Radicalism and Music

By Jonathan Pieslak

Radicalism and Music offers a convincing argument for music's transformational impact on the radicalization, reinforcement, and motivational techniques of violent political activists. It makes a case for the careful examination of music's roles in radical cultures, roles that have serious impacts, as evidenced by the actions of the Frankfurt Airport shooter Arid Uka, Sikh Temple murderer Wade Page, white supremacist Matthew Hale, and animal-rights activist Walter Bond, among others. Such cases bring up difficult questions about how those involved in radical groups can be stirred to feel or act under the influence of music.

Radicalism and Music is based on interviews, email correspondence, concerts, and videos. As a "sound strategy," music is exploited to its fullest potential as a tool for recruiting and retaining members by members of al-Qa'ida, the Hammerskin Nation, Christian Identity, Kids in Ministry International, Earth First!, and Vegan Straight Edge. But, as the book points out, the coercive use of music is not isolated to radical cultures, but in political propaganda, sporting events, and popular music as well. Ultimately, Radicalism and Music shows how music affects us through our emotions, and how it triggers violence and enables hateful ideology.
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Reality by Other Means  
By James Morrow and Other Gary K. Wolfe

Join the Abominable Snowman as, determined to transcend his cannibalistic past, he studies Tibetan Buddhism under the Dalai Lama. Pace the walls of Ilium with fair Helen as she tries to convince both sides to abandon their absurd Trojan War. Visit the nursery of Zenobia Garber, born to a Pennsylvania farm couple that accept her for the uncanny little biosphere she is. Scramble aboard the raft built by the passengers and crew of the sinking Titanic - and don't be surprised when the vessel transmutes into a world even more astonishing than the original Ship of Dreams. Reality by Other Means offers readers the most celebrated results from James Morrow's thirty-five-year career designing fictive thought experiments. Anchored by seven previously uncollected stories, this omnibus ranges from social satire to theological hijinks, steampunk escapades to philosophical antics.

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BAX 2015
Edited by Seth Abramson and Jesse Damiani

BAX 2015 is the second volume of an annual literary anthology compiling the best experimental writing in poetry, fiction, and creative nonfiction. This year’s volume, guest edited by Douglas Kearney, features seventy-five works by some of the most exciting American poets and writers today, including established authors - like Dodie Bellamy, Anselm Berrigan, Thomas Sayers Ellis, Cathy Park Hong, Bhanu Kapil, Aaron Kunin, Joyelle McSweeney, and Fred Moten - as well as emerging voices. Best American Experimental Writing is also an important literary anthology for classroom settings, as individual selections are intended to provoke lively conversation and debate. The series coeditors are Seth Abramson and Jesse Damiani.
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Writing for Justice
By Elèna Mortara

In Writing for Justice, Elèna Mortara presents a richly layered study of the cultural and intellectual atmosphere of mid-nineteenth-century Europe and the United States, through close readings of the life and work of Victor Séjour, an expat American Creole from New Orleans living in Paris. In addition to writing The Mulatto, an early story on slavery in Saint-Domingue, Séjour penned La Tireuse de cartes (The Fortune-Teller, 1859), a popular play based on the famed Mortara case. In this historical incident, Pope Pius IX kidnapped Edgardo Mortara, the child of a Jewish family living in the Papal States. The details of the play's production and its reception on both sides of the Atlantic are intertwined with the events of the Italian Risorgimento and of pre-Civil War America. Writing for Justice is full of surprising encounters with French and American writers and historical figures, including Hugo, Hawthorne, Twain, Napoleon III, Garibaldi, and Lincoln. As Elèna Mortara passionately argues, the enormous amount of public attention received by the case reveals an era of underappreciated transatlantic intellectual exchange, in which an African American writer used notions of emancipation in religious as well as racial terms, linking the plight of blacks in America to that of Jews in Europe, and to the larger battles for freedom and nationhood advancing across the continent.

This book will appeal both to general readers and to scholars, including historians, literary critics, and specialists in African American studies, Jewish, Catholic, or religious studies, multilingual American literature, francophone literature, theatrical life, nineteenth-century European politics, and cross-cultural encounters.
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New World Courtships
By Melissa M. Adams-Campbell

Feminist literary critics have long recognized that the novel’s marriage plot can shape the lives of women readers; however, they have largely traced the effects of this influence through a monolithic understanding of marriage. New World Courtships is the first scholarly study to recover a geographically diverse array of eighteenth- and nineteenth-century novels that actively compare marriage practices from the Atlantic world. These texts trouble Enlightenment claims that companionate marriage leads to women’s progress by comparing alternative systems for arranging marriage and sexual relations in the Americas. Attending to representations of marital diversity in early transatlantic novels disrupts nation-based accounts of the rise of the novel and its relation to "the" marriage plot. It also illuminates how and why cultural differences in marriage mattered in the Atlantic world - and shows how these differences might help us to reimagine marital diversity today.

This book will appeal to scholars of literature, women's studies, and early American history.
Children and Yiddish Literature
From Early Modernity to Post-Modernity
Edited by Gennady Estraikh, Kerstin Hoge and Mikhail Krutikov

Children have occupied a prominent place in Yiddish literature since early modern times, but children's literature as a genre has its beginnings in the early 20th century. Its emergence reflected the desire of Jewish intellectuals to introduce modern forms of education, and promote ideological agendas, both in Eastern Europe and in immigrant communities elsewhere. Before the Second World War, a number of publishing houses and periodicals in Europe and the Americas specialized in stories, novels and poems for various age groups. Prominent authors such as Yankev Glatshteyn, Der Nister, Joseph Opatoshu, Leyb Kvitko, made original contributions to the genre, while artists, such as Marc Chagall, El Lissitzky and Yisakhar Ber Rybak, also took an active part. In the Soviet Union, meanwhile, children's literature provided an opportunity to escape strong ideological pressure. Yiddish children's literature is still being produced today, both for secular and strongly Orthodox communities.

This volume is a pioneering collective study not only of children's literature but of the role played by children in literature.

About the Author:
Gennady Estraikh is Associate Professor of Yiddish Studies, New York University.

Mikhail Krutikov is Assistant Professor of Jewish-Slavic Relations at the University of Michigan.
Aloysius Bertrand's Gaspard de la Nuit Beyond the Prose Poem

By Valentina Gosetti

Aloysius Bertrand's Gaspard de la Nuit (1842) is a familiar title to music lovers, thanks to Ravel's piano work of the same name, and to specialists of French literature, especially those interested in Baudelaire's prose poetry. Yet until very recently the collection and its author have generally been viewed almost exclusively through the prism of their pioneering role in the development of the prose poem. By placing Bertrand back in his original context, adopting a comparative approach and engaging with recent critical work on the collection, Valentina Gosetti proposes a substantial reassessment of Gaspard de la Nuit and promotes a new understanding of Bertrand in his own terms, rather than those of his successors. Through his playful and ironic reinterpretation of Romantic clichés, and his overt defiance of the boundaries of poetry and beauty, Bertrand emerges as a fascinating figure in his own right. This book is one of the first full-length studies of Bertrand's work, and it will be of particular interest to specialists of the nineteenth century and of provincial literature, and to students of nineteenth-century poetry or the fantastic.

Valentina Gosetti holds the Kathleen Bourne Junior Research Fellowship at St Anne's College, University of Oxford.
The Poetry of Ernest Jones
By Simon Rennie

As the last leader of the Chartist movement, Ernest Charles Jones (1819-69) is a significant historical figure, but he is just as well-known for his political verse. His prison-composed epic The New World lays claim to being the first poetic exploration of Marxist historical materialism, and his caustic short lyric 'The Song of the Low' appears in most modern anthologies of Victorian poetry. Despite the prominence of Jones's verse in Labour history circles, and several major inclusions in critical discussions of working-class Victorian literature, this volume represents the first full-length study of his poetry. Through close analysis and careful contextualization, this work traces Jones's poetic development from his early German and British Romantic influences through his radicalization, imprisonment, and years of leadership. The poetry of this complex and controversial figure is here fully mapped for the first time.

About the Author:
Simon Rennie teaches English literature at universities across the North of England.
The Baby Book
By Robin Silbergleid

At twenty-seven, Robin Silbergleid decided to become a single mother by choice; The Baby Book depicts her long struggle to build her family through assisted reproductive technology. It is a bold, multi-voiced narrative of reproductive choice, including infertility treatment, recurrent miscarriage, and high-risk pregnancy.

The Baby Book will be of interest to readers of poetry, women, people interested in reproductive rights, fertility patients and their doctors, and women who have experienced pregnancy loss.
The Japan and India Journals, 1960–1964
By Joanne Kyger

First published in 1981, The Japan and India Journals, 1960 - 1964 is Joanne Kyger's journal of her four tumultuous years in Japan and India as a young poet in her late twenties. This book chronicles her developing poetic sensibility, emergent Buddhist practice, and what it meant to be a woman trying to write in pre-feminist Beat days. Attentive, witty, and always entertaining, this is poet's prose at its best.
Sorrows of the Warrior Class
By Raza Ali Hasan

"Once at home in Pakistan, now nested in Colorado, Ali Hasan writes in newsreel cuneiform. His poetry tastes of fast foods and ancient feasts, his language is spiced with moral and political ginger. Or you might say his proven experimental poetry written out of necessity allows him to survive in the academy of broken hearts and letters. His poetry and learning come out of texts and battles, lost and won, and march from state to state. Somehow, mysteriously, Ali Hasan's poetry is informed by love he never speaks of. How can an eagle sing like a nightingale? How can a raptor protect the reader with his wing?" - Stanley Moss

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Divemaster
By Laurence Lieberman

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David Sylvian as a Philosopher
By Leonardo Vittorio Arena

David Sylvian may be seen as a philosopher, accordingly to the postmodern spirit, who invalidates identity, while preserving it at the level of "non-sound", in a troubled relationship between the ego and the others. His most recent songs have been analysed, as well as the lyrics and Sylvian's way of life. Music is the goal of a path of self-realization, which brought Sylvian to conceive a new view of arrangement, increasingly deprived of its frills and capable of magnifying his voice, which that it is uncontainable. Sylvian shows everybody that silence may become an integral part of music towards nonsense, or the recovery of existential nudity.

About the Author:
Leonardo Vittorio Arena teaches History of Contemporary Philosophy and Philosophies of the Far East at the University of Urbino (Italy).