

**SUMMER  
2023**

**BASIC  
BOOKS**

**WITH  
SEAL PRESS**

Renowned publisher of serious nonfiction  
by leading intellectuals, scholars, and journalists

# BASIC BOOKS

*with* SEAL PRESS

## SUMMER 2023

### NEW TITLES

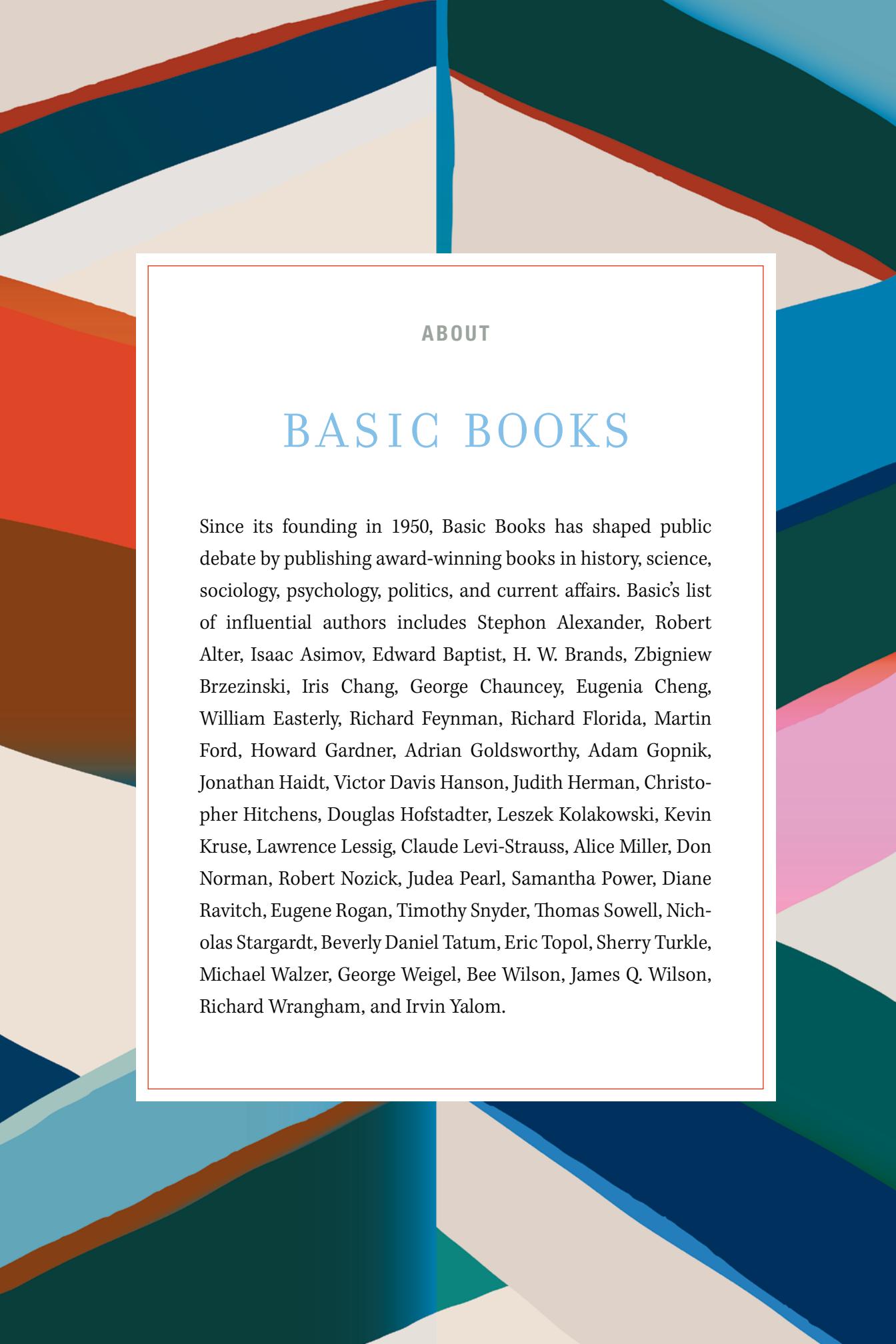
ABOUT BASIC BOOKS .....	2
NEW HARDCOVERS .....	3
NEW IN PAPERBACK .....	13
UPDATED EDITION .....	15
SEAL PRESS .....	16
MEET THE EDITORS .....	22

For Review Copies of Titles Please Contact

**LIZ WETZEL**

212.364.0661 • [liz.wetzel@hbgusa.com](mailto:liz.wetzel@hbgusa.com)

COVER DESIGN: CHIN-YEE LAI  
IMAGES © FRAN\_KIE / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM  
© MURRIRA / SHUTTERSTOCK.COM



## ABOUT

# BASIC BOOKS

Since its founding in 1950, Basic Books has shaped public debate by publishing award-winning books in history, science, sociology, psychology, politics, and current affairs. Basic's list of influential authors includes Stephon Alexander, Robert Alter, Isaac Asimov, Edward Baptist, H. W. Brands, Zbigniew Brzezinski, Iris Chang, George Chauncey, Eugenia Cheng, William Easterly, Richard Feynman, Richard Florida, Martin Ford, Howard Gardner, Adrian Goldsworthy, Adam Gopnik, Jonathan Haidt, Victor Davis Hanson, Judith Herman, Christopher Hitchens, Douglas Hofstadter, Leszek Kolakowski, Kevin Kruse, Lawrence Lessig, Claude Levi-Strauss, Alice Miller, Don Norman, Robert Nozick, Judea Pearl, Samantha Power, Diane Ravitch, Eugene Rogan, Timothy Snyder, Thomas Sowell, Nicholas Stargardt, Beverly Daniel Tatum, Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Michael Walzer, George Weigel, Bee Wilson, James Q. Wilson, Richard Wrangham, and Irvin Yalom.

# ELIZABETH CURRID-HALKETT

## THE OVERLOOKED AMERICANS

*The Resilience of Our Rural Towns and What It Means for Our Country*

The United States appears to be deeply divided. Journalists have painted a portrait of an enraged America, where poor, conservative small towns are at war with affluent, progressive cities. In fact, the nation is less divided by geography than many think.

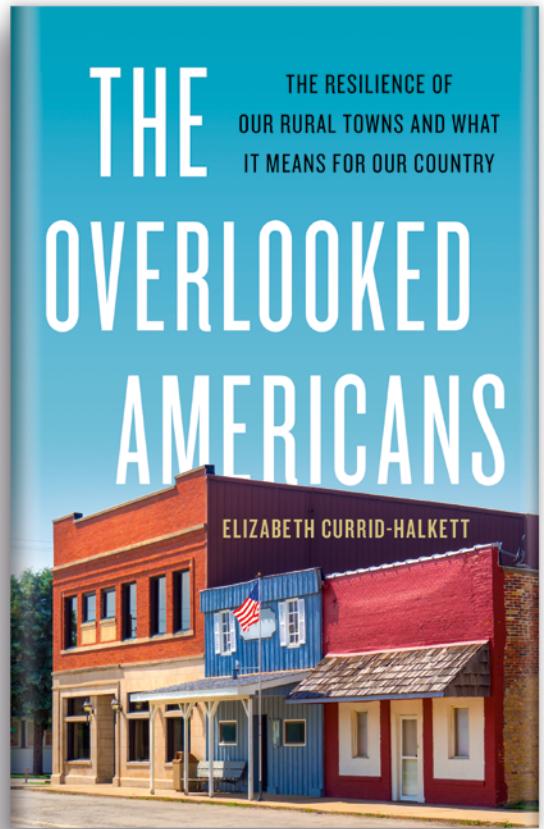
In *The Overlooked Americans*, public policy expert Elizabeth Currid-Halkett breaks through stereotypes about rural America. She traces how small towns are doing as well as, or better than, cities by many measures. She also shows how rural and urban Americans share core values, from opposing racism and upholding environmentalism to believing in democracy. When we focus too heavily on the far-right fringe, we overlook the millions of rural Americans who are content with their lives.

A rigorous debunking of the conventional wisdom about America's urban-rural divide, *The Overlooked Americans* offers an urgent call for Americans to reconnect with one another.



**ELIZABETH CURRID-HALKETT** is the James Irvine Chair in Urban and Regional Planning and professor of public policy at the University of

Southern California. She holds the Kluge Chair in Modern Culture at the Library of Congress. The author of three previous books, she lives in Los Angeles, California.



**How small-town America's surprising success reshapes our understanding of the nation's urban-rural divide**

**NEW HARDCOVER • JUNE**

Social Science • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 448 pages

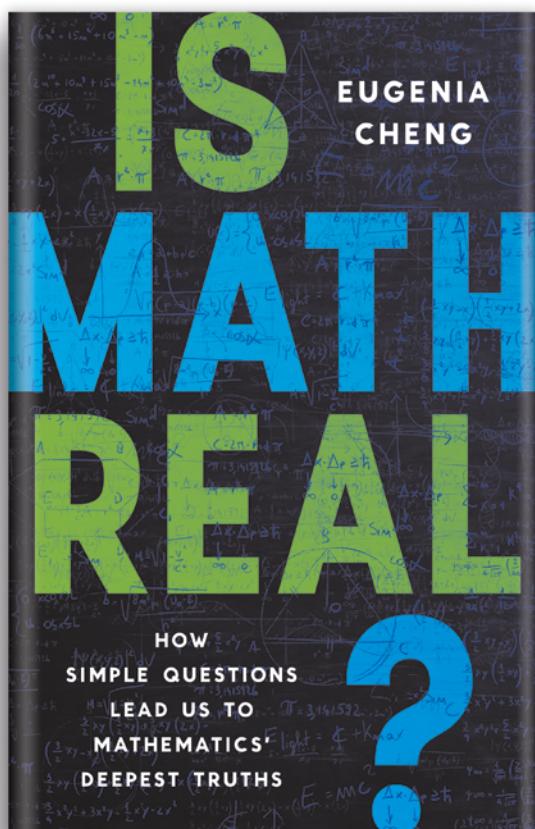
Forty-one figures and three tables

**978-1-5416-4672-8**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4671-1

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Deborah Farnault



**One of the world's most creative mathematicians offers a new way to look at math—focusing on questions, not answers**

**NEW HARDCOVER • AUGUST**

Mathematics • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 336 pages

**978-1-5416-0182-6**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0184-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Charlie Round-Turner

## EUGENIA CHENG

### IS MATH REAL?

*How Simple Questions Lead Us to Mathematics' Deepest Truths*

Where do we learn math: From rules in a textbook? From logic and deduction? Not really, according to mathematician Eugenia Cheng; we learn it from human curiosity—most importantly, from asking questions. This may come as a surprise to those who think that math is about finding the one right answer, or those who were told that the “dumb” question they asked just proved they were bad at math. But Cheng shows why people who ask questions like “Why does  $1 + 1 = 2$ ?” are at the very heart of the search for mathematical truth.

*Is Math Real?* is a much-needed repudiation of the rigid ways we're taught to do math, and a celebration of the true, curious spirit of the discipline. Written with intelligence and passion, *Is Math Real?* brings us math as we've never seen it before, revealing how profound insights can emerge from seemingly unlikely sources.



**EUGENIA CHENG** is a mathematician, educator, author, public speaker, columnist, concert pianist, and artist.

She is scientist in residence at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago. Cheng is the author of *x + y*, *How to Bake Pi*, *Beyond Infinity*, and *The Art of Logic in an Illogical World*. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.

# CARA FITZPATRICK

## THE DEATH OF PUBLIC SCHOOL

*How Conservatives Won the War over Education in America*

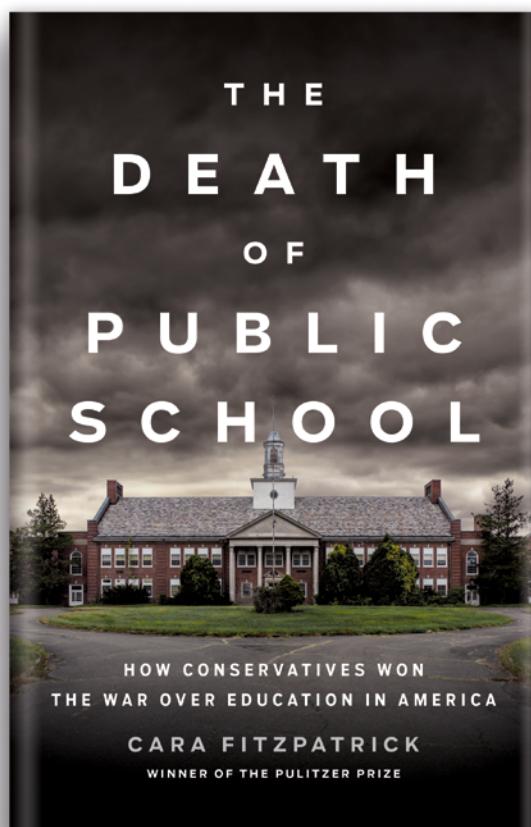
America has relied on public schools for 150 years, but the system is increasingly under attack. With declining enrollment and diminished trust in public education, policies that steer tax dollars into private schools have grown rapidly. To understand how we got here, *The Death of Public School* argues, we must look back at the turbulent history of school choice.

Cara Fitzpatrick uncovers the long journey of school choice, a story full of fascinating people and strange political alliances. She shows how school choice evolved from a segregationist tool in the South in the 1950s, to a policy embraced by advocates for educational equity in the North, to a conservative strategy for securing government funds for private schools in the twenty-first century. As a result, education is poised to become a private commodity rather than a universal good.

*The Death of Public School* presents the compelling history of the fiercest battle in the history of American education—one that already has changed the future of public schooling.



**CARA FITZPATRICK** is an editor at Chalkbeat. She won the Pulitzer Prize for Local Reporting in 2016 for a series about school segregation. Fitzpatrick lives in New York City with her husband and children.



**A Pulitzer Prize–winning journalist shows how conservatives have pushed for a revolution in public education—one that threatens the existence of the traditional public school**

### NEW HARDCOVER • AUGUST

History / Education • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

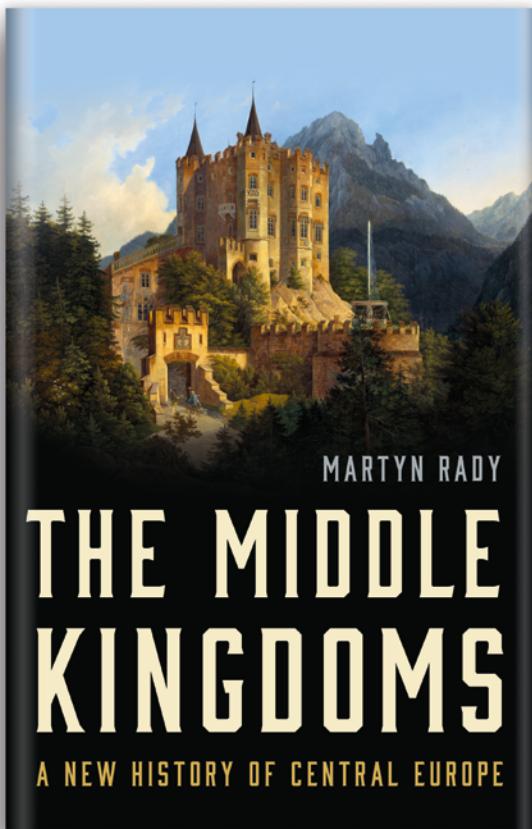
6 x 9¼ • 368 pages

**978-1-5416-4677-3**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-4678-0

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Dirk Shadd



**An essential new history of Central Europe, the contested lands so often at the heart of world history**

---

**NEW HARDCOVER • MAY**

History • \$36.00 / \$46.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 640 pages

Ten black-and-white maps

**978-1-5416-1978-4**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1977-7

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Mike Avery

# MARTYN RADY

## THE MIDDLE KINGDOMS

*A New History of Central Europe*

Central Europe has long been infamous as a region beset by war, a place where empires clashed and world wars began. In *The Middle Kingdoms*, Martyn Rady offers the definitive history of the region, demonstrating that Central Europe has always been more than merely the fault line between West and East. Even as Central European powers warred with their neighbors, the region developed its own cohesive identity and produced tremendous accomplishments in politics, society, and culture. Central Europeans launched the Reformation and Romanticism, developed the philosophy of the Renaissance and the Enlightenment, and advanced some of the twentieth century's most important artistic movements.

Drawing on a lifetime of research and scholarship, *The Middle Kingdoms* tells as never before the captivating story of two thousand years of Central Europe's history and its enduring significance in world affairs.



**MARTYN RADY** is Masaryk Professor Emeritus of Central European History at University College London. A leading expert on Central Europe, he is

the author of *The Habsburgs: To Rule the World*, *The Habsburg Empire: A Very Short Introduction*, and other books on Hungarian, German, and Romanian history. He lives in Kent, UK.

# ALFONSO MARTINEZ ARIAS

## THE MASTER BUILDER

*How the New Science of the Cell  
Is Rewriting the Story of Life*

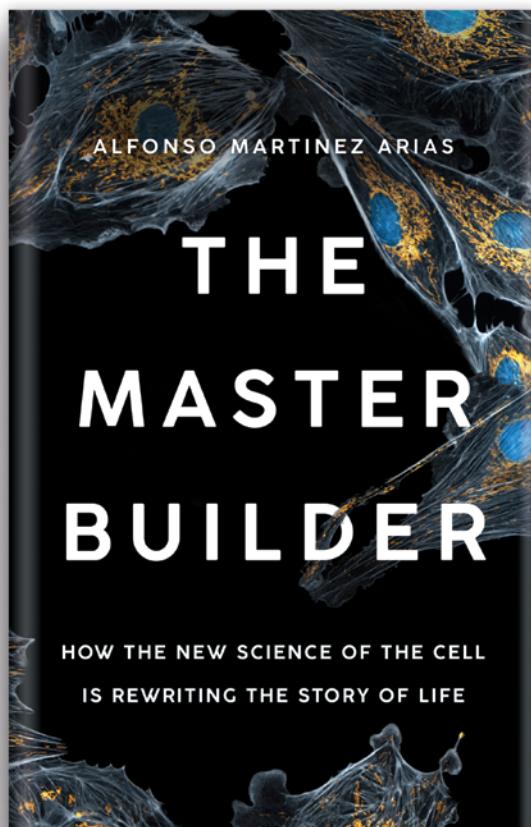
What defines who we are? For decades, the answer has seemed obvious: our genes, the “blueprint of life.” In *The Master Builder*, biologist Alfonso Martinez Arias argues we’ve been missing the bigger picture. It’s not our genes that define who we are, but our cells. While genes are important, nothing in our DNA explains why the heart is on the left side of the body, how many fingers we have, or even how our cells manage to reproduce. Drawing on new research from his own lab and others, Martinez Arias reveals that we are composed of a thrillingly intricate, constantly moving symphony of cells. Both their long lineage—stretching back to the very first cell—and their complex interactions within our bodies today make us who we are.

Engaging and ambitious, *The Master Builder* will transform your understanding of our past, present, and future—as individuals and as a species.



**ALFONSO MARTINEZ ARIAS** is ICREA Research Professor in the department of systems bioengineering of the Universitat Pompeu

Fabra in Barcelona. The recipient of numerous awards, he is coauthor of the biology textbook *Principles of Development*, which was awarded the Royal Society of Biology book prize. He lives in Barcelona, Spain.



**A leading developmental biologist argues that cells, not DNA, hold the key to understanding life’s past and present**

**NEW HARDCOVER • AUGUST**

Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

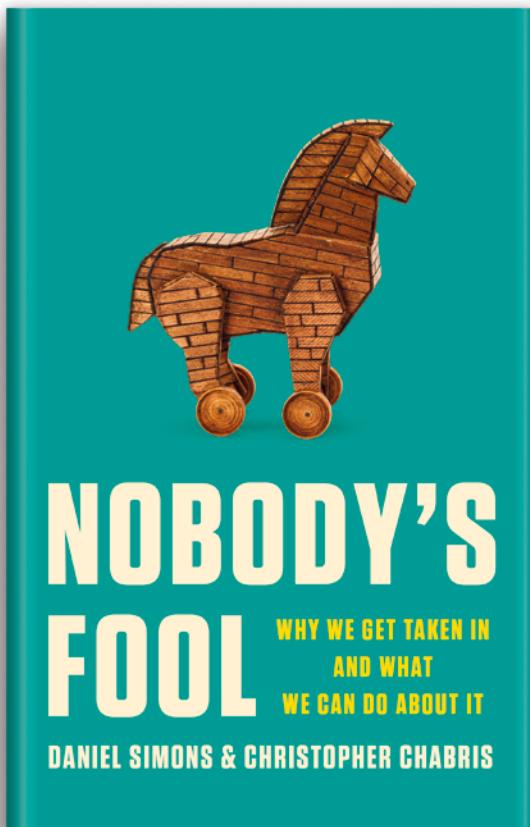
6 x 9¼ • 336 pages

**978-1-5416-0327-1**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0328-8

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Frederic Camallonga, ICREA



**Two *New York Times*–bestselling psychologists explain the science of cons—and how we can avoid them**

---

**NEW HARDCOVER • JULY**

Business / Psychology • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 336 pages

**978-1-5416-0223-6**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0224-3

Selling Territory: USC

Author photos: Simons © Shannon Slifer;

Chabris © Josiah Lewis

## DANIEL SIMONS *and* CHRISTOPHER CHABRIS

### NOBODY'S FOOL

*Why We Get Taken In and  
What We Can Do About It*

From phishing scams to Ponzi schemes, fraudulent science to fake art, and marketers to magicians, our world brims with deception. In *Nobody's Fool*, psychologists Daniel Simons and Christopher Chabris show us how to avoid being taken in. They explain four key patterns of thinking and reasoning that make us vulnerable, like our tendencies to trust what we see and overvalue our commitments. And they identify four warning signs that can help you spot deception before it's too late. Each chapter describes scams you've never heard of, and takes a fresh look at some you have, to illustrate the underlying science of deception. Simons and Chabris provide memorable maxims and practical tools you can use to avoid being fooled.

Highly informative and entertaining, *Nobody's Fool* will protect us from charlatans in all their forms—and delight us along the way.



**DANIEL SIMONS** is a professor in the department of psychology at the University of Illinois, where he directs the Visual Cognition Laboratory. He lives in Champaign, Illinois.



**CHRISTOPHER CHABRIS** is a cognitive scientist who has taught at Union College and Harvard University. He lives in Lewisburg, Pennsylvania.

# SUSAN GOLDIN-MEADOW

## THINKING WITH YOUR HANDS

*The Surprising Science Behind  
How Gestures Shape Our Thoughts*

**W**e all know people who talk with their hands—but do they know what they're saying with them? Our gestures can reveal and contradict us, and express thoughts we may not even know we're thinking.

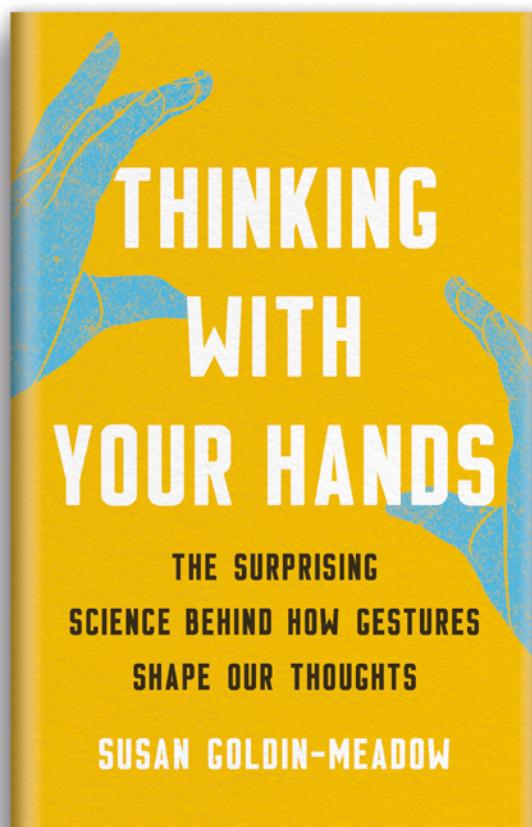
In *Thinking with Your Hands*, esteemed cognitive psychologist Susan Goldin-Meadow argues that gesture is vital to how we think, learn, and communicate. She shows us, for instance, how the height of our gestures can reveal unconscious bias, or how the shape of a student's gestures can track their mastery of a new concept—even when they're still giving wrong answers. She compels us to rethink everything from how we set child development milestones, to what's admissible in a court of law, to whether Zoom is an adequate substitute for in-person conversation.

Sweeping and ambitious, *Thinking with Your Hands* promises to transform the way we think about language and communication.



### SUSAN GOLDIN-MEADOW

is the Beardsley Ruml Distinguished Service Professor in the department of psychology and committee on human development at the University of Chicago. Winner of the 2021 Rumelhart Prize in cognitive science, she is a member of the National Academy of Sciences and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. She lives in Chicago, Illinois.



**An eminent psychologist argues  
that gesture, long overlooked, is  
essential to how we think**

---

#### NEW HARDCOVER • JUNE

Psychology • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

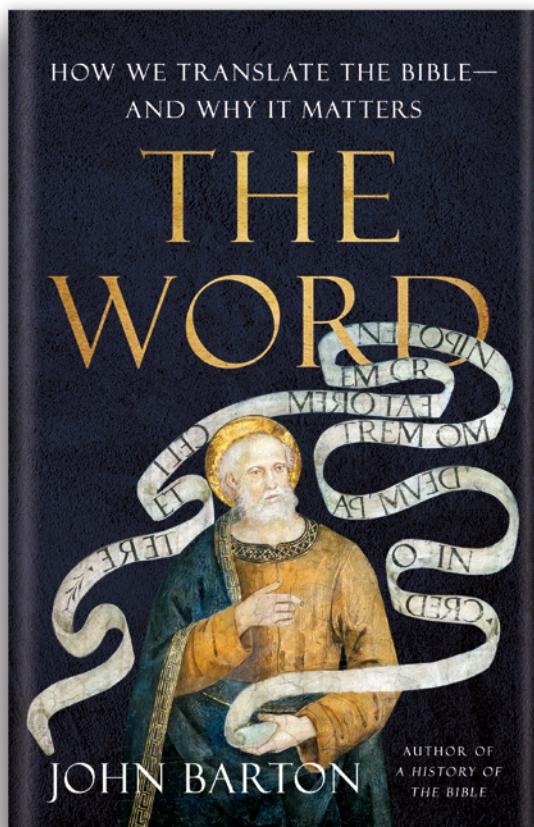
6 x 9¼ • 272 pages

**978-1-5416-0080-5**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0065-2

Selling Territory: W

Author photo © Rob Kozloff / University of Chicago



**From a distinguished Oxford scholar and the author of *A History of the Bible*, an examination of how biblical translation has shaped not only how we read the Bible but our conception of faith itself**

---

**NEW HARDCOVER • MAY**

Religion • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 368 pages

**978-1-5416-0368-4**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0369-1

Selling Territory: USC

Author Photo Courtesy of the Author

# JOHN BARTON

## THE WORD

*How We Translate the Bible—  
and Why It Matters*

**T**hroughout history, most Jewish and Christian believers have understood scripture not in the languages in which it was first written but rather in their own—in translation. In *The Word*, acclaimed Bible scholar John Barton explores how saints and scholars have negotiated the profound challenges of translating the Bible while remaining faithful to the original. In addition to considering questions of literal versus free translation, literary style, inclusive language, and more, Barton draws out scriptural translation's role at critical junctures in religious history. Far from a mere academic exercise, biblical translation has shaped how we answer faith's most enduring questions about the nature of God, the existence of the soul, and the possibility of salvation.



**JOHN BARTON** was Oriel and Laing Professor of the Interpretation of Holy Scripture at the University of Oxford from 1991 to 2014. He is coeditor of *The Oxford Bible Commentary*, and his previous book *A History of the Bible* won the Duff Cooper Prize for nonfiction. A priest in the Church of England, Barton lives in Abingdon, UK.

# STEPHEN VLADECK

## THE SHADOW DOCKET

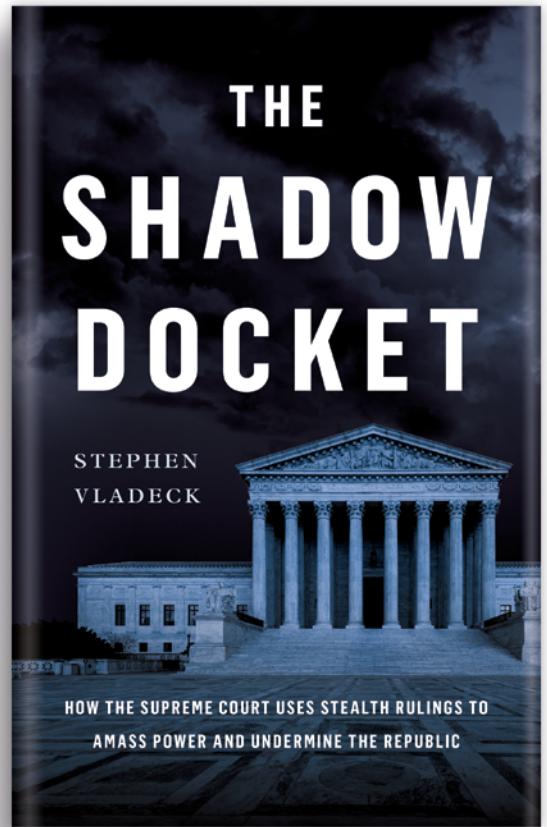
*How the Supreme Court Uses  
Stealth Rulings to Amass Power  
and Undermine the Republic*

The Supreme Court has always had the authority to issue emergency rulings in exceptional circumstances. But since 2017, the Court has dramatically expanded its use of the behind-the-scenes “shadow docket,” regularly making decisions that affect millions of Americans without public hearings and without explanation, through cryptic late-night rulings that leave lawyers—and citizens—scrambling.

The Court’s conservative majority has used the shadow docket to green-light restrictive voting laws and bans on abortion, and to curtail immigration and COVID vaccine mandates. But Americans of all political stripes should be worried about what the shadow docket portends for the rule of law, argues Supreme Court expert Stephen Vladeck. In this rigorous yet accessible book, he issues an urgent call to bring the Court back into the light.



**STEPHEN VLADECK** holds the Charles Alan Wright Chair in Federal Courts at the University of Texas School of Law. His work has been published in the *New York Times*, the *Los Angeles Times*, and *Slate*. He has argued before the Supreme Court and has been CNN’s Supreme Court analyst since 2013. Vladeck lives in Austin, Texas.



**An acclaimed legal scholar exposes  
the Supreme Court’s increasing use of  
unsigned, unexplained orders to change  
the law—all behind closed doors**

---

### NEW HARDCOVER • MAY

Politics • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 352 pages

**978-1-5416-0263-2**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0264-9

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Brian Birzer / University of Texas  
School of Law



**How Germany's fledgling democracy nearly collapsed in 1923—and how pro-democracy forces fought back**

**NEW HARDCOVER • AUGUST**

History • \$32.00 / \$40.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 352 pages

Twenty-four black-and-white illustrations

**978-1-5416-0020-1**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0021-8

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Mark William Jones

# MARK WILLIAM JONES

1923

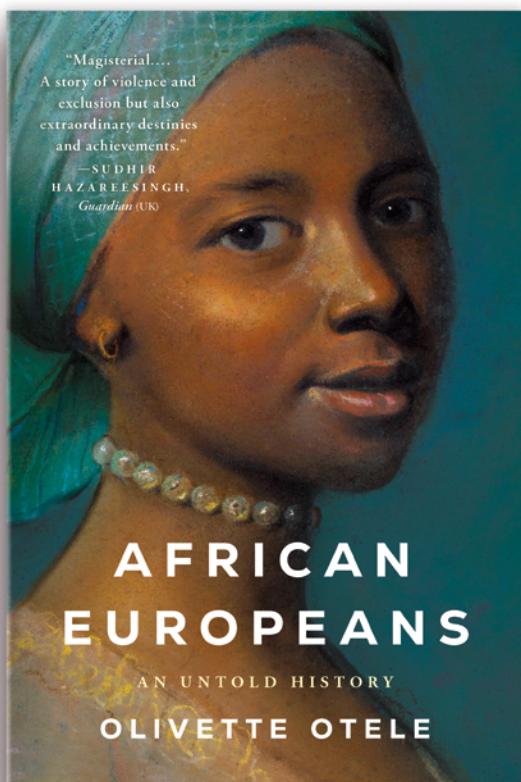
*The Crisis of German Democracy  
in the Year of Hitler's Putsch*

In 1923, the Weimar Republic faced a series of crises, including foreign occupation of its industrial heartland, rampant inflation, radical violence, and finally Hitler's infamous "beer hall putsch." Fanning the flames of anti-government and antisemitic sentiment, the Nazis tried to violently seize power in Munich, only failing after they were abandoned by like-minded conservatives.

In *1923*, historian Mark William Jones draws on new research to offer a revealing portrait of German politics and society in this turbulent year. Tracing Hitler's early rise, Jones shows how political pragmatism and unprecedented international cooperation with the West brought Germany out of its crisis year. Although Germany would succumb to tyranny a decade later, the story of the republic's survival in 1923 offers essential lessons to anyone concerned about the future of democracy today.



**MARK WILLIAM JONES** is assistant professor in history at University College Dublin. He holds a PhD from the European University Institute in Florence, Italy. The author of *Founding Weimar: Violence and the German Revolution of 1918–1919*, he lives in Dublin, Ireland.



## OLIVETTE OTELE

AFRICAN EUROPEANS

*An Untold History*

A FINALIST FOR THE *LOS ANGELES TIMES*  
BOOK PRIZE IN HISTORY

A dazzling history of Africans in Europe,  
“masterfully” (*Smithsonian*) revealing their  
unacknowledged role in shaping the continent

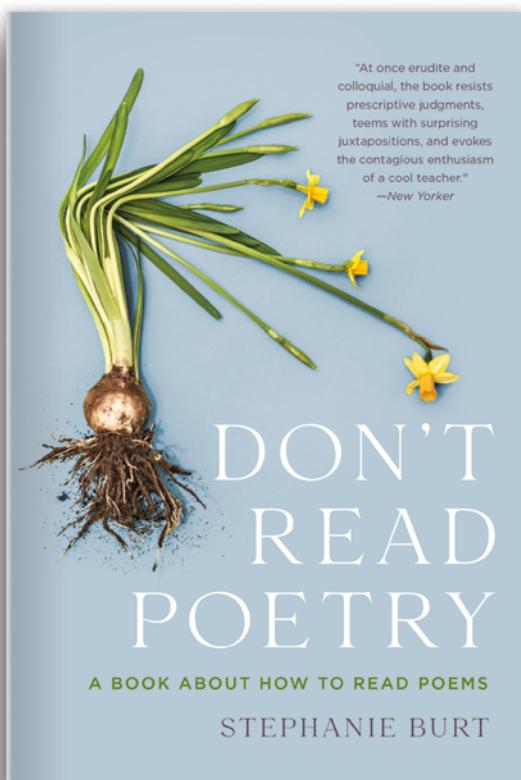
NEW PAPERBACK • AUGUST

History • \$18.99 / \$21.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 304 pages

978-1-5416-1992-0

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1993-7



## STEPHANIE BURT

DON'T READ POETRY

*A Book About How to Read Poems*

“At once erudite and colloquial”  
(*New Yorker*), this book provides  
an accessible introduction to the joys  
and challenges of poetry

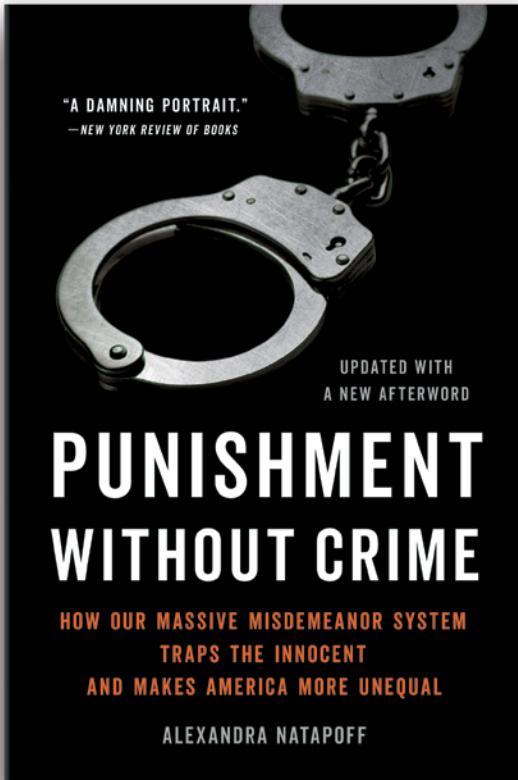
NEW PAPERBACK • MAY

Literary Criticism • \$18.99 / \$23.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 320 pages

978-1-5416-0361-5

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09451-6



## ALEXANDRA NATAPOFF

### PUNISHMENT WITHOUT CRIME

*How Our Massive Misdemeanor System Traps the Innocent and Makes America More Unequal*

From a prize-winning Harvard legal scholar, “a damning portrait” (*New York Review of Books*) of the misdemeanor machine that unjustly brands millions of Americans as criminals

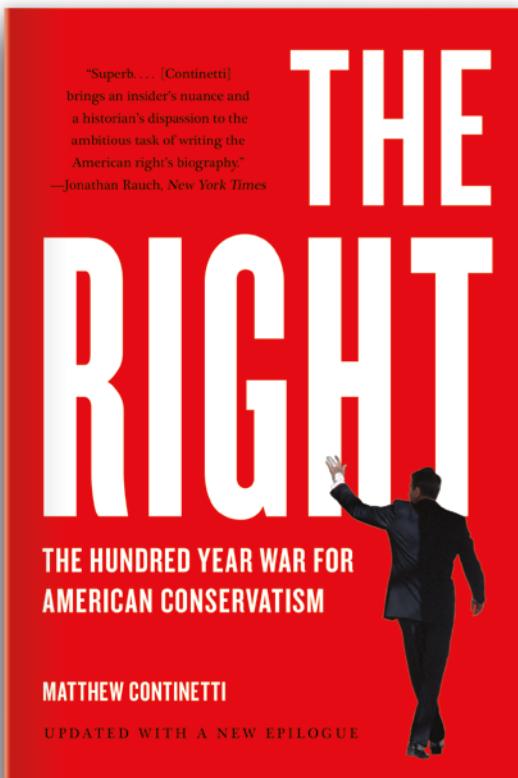
NEW PAPERBACK • MAY

Law • \$19.99 / \$24.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 352 pages • Three black-and-white tables

978-1-5416-0360-8

E-BOOK 978-0-465-09380-9



## MATTHEW CONTINETTI

### THE RIGHT

*The Hundred-Year War for American Conservatism*

A “superb” and “ambitious” (*New York Times*) intellectual and political history of the last century of American conservatism

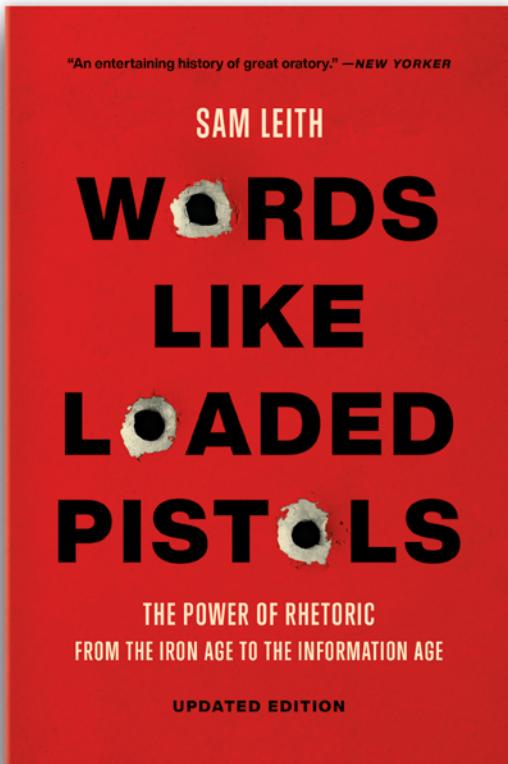
NEW PAPERBACK • MAY

History • \$19.99 / \$24.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 496 pages

978-1-5416-0051-5

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0052-2



**“An entertaining history of great oratory”  
(*New Yorker*) and a primer  
to rhetoric’s key techniques**

**PAPERBACK REISSUE • MAY**

Politics / Language • \$19.99 / \$24.99 CAN

5½ x 8¼ • 368 pages

**978-1-5416-0373-8**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0374-5

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Alice Bowden

# SAM LEITH

## WORDS LIKE LOADED PISTOLS

*The Power of Rhetoric from  
the Iron Age to the Information Age*

Rhetoric gives our words the power to inspire. But it’s not just for politicians: it’s all around us, whether you’re buttering up a key client or persuading your children to eat their vegetables. You have been using rhetoric yourself, all your life. After all, you know what a rhetorical question is, don’t you?

In *Words Like Loaded Pistols*, Sam Leith traces the art of argument from ancient Greece through the present day. He introduces verbal villains from Hitler to Donald Trump—and the three musketeers: ethos, pathos, and logos. He explains how rhetoric works in speeches from Cicero to Zelensky and pays tribute to the rhetorical brilliance of AC/DC’s “Back in Black.” Before you know it, you’ll be confident in chiasmus and proud of your panegyrics—because rhetoric is useful, relevant, and crucial to understanding the world around us.



**SAM LEITH** is the literary editor of the *Spectator* and a columnist for the *Financial Times* whose work has appeared in the *Times*, the *Guardian*, the *TLS*, and the *New York Times*, among other outlets. He is the author of several books, including *Write to the Point: How to Be Clear, Correct, and Persuasive on the Page*. He lives in London.

## ABOUT



Seal Press was founded in 1976 and stands as one of the most enduring feminist publishing houses to emerge from the women's press movement of the 1970s. What began as a letterpress in a Seattle garage has grown to an award-winning publishing house in New York and an imprint of Hachette, the third largest publisher in the world. Seal's list is devoted to groundbreaking, boldly conceived books that inspire and challenge readers, lift up original voices, and imagine a better future. Publishing highlights include Ijeoma Oluo's *So You Want to Talk About Race*, Julia Serano's *Whipping Girl*, Michelle Tea's *Valencia*, Minda Harts's *The Memo*, and Susan Stryker's *Transgender History*.

# EMILY KENWAY

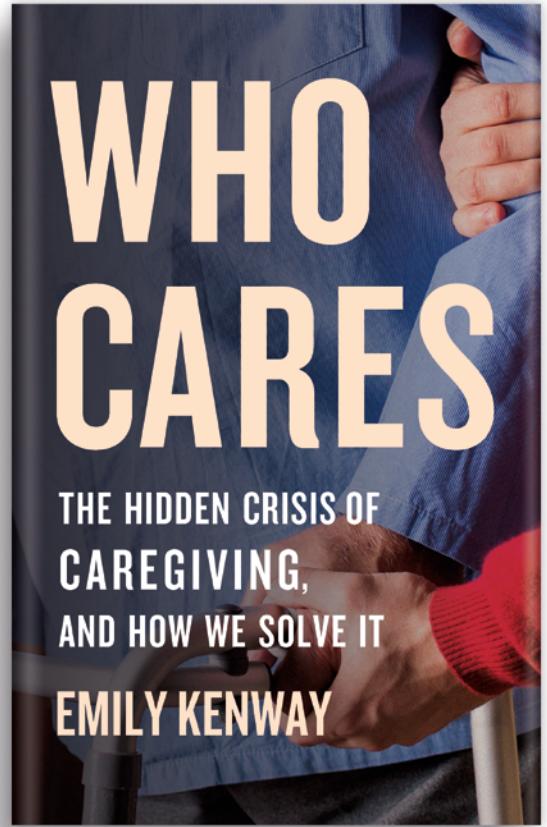
## WHO CARES

*The Hidden Crisis of Caregiving,  
and How We Solve It*

When Emily Kenway became the primary caregiver for her terminally ill mother, her life was changed forever. Although she was lonely, she was far from alone: millions of caregivers all around the world are silently suffering from poverty, isolation, and burnout. In *Who Cares*, Kenway brings the caregiving crisis into the light. Blending expert research with insights from her own experience, Kenway shows us that building a world that cares for its caregivers requires us to fundamentally reimagine the role of care in our society, bringing it from the margins to the center of our collective life.



**EMILY KENWAY** is a writer and activist with a background in labor policy. The author of *The Truth About Modern Slavery*, she writes regularly for international publications. She is a PhD scholar in social policy at the University of Edinburgh, where she also resides.



**An intimate investigation of unpaid caregiving and a call for us all to put care at the center of our lives**

---

### NEW HARDCOVER • MAY

Social Science • \$29.00 / \$37.00 CAN

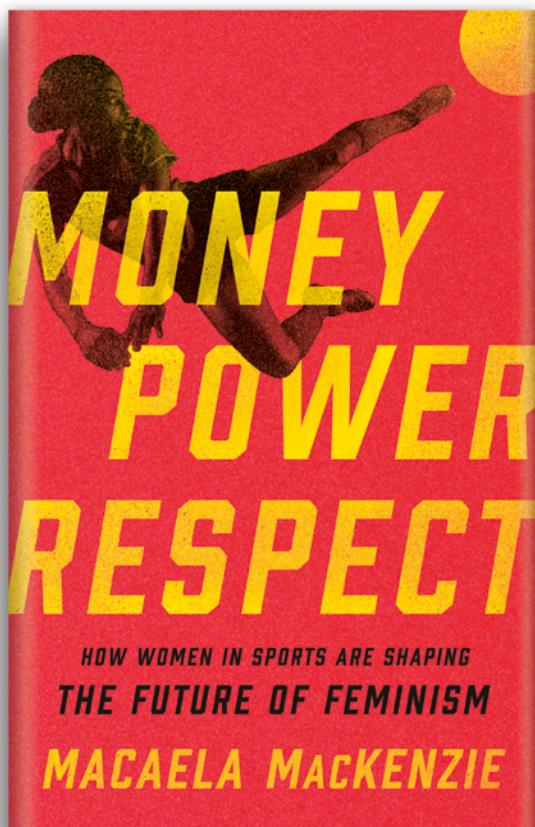
6 x 9¼ • 304 pages

**978-1-5416-0122-2**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0123-9

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Kirill Koslov



**An inside look at how women athletes  
are leading the fight for equality—  
on and off the field**

---

**NEW HARDCOVER • JUNE**

Sports • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 320 pages

**978-1-5416-0089-8**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0090-4

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Ashley Batz

# MACAELA MacKENZIE

## MONEY, POWER, RESPECT

*How Women in Sports Are Shaping  
the Future of Feminism*

W omen's sports receive a fraction of the airtime allotted for men's sports, as well as a fraction of the marketing dollars, media coverage, and training resources. But while misogyny in sports is particularly visible, it's not unique. Women athletes face the same sexist barriers found in all career fields: the motherhood penalty, transphobia and misogynoir, underpromotion, and more.

Drawing on exclusive interviews with prominent athletes—including Allyson Felix, Megan Rapinoe, and Billie Jean King—journalist Macaela MacKenzie shows how women in sports are fighting back against the myth that women aren't as skilled, competitive, or capable of generating revenue as men. And as they push for the same things all women want in their careers—money, power, and respect—their wins are showing the rest of us what's possible in the fight for equality.



### MACAELA MacKENZIE

is a journalist covering women's equality. Her work focuses on sports, the gender gap, and women's health and has appeared in publications including *Glamour*, *Elle*, *Self*, *Forbes*, *Marie Claire*, *Allure*, and *Bustle*. She lives in Connecticut.

# ALLISON YARROW

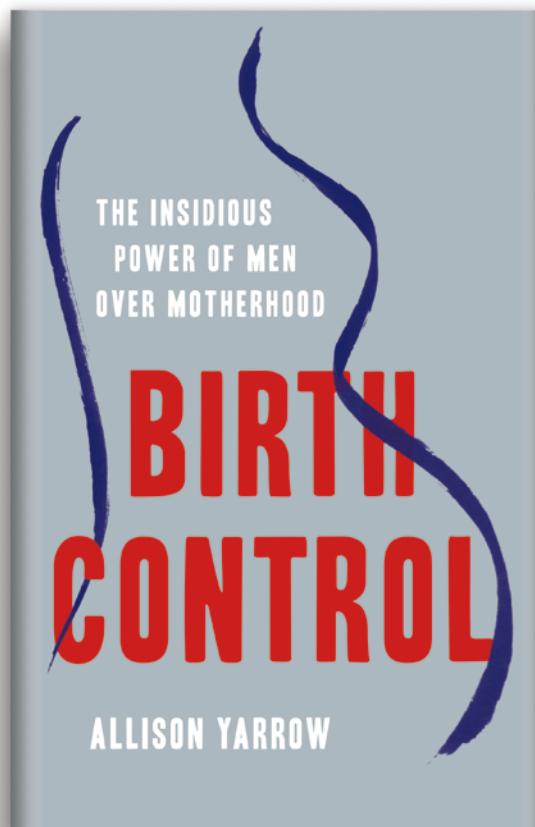
## BIRTH CONTROL

*The Insidious Power of Men  
over Motherhood*

Modern medicine should make childbirth safer for all. But in her years of in-depth reporting on pregnancy and birth, Allison Yarrow has found that this is far from the case. Starting in the nineteenth century and continuing to this day, women have been steamrolled by a male-dominated medical establishment that has convinced itself, and most everyone, that pregnancy is a crisis only it can “solve.” Drawing on extensive reporting, research, expert interviews, original survey data, and personal narrative, Yarrow reveals how misogyny shapes every aspect of pregnancy and childbirth. She then shows a better way, probing both cutting-edge and age-old solutions that restore control of birth to birthing people. Full of surprising insights and heartfelt emotion, *Birth Control* is an explosive call to action.



**ALLISON YARROW** is an award-winning journalist, speaker, and author of *90s Bitch*. She has written for publications including the *New York Times* and the *Washington Post*, was a National Magazine Award finalist, and has appeared on the TED stage and the *Today* show. She lives with her family in Brooklyn, New York.



**A shocking, revelatory account  
of the dangerous misogyny that  
permeates pregnancy, birth, and  
early motherhood in America**

---

### NEW HARDCOVER • JULY

Women's Studies • \$29.00 / \$37.00 CAN

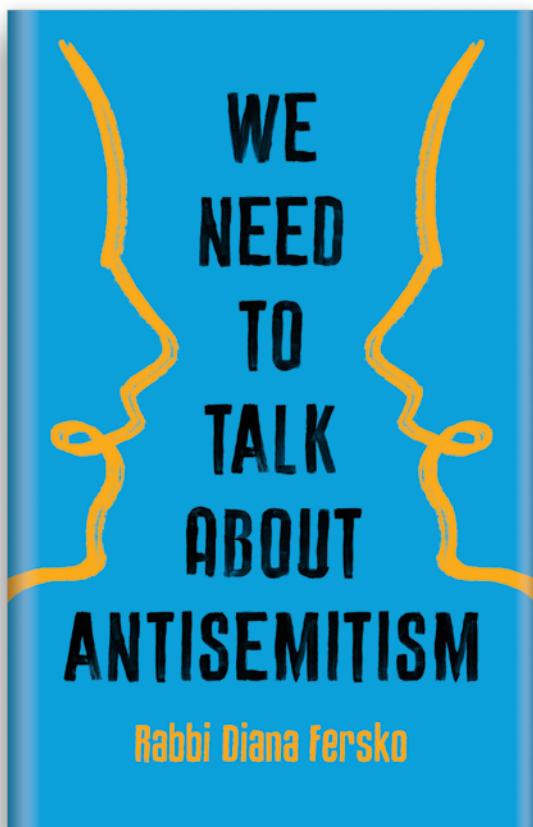
6 x 9¼ • 304 pages

**978-1-5416-1931-9**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-1932-6

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Kevin Abosch



**A millennial rabbi explores why we're reluctant to discuss antisemitism—and empowers us to fight against it**

---

**NEW HARDCOVER • AUGUST**

Social Science • \$30.00 / \$38.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 304 pages

**978-1-5416-0194-9**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0216-8

Selling Territory: USC

Author photo © Tyler Kenny

## RABBI DIANA FERSKO

### WE NEED TO TALK ABOUT ANTISEMITISM

Antisemitism is on the rise in America, in cities and rural areas, in red states and blue states, and in guises both subtle and terrifyingly overt. Rabbi Diana Fersko is used to having difficult conversations with members of her congregation about the issues they face—from the threat of violence to micro-aggressions and identity denial. In *We Need to Talk About Antisemitism*, she gives all of us the ultimate guide to modern antisemitism in its many forms.

Exploring topics like vile myths about Jewish people and the intersection of antisemitism with other forms of discrimination, *We Need to Talk About Antisemitism* gives readers the tools they need to understand the state of antisemitism today. Fersko shows Jews and non-Jews alike how to speak up and come together, spreading a message of solidarity and hope. This is a timely read for anyone passionate about fighting for social justice.



**RABBI DIANA FERSKO** is the Senior Rabbi at the Village Temple in Manhattan. She is the national vice president of the Women's Rabbinic Network and a member of the New York Board of Rabbis. Fersko has been profiled in the *New Yorker* and has been published in *HuffPost*. She lives in New York City.

# SOPHIE DUNCAN

## JULIET

*The Life and Afterlives of  
Shakespeare's First Tragic Heroine*

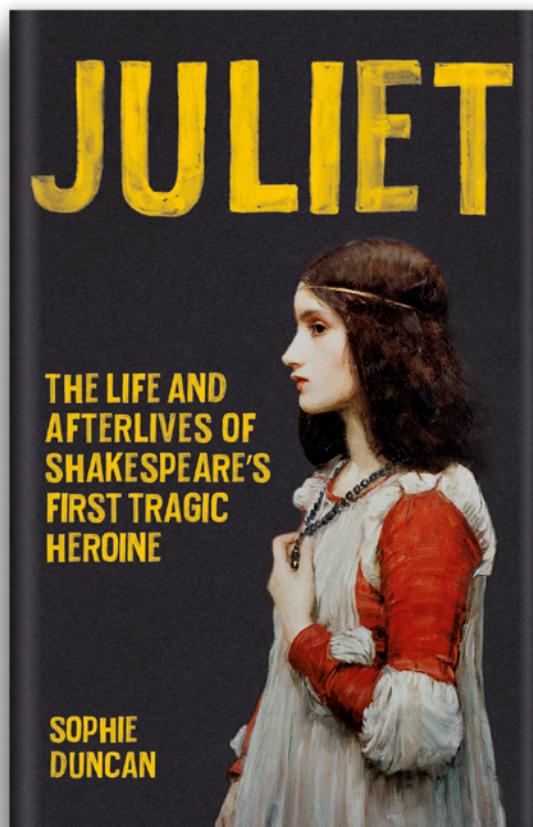
**R**omeo and Juliet may be the greatest love story ever told, but who is Juliet? Demure ingénue? Or dangerous Mediterranean madwoman? From tearstained copies of the First Folio to Civil War-era fanfiction, Shakespeare's star-crossed heroine has long captured our collective imagination.

*Juliet* is her story, traced across continents through centuries of history, theatre, and film. As Shakespeare scholar Sophie Duncan reveals, Juliet's legacy stretches beyond her literary lifespan into a cultural afterlife ranging from enslaved African girls in the British Caribbean to the real-life Juliets of sectarian violence in Bosnia and Belfast. She argues that our dangerous obsession with the beautiful dead girl and Juliet's meteoric rise as a defiant sexual icon have come to define the Western ideal of romance.

Wry and inventive, *Juliet* is a tribute to fiction's most famous teenage girl who may have died young, but who lives forever.



**SOPHIE DUNCAN** is research fellow and dean for welfare at Magdalen College, University of Oxford. She writes about Shakespeare and gender and has worked extensively in theatre and television as a historical adviser. She is the author of two books, including *Shakespeare's Women and the Fin de Siècle*. She lives in Oxford, UK.



**The enduring cultural legacy of  
Shakespeare's Juliet Capulet**

---

**NEW HARDCOVER • JUNE**

Cultural History • \$29.00 / \$37.00 CAN

6 x 9¼ • 320 pages

Twelve black-and-white halftones

**978-1-5416-0032-4**

E-BOOK 978-1-5416-0033-1

Selling Territory: USC

Author Photo Courtesy of the Author

---

## MEET THE EDITORS

---

### LARA HEIMERT

SVP, PUBLISHER

p: 212-364-0669

e: lara.heimert@hbgusa.com

Lara Heimert joined Basic Books in 2005. Previously, she was publisher of the trade division at Yale University Press. She has published numerous prize-winning and *New York Times* best-selling titles. Highlights include Edward Baptist's *The Half Has Never Been Told*, Eugene Rogan's *The Fall of the Ottomans*, Timothy Snyder's *Bloodlands*, Bee Wilson's *Consider the Fork*, Victor Davis Hanson's *The Dying Citizen*, Neil Price's *Children of Ash and Elm*, and Jason Riley's *Maverick*. A graduate of Princeton University, Lara acquires primarily in the field of history, broadly conceived—from world wars to marginalia, from culinary history to political theory, from diaspora to doodles.

### THOMAS KELLEHER

VP, ASSOCIATE PUBLISHER

p: 212-364-0657

e: thomas.kelleher@hbgusa.com

Thomas Kelleher joined Basic Books in 2009, and publishes predominantly in science, mathematics, and economics. He has published Eric Topol, Sherry Turkle, Edward Frenkel, Thor Hanson, Eugenia Cheng, and Leonard Susskind, among many others. Recent highlights include Azra Raza's *The First Cell*, Lucy Cooke's *Bitch*, William MacAskill's *What We Owe the Future*, Adam Becker's *What Is Real?*, Rob Dunn's *A Natural History of the Future*, and Sabine Hossenfelder's *Lost in Math*. He is also responsible for the publishing program surrounding *The Feynman Lectures on Physics*.

### BRIAN J. DISTELBERG

VP, EDITOR IN CHIEF

p: 212-364-0655

e: brian.distelberg@hbgusa.com

Brian J. Distelberg joined Basic Books in 2015 and acquires primarily in history. Books he has edited and published include Peniel Joseph's *The Third Reconstruction*, Martha Jones's *Vanguard*, Brad DeLong's *Slouching Towards Utopia*, Martyn Rady's *The Habsburgs*, Marc David Baer's *The Ottomans*, Walter Johnson's *The Broken Heart of America*, and Alice Baumgartner's *South to Freedom*. He also publishes a select number of books in politics; highlights include Jonathan Metzl's *Dying of Whiteness* and Jonathan Sacks's *Morality*. Brian worked previously at Harvard University Press and holds a PhD in US history from Yale University.

---

## MEET THE EDITORS

---

### EMILY TABER

EXECUTIVE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0656

e: emily.taber@hbgusa.com

Emily Taber joined Basic Books in 2022 and acquires primarily in economics and business. Before joining Basic, she was the economics, finance, and business editor at the MIT Press, where she published books by Ron Adner, Ngozi Okonjo-Iweala, Cass Sunstein, and Ruchika Tulshyan.

### EMMA BERRY

SENIOR EDITOR

p: 212-364-0542

e: emma.berry@hbgusa.com

Emma Berry joined Basic Books and Seal Press in 2020 and acquires in literary studies, law, psychology and medicine, and the social sciences, with a particular interest in feminism and queer studies. Books she has edited and published include Andrew Pettegree and Arthur der Weduwen's *The Library*, Nick Riggle's *This Beauty*, Jedediah Purdy's *Two Cheers for Politics*, Peggy O'Donnell Heffington's *Without Children*, and Stephen Vladeck's *The Shadow Docket*. Forthcoming acquisitions include June Thomas's untitled book on lesbian spaces. Before joining Basic, she was an editor at Crown, where she acquired and edited books including *The Whiteness of Wealth* by Dorothy Brown and *Let the Lord Sort Them* by Maurice Chammah.

### KYLE GIPSON

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0633

e: kyle.gipson@hbgusa.com

Kyle Gipson joined Basic Books in 2021 and primarily acquires in history, biography, and the social sciences, with a particular interest in African American studies, gender and sexuality studies, and social justice. Books he has edited include Dorothy Roberts's *Torn Apart*, Daniel Medwed's *Barred*, and Dan Berger's *Stayed on Freedom*. His forthcoming acquisitions include Tricia Rose's untitled book on systemic racism and Kali Gross's untitled book on vengeance feminism. Kyle worked previously at Johns Hopkins University Press, the MIT Press, and Beacon Press. He holds an MA in English from Harvard University, where his studies focused on African American literature.

---

## MEET THE EDITORS

---

### MARISSA KOORS

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0658

e: marissa.koors@hbgusa.com

Marissa Koors joined Basic Books in 2021, and acquires primarily in philosophy, literary studies, classics, and the social sciences, with additional interest in fashion history and internet culture. Books she has edited and published include Josiah Osgood's *Uncommon Wrath* and Kate Cooper's *Queens of a Fallen World*. Before joining Basic, she was the philosophy editor at Wiley Blackwell, an imprint of John Wiley and Sons, where she acquired and published books by Peter Singer, Peter Hacker, Ernest Sosa, Susan Schneider, Anthony Kenny, and Timothy Williamson.

### MICHAEL KALER

ASSOCIATE EDITOR

p: 212-364-0636

e: michael.kaler@hbgusa.com

Michael Kaler joined Basic Books in 2020, and acquires primarily in history and politics, with particular interests in social justice, climate change, and labor issues. He also acquires selectively in international affairs and global studies. Books he has edited include Jared Farmer's *Elderflora* and Jamie McCallum's *Essential*. Before joining Basic, Michael worked at Liveright and *New York Magazine*.