on Sofonisba Anguissola  
   18. (Stephanie Russo) 'I Am Artemisia': Art and Trauma in Joy McCullough's *Blood Water Paint*  
19. (Sara Jayne Steen) The Lady Arbella Stuart, a 'Rare Phoenix': Her Re-Creation in Biography and Biofiction  
20. (Sara Read) *The Gossips' Choice*: Extending the Possibilities for Biofiction with Creative Uses of Sources  
21. Afterword (Michael Lackey)  
Index
Mario Damen, Kim Overlaet

Constructing and Representing Territory in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe

About Constructing and Representing Territory in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe

In recent political and constitutional history, scholars seldom specify how and why they use the concept of territory. In research on state formation processes and nation building, for instance, the term mostly designates an enclosed geographical area ruled by a central government. Inspired by ideas from political geographers, this book explores the layered and constantly changing meanings of territory in late medieval and early modern Europe before cartography and state formation turned boundaries and territories into more fixed (but still changeable) geographical entities. Its central thesis is that analysing the notion of territory in a premodern setting involves analysing territorial practices: practices that relate people and power to space(s). The book not only examines the construction and spatial structure of premodern territories but also explores their perception and representation through the use of a broad range of sources: from administrative texts to maps, from stained glass windows to chronicles.

BIOGRAPHY

Mario Damen is senior lecturer at the University of Amsterdam.

Kim Overlaet works as a research manager at the Department of History at Antwerp University.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Mario Damen and Kim Overlaet), Constructing and Representing Territory in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe. An Introduction

PART I THE MULTIPLICITY OF TERRITORY
1. (Duncan Hardy), Were there ‘Territories’ in the German lands of the Holy Roman Empire in the fourteenth to sixteenth Centuries?
2. (Luca Zenobi), Beyond the State: Community and Territory-Making in Late Medieval Italy
3. (Bram van den Hoven van Genderen), Clerical and Ecclesiastical Ideas of Territory in the Late Medieval Low Countries
4. (Jim van der Meulen), Marginal Might? The Role of Lordships in the Territorial Integrity of Guelders, c. 1325 - c. 1575

PART II THE CONSTRUCTION OF TERRITORY
5. (Arend Elias Oostindiër and Rombert Stapel), Demographic shifts and the politics of taxation in the making of fifteenth century Brabant
6. (Sander Govaerts), From Knights Errants to Disloyal Soldiers? The Criminalization of Foreign Military service in the Late Medieval Meuse and Rhine Regions, 1250-1550
7. (Neil Murphy), Conquest, Cartography and the Development of Linear Frontiers during Henry VIII’s Invasion of France in 1544-6
8. (Yannick De Meulder), From multiple residences to one capital? Court-itinerance during the reign of Margaret of Austria and Mary of Hungary in the Low Countries (c. 1507-1555)

PART III THE REPRESENTATION OF TERRITORY
9. (Mario Damen and Marcus Meer), Heraldry and Territory. Coats of Arms and the Representation and Construction of Authority in Space
10. (Bram Caers and Robert Stein), The Territorial Perception of the Duchy of Brabant in Historiography and Vernacular Literature in the Late Middle Ages
11. (Lisa Demets), Imagining Flanders. The (De)construction of a Regional Identity in Fifteenth Century Flanders
12. (Marianne Ritsema van Eck), Mapping Imagined Territory: Quaresmio’s Chorographia and Later Franciscan Holy Land Maps

(Mario Damen and Kim Overlaet), Constructing and Representing Territory in Late Medieval and Early Modern Europe. A Conclusion
Brian James Stone

The Rhetorical Arts in Late Antique and Early Medieval Ireland

About The Rhetorical Arts in Late Antique and Early Medieval Ireland

This book represents the first study of the art of rhetoric in medieval Ireland, a culture often neglected by medieval rhetorical studies. In a series of three case studies, Brian Stone traces the textual transmission of rhetorical theories and practices from the late Roman period to those early Irish monastic communities who would not only preserve and pass on the light of learning, but adapt an ancient tradition to their own cultural needs, contributing to the history of rhetoric in important ways. The manuscript tradition of early Ireland, which gave us the largest body of vernacular literature in the medieval period and is already appreciated for its literary contributions, is also a site of rhetorical innovation and creative practice.

BIOGRAPHY

Brian James Stone is Assistant Professor of English at Indiana State University, where he teaches rhetoric, writing, and medieval Irish literature.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements  
Introduction: Early Irish Rhetoric  
Ireland and the Roman Frontiers  
Ireland and the History of Medieval Rhetoric  
Historiography and Medieval Rhetoric  
A Note on Periodisation  
Chapter I: Late Antique and Early Medieval Ireland and the Latin West  
Social and Ecclesiastical Organization in Early Ireland  
Chapter II: Learning in Ireland in the Sixth through the Eighth Centuries  
Ireland and Anglo-Saxon England  
Ireland and Spain  
Letter Writing and the Paschal Controversy  
Columbanus  
Learning at Iona  
The Grammatical Handbook Tradition in Ireland  
Chapter III: St Patrick and the Rhetoric of Epistolography  
The Dating of Patrick’s Obit  
The Rhetorical Arts in Sub-Roman Britain  
Rhetoric of Epistolography  
The Purpose of Patrick’s Mission  
Chapter IV: A Rhetorical Analysis of Patrick’s *Epistola ad Milites Corotici*  
Patrick and Paul  
Chapter V: The *Hisperica famina*  
Rhetorical Analysis of the *Hisperica famina*  
Chapter VI: Secular Learning and Native Traditions  
*Filidéacht* and Secular and Church Relations  
Verbal Art and Early Irish Poetry – ‘The Cauldron of Poetry and Learning’  
The Cauldron  
‘The Cauldron of Poetry and Learning’  
Conclusion  
Bibliography
About The Early 20th Century Resurgence of the Tibetan Buddhist World

The Early 20th Century Resurgence of the Tibetan Buddhist World is a cohesive collection of studies by Japanese, Russian and Central Asian scholars deploying previously unexplored Russian, Mongolian, and Tibetan sources concerning events and processes in the Central Asian Buddhist world in the late 19th and early 20th centuries.

Set in the final days of the Qing empire when Russian and British empires were expanding into Central Asia, this work examines the interplay of religious, economic and political power among peoples who acknowledged the religious authority of Tibet's Dalai Lama. It focuses on diplomatic initiatives involving the 13th Dalai Lama and other Tibetan Buddhist hierarchs during and after his exile in Mongolia and China, as well as his relations with Mongols, and with Buriat, Kalmyk, and other Russian Buddhists. It demonstrates how these factors shaped historical processes in the region, not least the reformulations of both group identity and political consciousness.

BIOGRAPHY

Professor Ishihama Yumiko is a tenured faculty member of the School of Education, Waseda University, Japan, and the author of the number of English and Japanese language articles in the field of Tibetan and Central Asian history.

Alex McKay is a retired lecturer and research fellow at London University SOAS, UCL, and the IIAS (Leiden). He is the author of 4 monographs, editor/co-editor of 5 collected works, and author of around 45 articles on Indo-Tibetan history.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preface  
INTRODUCTION (Alex McKay)  
CH. 1 (Ishihama Yumiko) The Impact of the 13th Dalai Lama's Sojourn in Mongolia: Arousing the National Consciousness of Tibetan Buddhists from 1904 to 1908  
CH. 2 (Wada Daichi) The Modern and Traditional Diplomacy of the 13th Dalai Lama, during his Sojourn in Khalkha and Qinghai (1904-1907)  
CH. 3 (Tachibana Makoto) Friendship and Antagonism: Tibetans and Money in Early Twentieth Century Mongolia  
CH. 4 (Sergius L. Kuzmin) The Tibet-Mongolia Political Interface in the First Half of the 20th Century. Data from Russian Archives  
CH. 5 (Ishihama Yumiko and Takehiko Inoue) A Study of Three Tibetan Letters Attributed to Dorzhiev held by the St. Petersburg Branch of the Archive of the Russian Academy of Sciences  
CH. 6 (Baatr U. Kitinov) The Russian Archival Documents on the Revitalization of Buddhism among the Kalmyks in the late 19th and early 20th centuries  
CH. 7 (Takehiko Inoue) Buddhist Devotion to the Russian Tsar: the Bicultural Environment of the Don Kalmyk Sangha and Russian Orthodox Church in the 1830s  
CH. 8 (Nikolay Tsyrempilov) Russian Tsar as Cakravartin: A Burjat Lama's View of the Coronation of Nicholas II  
CH. 9 (Hamugetu) The Struggle between Tradition and Modernity in the Early 20th Century of the Tibetan Buddhist World: a case study of the 7th Icang-skya's activities from 1912-1957  

BIBLIOGRAPHY  
INDEX
Anne Raffin

Republican Citizenship in French Colonial Pondicherry, 1870-1914

About Republican Citizenship in French Colonial Pondicherry, 1870-1914

This work of historical sociology revisits and analyses the earlier part of the Third Republic (1870-1914), when France granted citizenship rights to Indians in Pondicherry. It explores the nature of this colonial citizenship and enables comparisons with British India, especially the Madras Presidency, as well as the rest of the French empire, as a means of demonstrating how unique the practice of granting such rights was. The difficulties of implementing a new political culture based on the language of rights and participatory political institutions were not so much rooted in a lack of assimilation into the French culture on the part of the Indian population; rather, they were the result of political infighting and long-term conflicts over status, both in relation to caste and class, and between inclusive and exclusive visions of French citizenship.

BIOGRAPHY

Anne Raffin is an Associate Professor in the sociology department at the National University of Singapore. She specializes in historical sociology, focusing on French colonialism in Asia and its legacies. Her research has concentrated on French Indochina and colonial Pondicherry, India.

"Anne Raffin’s thoroughly researched and thoughtfully argued book treats citizenship less as a legal category than as a framework for making claims. More complicated than a dichotomy of French citizens and indigenous subjects, politics in French India entailed multisided mobilizations to preserve, reform, or overturn an unequal social order. Raffin raises basic questions about sovereignty, citizenship, and difference in a colonial situation that was both unique and a microcosm of empire."

- Frederick Cooper, Professor at New York University

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
1: Pondicherry in the French Empire during the Nineteenth and Twentieth Centuries: Between Being Colonial Subjects and French Citizens
   I. Overview and General Concepts
   II. Analytical Framework
2: Contextualizing Pondicherry Within the French Empire and the Indian Subcontinent
   I. Pondicherry within the French Empire
   II. Pondicherry within the Indian Subcontinent
   III. Pondicherry during the Nineteenth and Early Twentieth Centuries
3: Inclusive and Exclusive Visions of Citizenship in French India
   I. Colonial Pondicherry and Its Entanglement with Imperial Citizenship
      A. “Liberal French India” 1870–1881: Why Such Laws?
      B. Political Infightings around the Definition of Citizenship
   II. The Topas, the Renouncers and the Catholics
      A. The Topas
      B. The Renouncers
      C. The Catholics
   III. Institutions
      A. A Plural Court-System Reinforcing a Localized Self-identitification
      B. Other Institutions and the European-Indian Divide
4: Education and Army: Attempts to Institutionalize Republican Ideals in French India
   I. The State of Education in Pondicherry before the Third Republic
   II. Education in Third Republic Pondicherry: A Secular Primary Education for All
      A. A Gradual Process of Laicisation
      B. Expansion of Administrative Control over Education
   III. Civic Education and French, the Language of Citizenship
   IV. The Importance of Tamil and English Languages
   V. Hindrances to the Republican School Project: Race and Caste
      A. Race
      B. Caste
   VI. Hindrances to the Republican School Project: Gender Issues and Budget Constraints
      A. Gender
      B. Financial Struggles
   VII. The Armed Forces in Pondicherry
      A. The Armed Forces in Pondicherry prior to the Third Republic
      B. The Armed Forces during the Third Republic
   VIII. Military Laws, Citizenship and Indochina
      A. Military Laws and Citizenship
      B. French Indochina and Conscription
   IX. Conclusion
5: The Art of Petitioning in a Colonial Setting
   I. Law, Order and a Bureaucracy of Petitions

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II. A Deficient Electoral System
   A. Lack of Trustworthy and Poorly Trained State Officials
   B. A Limited Franchise and Issue of Inclusion on the Electoral Rolls
III. Attempts to Prevent Electoral Frauds and Appeals on the Ground
   A. Interpreters as Providers of Knowledge to the Colonial State and to the Population as well as Poll Watchers
   B. Petitioning
IV. Partisan Political Fraud under a Three-List System (1884-1899)
V. Partisan Political Fraud under a Two-List System (1900-1913)
VI. Conclusion
6: From Electoral Politics to Expansion of Rights and National Independence
I. What conclusions can we draw from Republican Citizenship in Pondicherry?
II. How Far was the Civilizing Mission Applied?
III. From Contestations to Nationalism and the Impact of British India
IV. New Forms of Political Participation in a Comparative Perspective
V. Situating Pondicherry within a Larger Theoretical Reflection on the Relationship between Empire and Citizenship
   A. Third Republic (1870-1940)
   B. Fourth Republic (1946-1958)
   C. Fifth Republic (October 1958 to Present)
Biography
Index.
List of Images, Maps and Tables
Edoardo Manarini
Struggles for Power in the Kingdom of Italy
*The Hucpoldings, c. 850-c. 1100*

About Struggles for Power in the Kingdom of Italy
This book presents a detailed study which focuses upon the Hucpoldings, an elite group in Carolingian and post-Carolingian Italy. Though the Hucpoldings have not received extensive treatment in previous Anglophone scholarship, they are a key clan in this period. Manarini's ground-breaking study uses this kinship group to highlight and pinpoint the dramatic geopolitical changes in the kingdom of Italy across three crucial centuries. The research deals with the reconstruction of the political events of every identifiable member of the kinship, as well as the inquiry into their patrimony and their networks of relations and patronage throughout the kingdom of Italy. Finally, it examines the particular elements of the group, from which emerges a clearer picture of the nature of their power, their memory strategies and the shared perceptions and self-awareness among the group members.

BIOGRAPHY
Edoardo Manarini is currently a postdoctoral fellow at the University of Turin. His research revolves around Western European medieval political institutions, focusing on Italy's elite kindreds and their interconnection with regnal power, the links between kings and abbeys in Lombard and Carolingian Italy, the dynamics of memory and monastic production of written strategies.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgement
List of Abbreviations
Introduction
Documentary Evidence: Properties Dispersal, Archival Geography
Narrative sources
Part 1 – Kinship and Political Relations
1. The Hucpoldings Involvement in the Political Struggles of the Kingdom of Italy (847-945)
   Hucpold, Count Palatine of Louis II
   Faction and Endeavour: Hubald I
   The Aristocratic Career of Boniface dux et marchio between Rudolf II and Hugh of Arles
2. Family Patterns and Political Affirmation (945-1012)
   The Duchy of Spoleto and Tuscany
   Eastern Emilia and the Exarchate of Ravenna
   The March of Tuscany
3. The Local Basis of Power in a Wide Political Network (1012-1116)
   Hugh II and his Lineage in Bologna and Ferrara
   The Ties that Bind: Boniface of Canossa and Kinship Networks across the Apennines
   The Counts of Romena-Panico
Part 2 – Properties and patronage
4. The Exarchate
   Land Possession and Relations in the Ninth Century
   The Troubled Years, c. 960-c.1000
   Persistence in the comitatus Faentinus and the 1034 pact
5. The March of Tuscany
   The Family Group Estates in the Ninth Century

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Acquisitions, Exchanges, Organisation of Lands in the Tenth Century

Landed Wealth and Hegemony
Lands, Men and Castles (tenth-twelfth centuries)

Estates Management: between Territorial Consolidation and Dispersal

Part 3 – Power, Relations, Memory

7. Kinship, Self-awareness, and Memory
Onomastic Choices
The lex Ribuaria profession

The Role of Monastic Foundations: Family Memory, Politics and Identity

Kinship Representations between Perceptions and Self-awareness

Evolution and Hierarchy of Kinship Cohesion

8. Features and Practices of Power: from Officials to Lords

First Steps at Court: Offices and Responsibilities in the Kingdom of Italy
The Marchisal Achievement and the Gaining of Ecclesiastical Offices

Development of a Seigneurial Rule in a Border Region

9. Discontinuity Between Public Powers and Private Seigneurial Rule

Genealogical Tables

Bibliography

Index
Ksenya Gurshtein, Sonja Simonyi

Experimental Cinemas in State Socialist Eastern Europe

About Experimental Cinemas in State Socialist Eastern Europe

Was there experimental cinema behind the Iron Curtain? What forms did experiments with film take in state socialist Eastern Europe? Who conducted them, where, how, and why? These are the questions answered in this volume, the first of its kind in any language. Bringing together scholars from different disciplines, the book offers case studies from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, former East Germany, Hungary, Poland, Romania, and former Yugoslavia. Together, these contributions demonstrate the variety of makers, production contexts, and aesthetic approaches that shaped a surprisingly robust and diverse experimental film output in the region. The book maps out the terrain of our present-day knowledge of cinematic experimentalism in Eastern Europe, suggests directions for further research, and will be of interest to scholars of film and media, art historians, cultural historians of Eastern Europe, and anyone concerned with questions of how alternative cultures emerge and function under repressive political conditions.

BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Ksenya Gurshtein is the Curator of Modern and Contemporary Art at the Ulrich Museum of Art, Wichita State University in Wichita, Kansas.

Dr. Sonja Simonyi is an independent scholar working on the visual cultures of socialist Eastern Europe.

To pre-order this book visit www.aup.nl
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments
Introduction (Ksenya Gurshtein and Sonja Simonyi)

## Part I Key Figures

1. The Experimentalism of Gábor Bódy (Gábor Gelencsér)
2. Tomislav Gotovac’s Straight Line, Circle, Blue Rider and Yugoslav Ciné-club Culture (Greg de Cuir Jr.)

## Part II Production, Support, and Distribution

4. Experimental Filmmaking in Bulgaria in the Socialist Period (Vladimir Iliev and Katerina Lambrinova)
5. Wojciech Wiszniewski and the Polish Creative Documentary (Masha Shpolberg)
6. Home Movies and Cinematic Memories: Fixing the gaze on Vukica .ilas and Tatjana Ivan.i. (Petra Belc)

## Part III Viewing Contexts, Theories, and Reception

7. Slobodan .ijan’s Film Leaflet: An Alternative Film Forum, Festival, and Institution (Aleksandar Bo.kovi.)
9. Audio-Visuals: Sound, Music, and Noise in East German Experimental Film (Seth Howes)

## Part IV Intersection of the Arts

10. Intersections of Art and Film on the Wroc.aw Art Scene (Marika Ku.micz)
11. Conceptual Artist, Cognitive Film:Miklós Erdély at the Balázs Béla Studio ( Ksenya Gurshtein)
12. Works and Words, 1979: Manifesting Eastern European Film and/as Art in Amsterdam ( Sonja Simonyi)
13. Wizardry on a Shoestring: .arod.j and Experimental Filmmaking in Late Socialist Czechoslovakia (Tomá. Glanc)

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Víctor Navarro-Remesal, Óliver Pérez-Latorre

Perspectives on the European Videogame

About Perspectives on the European Videogame

The history of European videogames has been so far overshadowed by the global impact of the Japanese and North American industries. However, European game development studios have played a major role in videogame history, and prominent videogames in popular culture, such as *Grand Theft Auto*, *Tomb Raider* and *Alone in the Dark* were made in Europe. This book proposes an exploration of European videogames, including both analyses of transnational aspects of European production and close readings of national specificities. It offers a kaleidoscope of European videogame culture, focusing on the analysis of European works and creators but also addressing contextual aspects and placing videogames within a wider sociocultural and philosophical ground. The aim of this collective work is to contribute to the creation of a, so far, almost non-existent yet necessary academic endeavour: a story of the works, authors, styles and cultures of the European videogame.

BIOGRAPHY

Víctor Navarro-Remesal is a media and game scholar at Tecnocampus, Pompeu Fabra University.

Óliver Pérez-Latorre is a senior lecturer in game and media studies at Pompeu Fabra University (Barcelona, Spain).

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

## PROLOGUE
Conflict, negotiation, appropriation, and diversity: The challenge of European game studies (Torill Elvira Mortensen, IT University of Copenhagen)

## INTRODUCTION
Euro Ludens: On the Origins, Playing Region, and Imaginaries of the European Videogame (Óliver Pérez-Latorre, Pompeu Fabra University, and Víctor Navarro-Remesal, Tecnocampus, Pompeu Fabra University)

## PART I: NATIONAL STORIES
National Games: Spanish Games of the 1980s (Clara Fernández-Vara, New York University)
From Le Vampire Fou to Billy la Banlieue: Genre, Influences and Social Commentary in 1980s French Videogames (Alexis Blanchet, Université Sorbonne Nouvelle)
Finnish Fuck Games: A Lost Historical Footnote (Susanna Paasonen, University of Turku, and Veli-Matti Karhulahti, University of Jyväskylä / University of Turku)
Adopting an Orphaned Platform: The Second Life of the Sharp MZ-800 in Czechoslovakia (Jaroslav velch, Charles University of Prague)
Cuthbert Goes Cloning: Ports, Platforms, and the Dragon 32 Microcomputer (James Newman, Bath Spa University)

## PART II: TRANSNATIONAL APPROACHES
Masterpiece! Auteurism and European Videogames (Mercè Oliva, Pompeu Fabra University)
Playing European Comic Books: The Videogame Adaptations of Asterix and Tintin, 1993-1997 (Manuel Garin, Pompeu Fabra University)
Existential Ludology and Peter Wessel Zapffe (Stefano Gualeni and Daniel Vella, University of Malta)
Europe Simulates Europe: How European Analog Games Frame their own Identity (Antonio José Planells de la Maza, Tecnocampus, Pompeu Fabra University)
Naturalist Tendency in European Narrative Games (Nelson Zagalo, University of Aveiro)

## FINAL REMARKS
Conclusions (for now). European Videogames, Europeanness in Videogames (Víctor Navarro-Remesal, Tecnocampus, Pompeu Fabra University, and Óliver Pérez-Latorre, Pompeu Fabra University)

Index
The importance of place—as a unique spatial identity—has been recognized since antiquity. Ancient references to the ‘genius loci’, or spirit of place, evoked not only the location of a distinct atmosphere or environment, but also the protection of this location, and implicitly, its making and construction. This volume examines the concept of place as it relates to architectural production and building knowledge in early modern Europe (1400-1800). The places explored in the book’s ten essays take various forms, from an individual dwelling to a cohesive urban development to an extensive political territory. Within the scope of each study, the authors draw on primary source documents and original research to demonstrate the distinctive features of a given architectural place, and how these are related to a geographic location, social circumstances, and the contributions of individual practitioners. The essays underscore the distinct techniques, practices and organizational structures by which physical places were made in the early modern period.

Elizabeth Merrill is a specialist of early modern Italian art and architecture, with a focus on architectural practices and the development of the architectural profession. She has published several articles on these themes and the work of the Sienese architect Francesco di Giorgio. She has held fellowships at the Max Planck Institute for the History of Science, Berlin (MPIWG), New York Public Library, The Morgan Library and Drawing Institute, and Humboldt University. She has recently been appointed as Assistant Professor at the University of Ghent.

About Creating Place in Early Modern European Architecture

BIOGRAPHY
# TABLE OF CONTENTS

List of Illustrations  
Abbreviations  
Introduction: Embracing Specificity, Embracing Place (Elizabeth Merrill)  
Part I: Marking Place  
The Santacroce Houses along the Via in Publicolis in Rome: Law, Place & Residential Architecture in the Early Modern Period (Nele De Raedt)  
Towards a New Architecture of Cosmic Experience (Noam Andrews)  
Architecture for Music: Sonorous Spaces in Sacred Buildings in Renaissance & Baroque Rome (Federico Bellini)  
Part II: Teaching Place  
The Spedale di Santa Maria della Scala & the Construction of Siena (Elizabeth Merrill)  
Places of Knowledge Between Ulm & the Netherlands in the seventeenth Century: The ‘Kunstkammer’ of Johannes Faulhaber (Paul Brakmann and Sebastian Fitzner)  
Nicola Zabaglia’s Scaffoldings for the Maintenance of Architectural Space in St. Peter’s Basilica & Throughout Europe in the seventeenth to nineteenth Centuries (Stefan M. Holzer and Nicoletta Marconi)  
Part III: Excavating Place  
Building on ‘Hollow Land’: Skill & Expertise in Foundation-Laying Practices in the Low Countries (fifteenth-seventeenth century) (Merlijn Hurx)  
The ‘Conquest’ & Construction of an Urban Place: The Insula dei Gesuiti in Venice in the Early Modern Period (Ludovica Galeazzo)  
Exploring the Book of Fortresses (Edward Triplett)  
Index
In the 21st century, governments around the globe are faced with the question on how to tackle new migratory mobilities. Governments increasingly become aware of irregular immigration and are forced to re-negotiate the dilemma of open but secure borders. *Rethinking Authority in China’s Border Regime: Regulating the Irregular* investigates the Chinese government’s response to this phenomenon. Hence, this book presents a comprehensive analysis of the Chinese border regime. It explores the regulatory framework of border mobility in China by analysing laws, institutions, and discourses as part of an ethnographic border regime analysis. It argues that the Chinese state deliberately creates ‘zones of exception’ along its border. In these zones, local governments function as ‘scalar managers’ that establish cross-border relations to facilitate cross-border mobility and create local migration systems that build on their own notion of legality by issuing locally valid border documents. The book presents an empirically rich story of how border politics are implemented and theoretically contributes to debates on territoriality and sovereignty as well as to the question of how authority is exerted through border management. Empirically, the analysis builds on two case studies at the Sino-Myanmar and Sino-North Korean borders to illustrate how local practices are embedded in multiscalar mobility regulation including regional organizations such as the Greater Mekong Subregion and the Greater Tumen Initiative.

**BIOGRAPHY**

Franziska Plümmer currently works as a senior researcher at MPIL researching the role of Chinese technology companies in European data regulation and ‘critical’ infrastructure provision.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Chapter 1 Introduction  
Multiple Borders — Tracking the Border down  
Contextualizing Chinese Border Politics in the Making  
On Border Regimes, Sovereignty, and Immigration  
Methodological Reflections  
Map of the Book  

Chapter 2 Border Authority and Zoning Technologies  
Border as a Method of Investigation  
Territorial Governmentality and Zoning Technologies  
Self-regulation and self-responsibility in China’s neo-socialist governmentality  

Chapter 3 Graduated Citizenship and Social Control in China’s Immigration System  
The Power to Choose  
Characteristics of the Chinese Immigration System  
Labelling Immigrants: Differentiating Legal Authority and Control over Immigrants  
Rationalities of the Chinese Immigration System  

Chapter 4 Making Border Politics: State Actors & Security in the Chinese Border Regime  
Locating Border Security Control: Externalization / Internalization  
State Configurations in Border Politics  
Defending the Border: Security Enforcement  
Internal Border Security: Developing Border Areas from Within  
Policing at Distance and Local Exceptions  

Chapter 5 Re-Scaling Territorial Authority within Regional Organizations  
From Left behind to Bridging the Gap: Re-scaling the Chinese State  
Greater Mekong Subregion (GMS)  
Greater Tumen Initiative (GTI)  
Zoning through Development  

Chapter 6 Local Bordering Practices and Zoning Technologies  
Southwest: Dehong and Xishuangbanna Prefecture/Yunnan Province  
Northeast: Yanbian Prefecture, Jilin Province  
Legality as a Selective, Conditional, and Locally Bound Privilege  

Chapter 7 Conclusion — Authority in the Chinese Border Regime  
The Role of Local Governments in China’s Border Management  
Border as a Method of Social Control: Graduated Citizenship in China’s Immigration System  
Border as a Method of Spatial Development: Territoriality and Centre-Periphery Relations  
References  

Appendix A: Institutional Architecture of Yunnan Province in the GMS  
Appendix B: Institutional Architecture of Jilin Province in the GTI  
List of Abbreviations  
Glossary
During the 1950s, companies aiming for international markets demanded new theories and methods of communication. Ideas regarding cybernetics, systems analysis, new accounting practices, and budgetary principles as well as theories of information, communication, marketing, public relations, and organization were discussed at conferences, seminars, and courses, and in articles and books. At the same time, new technologies changed corporate communication, from a loose-leaf accounting system to mechanical and electronic business machines, from written texts and oral presentations to slide shows, audio tapes, films, television, and flannelgraphs. By looking at a vast array of objects and relations related to uses of media technologies in Swedish industry from the end of World War II to the breakthrough of television, this book shows what happened in the glitches between mass communication and interaction, and how Swedish postwar industry worked to disrupt established understandings of communication.
TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements
Introduction
Chapter 1: The Housewife, Film, Television, and the Quiz Show Nerd
Chapter 2: Film and Swedish Industry in the World
Intermission: A Substitute for an Industrial Film Theory
Chapter 3: Meetings for Trading Ideas and Goods, New and Old
Chapter 4: The New Face
Conclusion
References
Index
Christopher Heath, Robert Houghton
Conflict and Violence in Medieval Italy 568-1154

About Conflict and Violence in Medieval Italy 568-1154
This collection of essays from both established and emerging scholars analyses the dynamic connections between conflict and violence in medieval Italy. Together, the contributors present a new critique of power that sustained both kingship and locally based elite networks throughout the Italian peninsula. A broad temporal range, covering the sixth to the twelfth century, allows this book to cross a number of ‘traditional’ fault-lines in Italian historiography – 774, 888, 962 and 1025. The essays provide wide-ranging analysis of the role of conflict in the period, the operation of power and the development of communal consciousness and collective action by protagonists and groups. It is thus essential reading for scholars, students and general readers who wish to understand the situation on the ground in the medieval Italian environment.

BIOGRAPHY
Christopher Heath teaches at the Manchester Metropolitan University. His interests include historiography, and socio-economic and religious change between 450 and 950. His monograph The Narrative Worlds of Paul the Deacon was published in 2017 by AUP. Currently he is working on a study of the Lombard king Liutprand.

Robert Houghton is a Lecturer in Early Medieval History at the University of Winchester. His research focusses on the social and political history of the kingdom of Italy c.900 to c.1150 with particular emphasis on representations of urban society and the changing role and ideology of the bishop.

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

i. Preface
ii. Abbreviations
I: (Christopher Heath and Robert Houghton), Introduction: Discordant Minds and Hostile Nations
II: (Christopher Heath), Morbidity and Murder: Lombard Kingship’s Violent Uncertainties 568-774
III. (Guido Berndt), Insurgency and Counter-Insurgency in Lombard Italy (c.600-700)
IV: (Francesco Borri), The Hope of Italy: Narrative of Conquest and Resistance from Charlemagne to Bernard (774 – 818)
V: (Kordula Wolf), Nec patiaris populum Domini ab illis divinitus fulminandis Agarenis discerpi: Dealing with ‘Saracen’ Violence in 9th and 10th-Century Southern Italy
VI. (David Barritt), Formosus and the ‘synod of the corpse’: tenth century Rome in history and memory
VII. (Edoardo Manarini), Sex, denigration and violence: a representation of political competition between two aristocratic kinships in IXth-century Italy.
VIII: (Penelope Nash), ‘Italy and her [German] Invaders’: Otto III’s and Frederick Barbarossa’s Early Tours of Italy – Pomp, Generosity and Ferocity
IX: (Robert Houghton), ‘I predict a riot’: What were the Parmense rebelling against in 1037?
X: (Enrico Veneziani), Violence in Rome: the papal election of Honorius II
XI: (Ross Balzaretti), Afterword
XII. Bibliography
XIII. Index
Martijn Wijnhoven

European Mail Armour

Ringed Battle Shirts from the Iron Age, Roman Period and Early Middle Ages

About European Mail Armour

Mail armour (commonly mislabelled ‘chainmail’) was used for more than two millennia on the battlefield. After its invention in the Iron Age, mail rapidly spread all over Europe and beyond. The Roman army, keen on new military technology, soon adopted mail armour and used it successfully for centuries. Its history did not stop there and mail played a vital role in warfare during the Middle Ages up to the Early Modern Period.

Given its long history, one would think mail is a well-documented material, but that is not the case. For the first time, this book lays a solid foundation for the understanding of mail armour and its context through time. It applies a long-term multi-dimensional approach to extract a wealth of as yet untapped information from archaeological, iconographic and written sources. This is complemented with technical insights on the mail maker’s chaîne opératoire.

BIOGRAPHY

Martijn A. Wijnhoven holds a PhD in archaeology from Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam.

"Mail has been something of a Cinderella in the field of early martial equipment. Now, in this meticulous study, Wijnhoven has demonstrated and explored the extensive potential of the archaeological, iconographic and textual evidence. It makes a fundamental contribution to the study of ancient martial material culture, and has broader implications for the development and structuring of early European ironworking traditions.”
- Prof. Dr. Simon James – University of Leicester

"Mail armour has been largely neglected by specialist literature, despite the important role that it played in Antiquity. This book fills in that research gap in an impressive manner. Not only does Wijnhoven pose the hardest questions about mail armour, but he also provides very satisfactory answers.”
- Prof. Dr. Thomas Fischer – Universität zu Köln

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgements

1 INTRODUCTION
1.1 Previous research
1.2 Research question and aims
1.3 Chaîne opératoire
1.4 A multi-dimensional approach to material studies
1.5 Scope
1.6 Mail or chain-mail?

2 THE ORIGINS OF MAIL ARMOUR
2.1 Suggested precursors
2.2 Contested origins
2.3 Earliest evidence
2.4 Tracing the earliest contexts
2.5 Further dispersal
2.6 When, where and by whom

3 DISTRIBUTION AND ARCHEOLOGICAL CONTEXT
3.1 Battlefields and accidental loss
3.2 Iron Age mail
3.3 The Roman Republic
3.4 The Roman Principate
3.5 Hybrid feathered armour
3.6 Hybrid armour beyond the Roman Empire
3.7 Late Antiquity
3.8 The Barbaricum and beyond
3.9 Mail for men, women and children
3.10 Social access to mail outside the Roman Empire
3.11 Centuries of archaeological evidence

4 THE ICONOGRAPHY OF EARLY MAIL ARMOUR
4.1 The iconographic evidence
4.2 The 3rd century BC to the end of the Roman Republic
4.3 Early Empire until the end of the 1st century AD
4.4 The 2nd century AD
4.5 The 3rd to 5th century AD
4.6 Development of mail armour design in iconography

5 THE NAMING OF MAIL ARMOUR
5.1 Classical literature on armour
5.2 Lorica hamata
5.3 Other designations
5.4 Simply lorica

6 DECORATION IN MAIL GARMENTS
6.1 Gold on silver
6.2 Copper alloy elements
6.3 Decorative origin
6.4 Development and distribution

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6.5 Decorative trimmings
6.6 Inserted patterns
6.7 Contrasting rivets
6.8 Decoration of hybrid armour
6.9 Decoration of ‘miniature mail’
6.10 Decorative hems
6.11 Colourful Roman army

7 PADDED GARMENTS
7.1 The advantages and disadvantages of flexible armour
7.2 Himation, thoracomachus, subarmalis and Cimmerian tunic
7.3 Textile and leather remains
7.4 Medieval analogy, gladiators and pteruges
7.5 Concealed by metal armour

8 THE CRAFT OF MAKING MAIL RINGS
8.1 The mail maker’s process
8.2 The manufacture of metal wire
8.3 The manufacture of solid rings
8.4 Unravelling the use of butted rings
8.5 Loose rings
8.6 The mail making workshop

9 WEAVING PATTERNS
9.1 Four-in-one pattern
9.2 Six-in-one pattern from Tiefenau
9.3 Pinched loop-in-loop pattern from Bertoldsheim
9.4 Four-in-one pattern in hybrid armour
9.5 Favourable characteristics

10 THE CONSTRUCTION OF MAIL GARMENTS
10.1 Current knowledge based on late mail from Europe
10.2 Presence of constructional techniques in early mail
10.3 Construction of early mail by working in the flat
10.4 Construction of textile clothing and mail
10.5 Construction of the coat with shoulder guards
10.6 Mail with shoulder guards and textile clothing
10.7 The development of mail armour through the ages
10.8 Construction in cultural context

11 RING CHARACTERISTICS
11.1 The relevance of the seemingly irrelevant
11.2 Ring size
11.3 Direction of the overlap and ring types
11.4 Cross-section of riveted rings
11.5 Rivet characteristics
11.6 Shape of the overlap in riveted rings
11.7 Cross-section of solid rings
11.8 Ring characteristics typology

12 FINAL CONSIDERATIONS
12.1 Insights
12.2 Prospects
12.3 Methodological potential

BIBLIOGRAPHY

DATABASE
Appendix 1. Catalogue of mail armour
Appendix 2. Catalogue of hybrid armour
Appendix 3. Catalogue of isolated finds of fasteners and fixtures
Appendix 4. Finds excluded from the database
Ana Grgić

Early Cinema, Modernity and Visual Culture

The Imaginary of the Balkans

About Early Cinema, Modernity and Visual Culture

The end of the nineteenth century saw the Balkans animated with cultural movements and socio-political turmoil. Alongside these developments, the proliferation of print media and the arrival of moving images was transforming urban life and played a significant role in the creation of national culture. Based on archival research and previously overlooked footage and early press materials, Imaginary of the Balkans: Visual Culture, Modernity and Early Cinema is the first study on early cinema in the region from a transnational and cross-cultural perspective. This work investigates how the unique geopolitical positioning of the Balkan space and the multi-cultural identity of its communities influenced and shaped visual culture and early cinema development. Moreover, it examines the relationship between the new medium and visual culture through the notion of the haptic, and explores the role early cinema and foreign productions played in the construction of Balkanist and semi-colonial discourses.

Reframing hierarchical relations between ‘centres’ and ‘peripheries’, this book departs from approaches such as “new cinema history” and “vernacular modernity” to counter modernity discourses of “lacks and absences”, and instead, establishes new connections between moving image and print artefacts, early film practitioners and intellectuals, the socio-cultural context and cultural responses to the new visual medium.

BIOGRAPHY

Ana Grgić is Associate Professor at Babeș-Bolyai University.

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# TABLE OF CONTENTS

Acknowledgments  
Foreword. Travelling Down/Travelling Through by Dina Iordanova  
Preface. The Balkan Imaginary of Ruins  
Introduction. Charting the Terrain: Early Cinema in the Balkans  
1. Visual Culture in the Balkans, Haptic Visuality and Archival Moving Images  
My Journey through Savage Europe  
Hapticity of Archival Moving Images  
Hapticity of Visual Culture in the Balkans  
The Byzantine Cultural Legacy  
The Ottoman Cultural Legacy  
Architecture, Fresco Painting, Icons, Textiles and Jewellery  
"Image survivante" and the Legacy of Balkan Visual Culture  
The Difference in Perception  
2. Historicizing the Balkan Spectator and the Embodied Cinema Experience  
Anticipating Cinema  
The Arrival of Cinema: Haptic Encounters with Moving Images  
The Spaces of Cinema and Coffee Consumption  
Cinema and “Intensive Life”  
Cinema in the City  
Looking Back at Cinema  
Journeys from the East: Cross-cultural Travels of the Shadow Puppet Theatre  
The Cinematograph at the Theatre  
Travelling Cinema Exhibitors and Filmmakers  
The Mysterious Hungarian and the Serbian-Bulgarian Connection  
The Balkan Cinema Pioneers and the Lost Gaze  
Cinema and the Global Imaginary  
4. Imagining the Balkans: The Cinematic Gaze from the Outside  
Exoticism and the Balkans  
The Orientalist Gaze in Marubi Studio Photographs  
“Oriental” Austria: Cinematic Representations of Bosnia and Herzegovina  
Sensational Killings and Wild Insurgents at the Cinema  
Charles Urban Trading Company in the Balkans  
Imperial Imagination, Archives and Moving Images  
The Reverberations of Balkan Wars and the Siege of Shkodra  
5. Made in the Balkans: Mirroring the Self  
The Desire for “Our” Views  
High-life and the Pleasure of the Screen  
Scientific Spectacles  
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