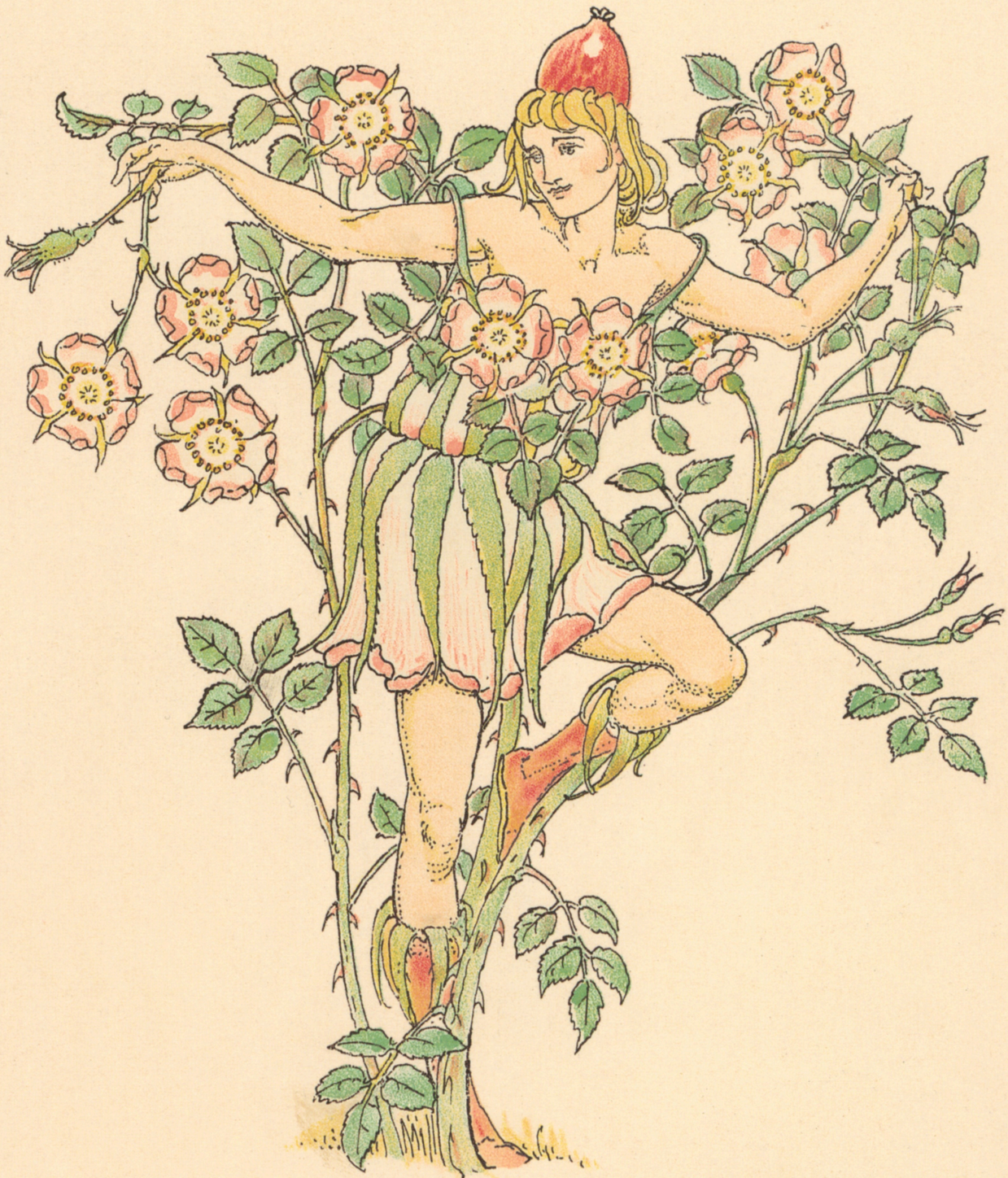


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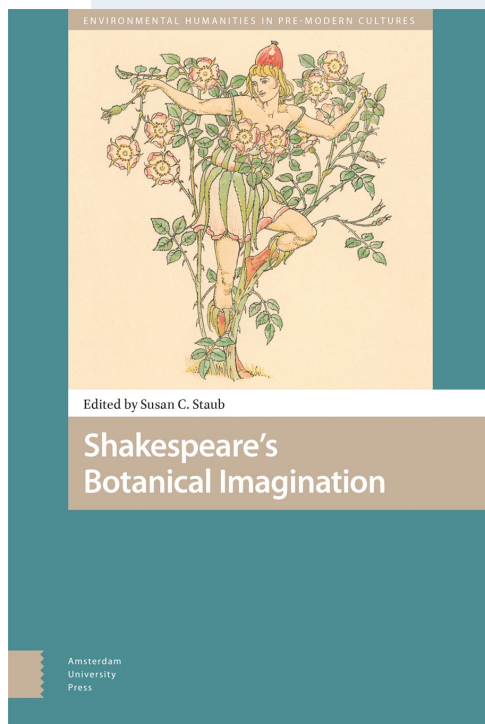
Edited by Susan C. Staub

## Shakespeare's Botanical Imagination

Writing on the cusp of modern botany and during the heyday of English herbals and garden manuals, Shakespeare references at least 180 plants in his works and makes countless allusions to horticultural and botanical practices. *Shakespeare's Botanical Imagination* moves plants to the foreground of analysis and brings together some of the rich and innovative ways that scholars are expanding the discussion of plants and botany in Shakespeare's writings. The essays gathered here all emphasize the interdependence and entanglement of plants with humans and human life, whether culturally, socially, or materially, and vividly illustrate the fundamental role plants play in human identity. As they attend to the affinities and shared materiality between plants and humans in Shakespeare's works, these essays complicate the comfortable Aristotelian hierarchy of human-animal-plant. And as they do, they often challenge the privileged position of humans in relation to non-human life.

### BIOGRAPHY

Susan C. Staub is Professor of English at Appalachian State University. Her publications include *Nature's Cruel Stepdames: Representations of Women and Crime in the Street Literature of Early Modern England* and *The Literary Mother*, as well as numerous essays on Early Modern prose, Shakespeare, and Spenser. Her current book project focuses on Shakespeare and botany.



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Michael Cowan

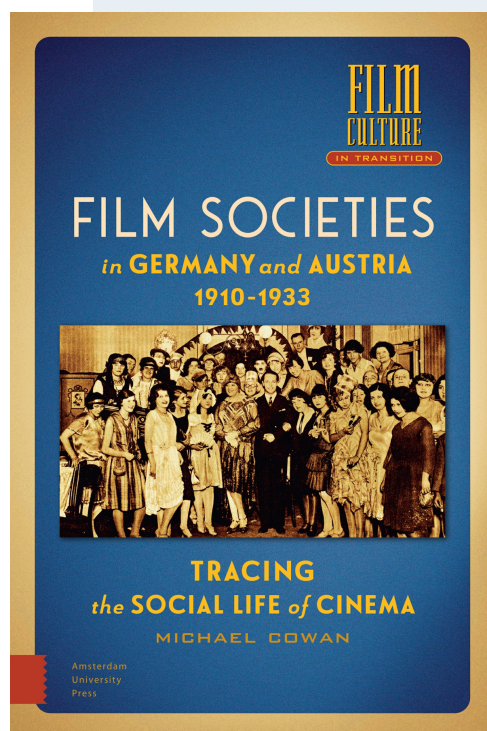
## Film Societies in Germany and Austria 1910-1933

*Tracing the Social Life of Cinema*

This study traces the evolution of early film societies in Germany and Austria, from the emergence of mass movie theaters in the 1910s to the turbulent years of the late Weimar Republic. Examining a diverse array of groups, it approaches film societies as formations designed to assimilate and influence a new medium: a project emerging from the world of amateur science before taking new directions into industry, art and politics. Through an interdisciplinary approach—in dialogue with social history, print history and media archaeology—it also transforms our theoretical understanding of what a film society was and how it operated. Far from representing a mere collection of pre-formed cinephiles, film societies were, according to the book's central argument, *productive* social formations, which taught people how to nurture their passion for the movies, how to engage with cinema, and how to interact with each other. Ultimately, the study argues that examining film societies can help to reveal the diffuse agency by which generative ideas of cinema take shape.

### BIOGRAPHY

Michael Cowan is Professor of film and media history in the Department of Cinematic Arts at the University of Iowa. His research, focused on German and European cinema, examines the broader cultural and technological contexts in which film practices emerged and evolved in the early 20th century. His publications have won numerous awards from the Society of Film and Media Studies and the British Association of Film and Television Studies Scholars, as well as the Willy Haas Award (Germany) and the Limina Award (Italy).



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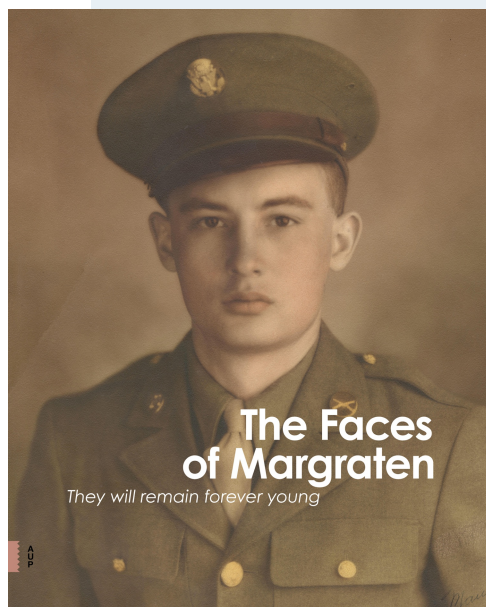


## The Faces of Margraten

*They Will Remain Forever Young*

In the rolling hills of the Limburg Province, near the village of Margraten, they slowly loom up, row after row: thousands of white marble crosses and Stars of David. They mark the final resting place of American soldiers who died fighting to liberate the Netherlands during World War II. While the headstones provide the names and ages of those lost, they cannot tell us who these soldiers were, what their lives were like, or who they left behind. Nor can the peace and quiet at the only American military cemetery in the Netherlands reflect the harrowing experience and violent final moments of the men and women who forever rest here.

Through hundreds of personal photographs and more than 250 stories, *The Faces of Margraten* gives these soldiers faces and voices again, telling not only the history of World War II and the ending of the German occupation of the Netherlands, but also revealing how and why the Dutch people have never forgotten their liberators. Concluding with a list of all the soldiers' names, this commemorative book stands as a testament to the service and sacrifice of the more than 10,000 Americans buried or memorialized as missing in Margraten.



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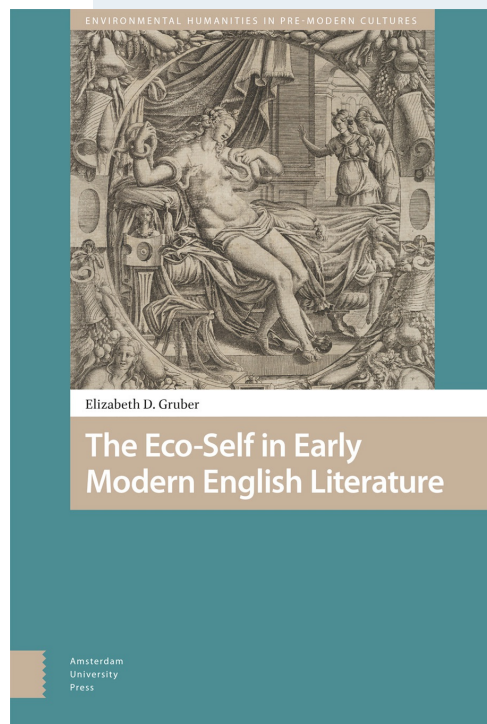
Elizabeth Gruber

## The Eco-Self in Early Modern English Literature

*The Eco-Self in Early Modern English Literature* tracks an important shift in early modern conceptions of selfhood, arguing that the period hosted the birth of a new subset of the human, the eco-self, which melds a deeply introspective turn with an abiding sense of humans' embedment in the world. A confluence of cultural factors produced the relevant changes. Of paramount significance was the rapid spread of literacy in England and across Europe: reading transformed the relationship between self and world, retooled moral reasoning, and even altered human anatomy. This book pursues the salutary possibilities, including the ecological benefits, of this redesigned self by advancing fresh readings of texts by William Shakespeare, Christopher Marlowe, John Webster, and Margaret Cavendish. The eco-self offers certain refinements to ecological theory by renewing appreciation for the rational, deliberative functions that distinguish humans from other species.

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Elizabeth D. Gruber is a Professor of English at Lock Haven University in Lock Haven, Pennsylvania. Teaching and research interests include early modern literature, Shakespearean adaptation, and ecocriticism and theory. Recent publications focus on the productive conjunctions of ecocriticism and early modern studies. Several articles as well as an earlier monograph *Renaissance Ecopolitics from Shakespeare to Bacon: Rethinking Cosmopolis* (Routledge, 2017), advance ecocritical readings of diverse early modern texts. The goal of the present volume, *The Eco-Self in Early Modern English Literature*, is to track the birth of a new subset of the human, bringing out its eco-psychological implications and tracking their persisting importance.



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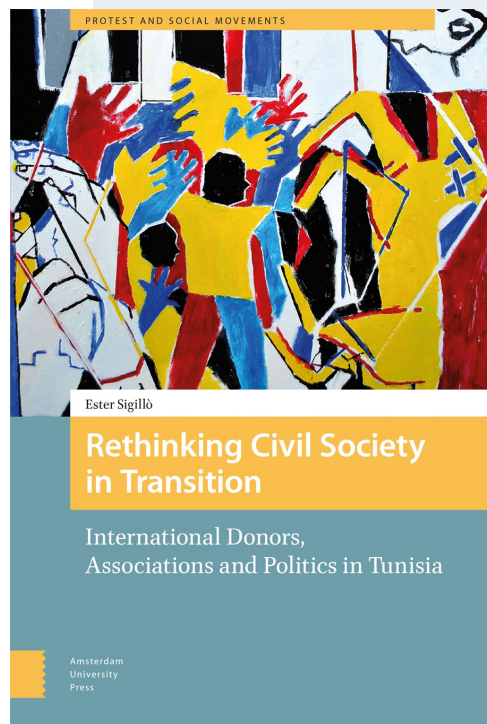
## Rethinking Civil Society in Transition

*International Donors, Associations and Politics in Tunisia*

This book illustrates the results of ethnographical research designed to shed light on the notion of civil society in a context characterized by the transformation of power relations. Such transformation is given by shifting resources, renewed local and international opportunities, and a general reframing of goals and objectives. The academic literature has usually relied on a substantialist understanding of the notion of civil society – referring to the latter as something that exists a priori or does something. This volume relies, instead, on a relational approach – where civil society becomes the name we give to a host of complex interactions in which local associations are involved in a time of reconfiguration of power relations. Building on this approach, this volume analyses the relational dynamics affecting Tunisian associations after the fall of the authoritarian regime in 2011 and their implications for the changing political order. Findings show two main interrelated trends: the nationwide professionalization of local associations and the localized networking strategies of various socio-political categories crossing the associational sector. The book shows how their members understand the standardization of local associations as a strategy to have guaranteed access to the public sphere and, therefore, to influence the changing political order.

### BIOGRAPHY

Ester Sigillò is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the University of Bologna and an Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University. She was previously Max Weber Fellow at the European University Institute in Florence. She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from the Scuola Normale Superiore. Her research interests include social movements and Islamic activism in the Maghreb.



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PART II: ASSOCIATIONS AS PLAYERS AND ARENAS

Chapter 4: Associations as players

Chapter 5: Civil society as an arena: networking strategies beyond hegemonic actors

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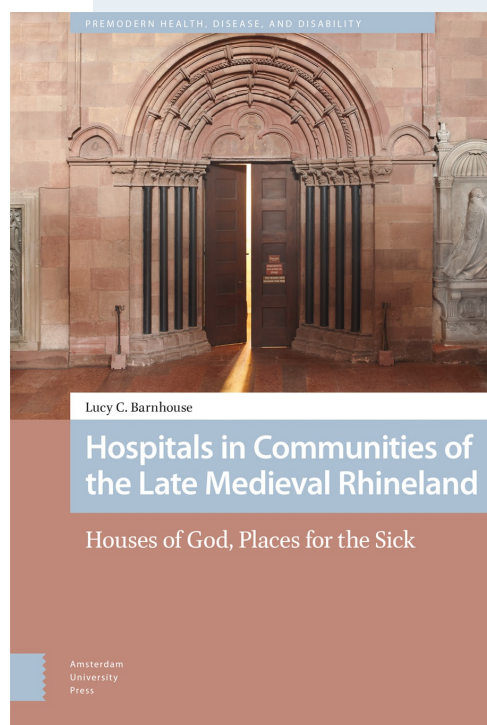
Lucy Barnhouse

## Hospitals in Communities of the Late Medieval Rhineland

From the mid-twelfth century onwards, the development of European hospitals was shaped by their claim to the legal status of religious institutions, with its attendant privileges and responsibilities. The questions of whom hospitals should serve and why they should do so have recurred — and been invested with moral weight — in successive centuries, though similarities between medieval and modern debates on the subject have often been overlooked. Hospitals' legal status as religious institutions could be tendentious and therefore had to be vigorously defended in order to protect hospitals' resources. This status could also, however, be invoked to impose limits on who could serve in and be served by hospitals. As recent scholarship demonstrates, disputes over whom hospitals should serve, and how, find parallels in other periods of history and current debates.

### BIOGRAPHY

Lucy Barnhouse received her Ph.D. from Fordham University in 2017, and has been Assistant Professor of History at Arkansas State University since Fall 2020, having held visiting positions at the College of Wooster and Wartburg College. She has published on topics including medieval public health, leprosy, and religious women.



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## Rome and Byzantium in the Visigothic Kingdom

*Beyond Imitatio Imperii*

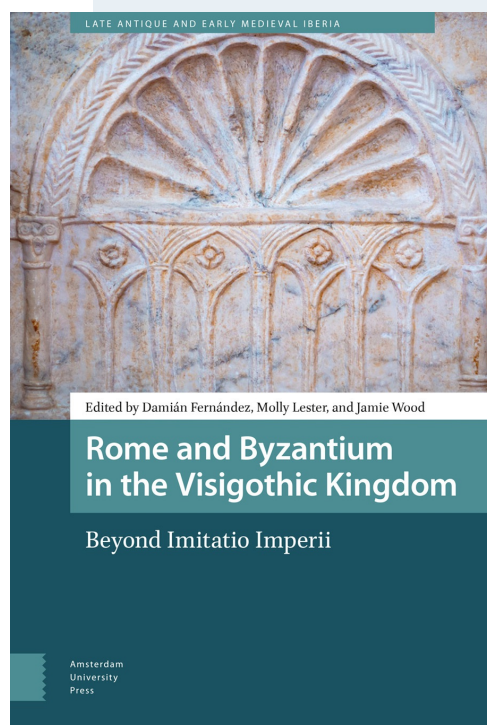
This volume interrogates the assumption that Visigothic practices and institutions were mere imitations of the Byzantine empire. Contributors rethink these practices not as uncritical and derivative adoptions of Byzantine customs, but as dynamic processes in dialogue with not only the Byzantine empire but also with the contemporary Iberian context, as well as the Roman past. The goal of the volume is to approach Visigothic customs not as an uncritical adoption and *imitatio* of contemporary Roman models (an "acculturation" model), but as unique interpretations of a common pool of symbols, practices, and institutions that formed the legacy of Rome. The contributors argue that it is necessary to reconsider the idea of *imitatio imperii* strategic decisions in historically contingent circumstances.

### BIOGRAPHY

Damián Fernández is Associate Professor of History at Northern Illinois University.

Molly Lester is Assistant Professor of History at the United States Naval Academy.

Jamie Wood is Professor of History and Education at the University of Lincoln.



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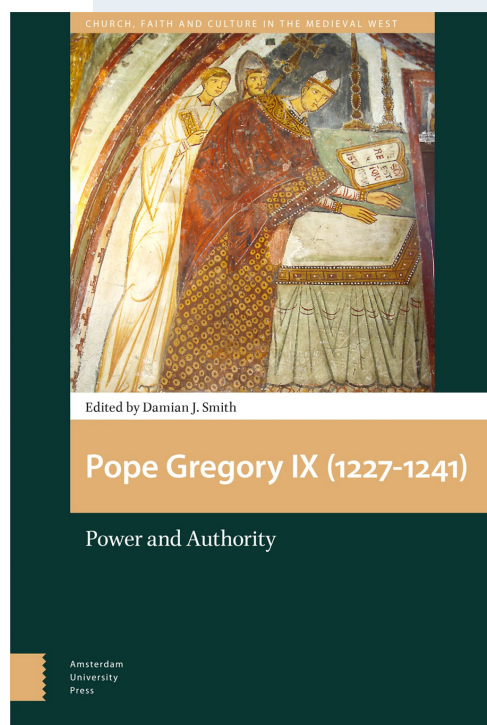
## Pope Gregory IX (1227-1241)

*Power and Authority*

As Cardinal Hugo and as pope, Gregory was one of the dominant figures in the history of the papacy of the High Middle Ages. Coming to prominence under Pope Innocent III, Hugo played an important political role, particularly as legate on various occasions, as well as being a major promoter of the new religious orders. As pope, his battle with Emperor Frederick II is one of medieval history's most absorbing conflicts. But he also acted as peacemaker, promoter of the Crusades, instigator of mission for the sake of conversion, reformer of the Curia, patron of arts and liturgy, and as a passionate advocate of Church reform. His decretal collection, the *Liber Extra*, was the most influential of the Middle Ages. A full examination of Gregory's pontificate is very long overdue. The current volume brings together a team of international scholars, each of them expert in dealing with a particular aspect of the pontificate, and provides what will be a collection of studies of lasting scholarly value on a central figure of the medieval papacy.

### BIOGRAPHY

Damian J. Smith is Professor of Medieval History in the Department of History at Saint Louis University, USA. He is the author/editor/translator of numerous books and articles concerning the Medieval Iberian Peninsula, the Mediterranean, and the Church. He is currently writing a history of the reign of James I of Aragon (1213-1276).



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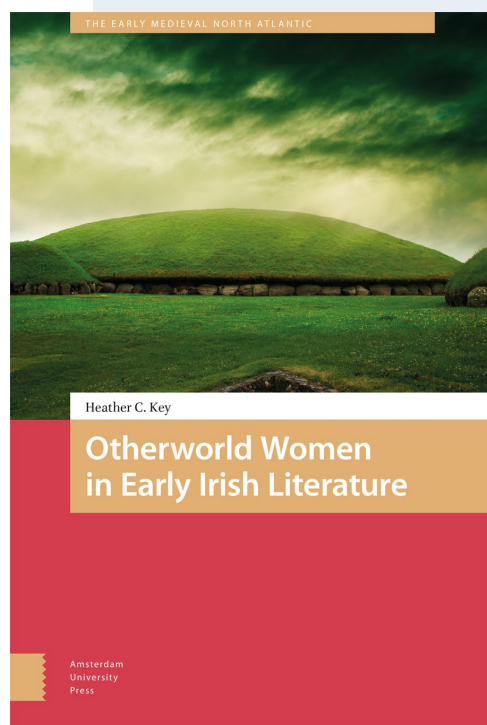
Heather Key

## Otherworld Women in Early Irish Literature

In early Ireland, there were many names for what scholars have dubbed the 'Otherworld': the Plain of Delights, the Land of Youth, the Land of Promise, and more. Many of the myths and legends from this period involve an encounter between a hero and a woman from this Otherworld, with sufficient frequency to form a distinct theme within the literature. This book examines the particularities and consequences of these otherworldly encounters, attending in particular to the question of gender and the social dynamics at work. Five stories purportedly from the lost book *Cín Dromma Snechta* receive detailed analysis, alongside material from other sources, in order to reconstruct the mindset of the early Irish who told these stories about the Otherworld and their views about women in general.

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Heather C. Key is a scholar of early medieval Ireland and its literature. Her writings have appeared in *Cambrian Medieval Celtic Studies*, *Oenach*, and *Cosmos*.



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Asaf Sharabi

## The Biography of a God

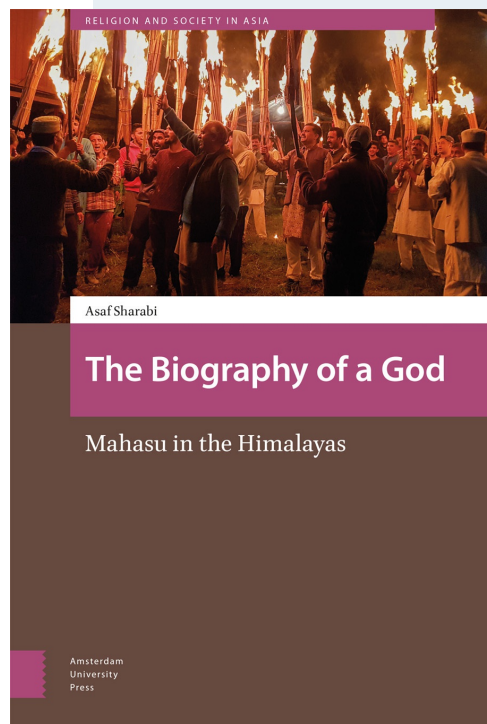
*Mahasu in the Himalayas*

Mahasu is the joint name of four gods whose influence is widespread throughout the Indian states of Himachal Pradesh and Uttarakhand. Like other deities in the Western Himalayas, they are regarded as royal gods who rule over territories and people. This book traces changes in faith and practices surrounding the Mahasu brothers, and shows how the locals understand these changes by emphasizing the dominant role of humans in the decisions of the gods. The locals are also constantly testing the authenticity of the human mediumship. Thus, the book presents the claim that the gap between local conceptions of divinity and the perceptions of anthropologists regarding gods may be narrower than we think.

*The Biography of a God: Mahasu in the Himalayas* is based on ethnographic research, resulting in an important contribution to the study of Indian village deities, Himalayan Hinduism, lived Hinduism, and the anthropology of religion.

### BIOGRAPHY

Dr. Asaf Sharabi obtained his doctorate in social anthropology in 2010 from Bar Ilan University. In his doctoral thesis he explored the encounter between religion and contemporary modernity, in the context of the religious revival movement in Israel. In 2013, he undertook an ethnographic study in the Western Himalayas, a study in which he intermittently engaged to this day. The research focuses on the religious experience and changing theological perceptions relating to the image of local gods, especially Mahasu. In 2021, his research *Gods and goddesses in the Western Himalayas - a comparative ethnographic research* won a research grant from the Israel Science Foundation (ISF). His research interests include anthropology and sociology of religion, ritual healing, anthropology of gods, anthropology of Hinduism, and anthropology of Judaism.



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## Reconsidering Postwar Japanese History

*A Handbook*

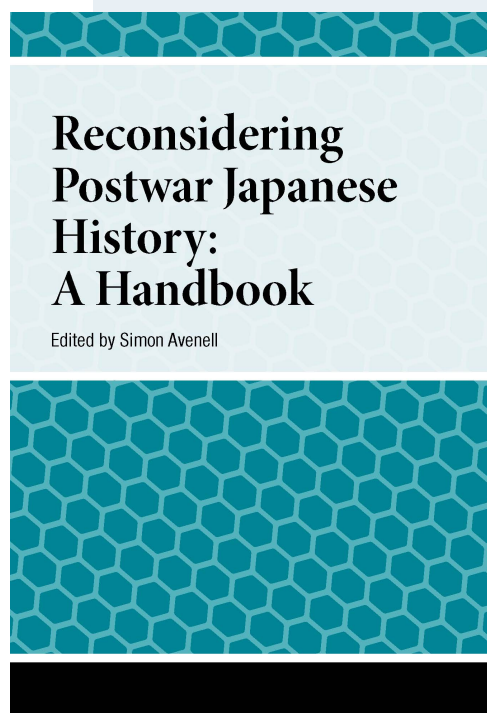
After war defeat in 1945, Japan underwent historic political, economic and social transformations resulting in the country's rebirth as an economic powerhouse and exemplar of liberal democracy in East Asia. This handbook expands and enriches our understanding of this tumultuous contemporary era in Japan's modern history.

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Contributors attempt to transcend temporal, geographical, intellectual and other boundaries inherent in our current understandings of Japan's postwar experience to provide a compelling compilation of perspectives. The volume's extensive chronological coverage, combined with the innovative perspectives of the contributors, make it essential reading for both researchers and learners interested in the multifaceted dynamics of Japan's fascinating contemporary era.

### BIOGRAPHY

Simon Avenell is professor at the Australian National University. He specializes in modern Japanese history, with a particular interest in civil society, social activism, and the history of ideas in postwar Japan. His latest book, *Asia and Postwar Japan: Deimperialization, Civic Activism, and National Identity*, was published by Harvard University Press in 2022.



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