

Recent Books on China – April 2021

Mary Martin Booksellers Pte Ltd
Blk 231, Bain Street
#03-05, Bras Basah Complex
Singapore 180231
Tel : +65-6883-2284/6883-2204
Fax : +65-6883-2144
info@marymartin.com
www.marymartin.com

Cinema Studies

Queer Representations in Chinese-language Film and the Cultural Landscape / Shi-Yan Chao (Series Eds) Jeroen de Kloet & Edwin Jurriens
Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2020
420p. ; 156x234x30mm.
9789462988033
Asian Visual Cultures Series
\$ 151.77 / HB
756gm.

Queer Representations in Chinese-language Film and the Cultural Landscape provides a cultural history of queer representations in Chinese-language film and media, negotiated by locally produced knowledge, local cultural agency, and lived histories. Incorporating a wide range of materials in both English and Chinese, this interdisciplinary project investigates the processes through which Chinese tongzhi/queer imaginaries are articulated, focusing on four main themes: the Chinese familial system, Chinese opera, camp aesthetic, and documentary impulse. Chao's discursive analysis is rooted in and advances genealogical inquiries: a non-essentialist intervention into the "Chinese" idea of filial piety, a transcultural perspective on the contested genre of film melodrama, a historical investigation of the local articulations of mass camp and gay camp, and a transnational inquiry into the different formats of documentary. This book is a must for anyone exploring the cultural history of Chinese tongzhi/queer through the lens of transcultural media.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=701208>

Economics/Development Studies

Rural-Urban Migration and Agro-Technological Change in Post-Reform
China / Lena Kaufmann (Series Ed) Pal Nyiri

New Mobilities in Asia Series

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021

312p. ; 156x234mm.

Includes Index

9789463729734

\$ 123.53 / HB

598gm.

How do rural Chinese households deal with the conflicting pressures of migrating into cities to work as well as staying at home to preserve their fields? This is particularly challenging for rice farmers, because paddy fields have to be cultivated continuously to retain their soil quality and value. Drawing on ethnographic fieldwork and written sources, *Rural-Urban Migration and Agro-Technological Change in Post-Reform China* describes farming households' strategic solutions to this predicament. It shows how, in light of rural-urban migration and agro-technological change, they manage to sustain both migration and farming. It innovatively conceives rural households as part of a larger farming community of practice that spans both staying and migrating household members and their material world. Focusing on one exemplary resource - paddy fields - it argues that socio-technical resources are key factors in understanding migration flows and migrant-home relations. Overall, this book provides rare insights into the rural side of migration and farmers' knowledge and agency.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750863>

Shadow Exchanges along the New Silk Roads / (Eds) Eva P.W. Hung & Tak-
Wing Ngo

Global Asia Series

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2020

276p.

9789462988934

Includes Index

\$ 116.48 / HB

588gm.

Long before China promulgated the official One Belt One Road initiatives, vast networks of cross-border exchanges already existed across Asia and Eurasia. The dynamics of such trade and resource flows have largely been outside state control, and are pushed to the realm of the shadow economy. The official initiative is a state-driven attempt to enhance the orderly flow of resources across countries along the Belt and Road, hence extending the reach of the states to the shadow economies. This volume offers a bottom-up view of the transborder informal exchanges across Asia and Eurasia, and analyses its clash and mesh with the state-orchestrated Belt and Road cooperation. By undertaking a comparative study of country cases along the new silk roads, the book underlines the intended and unintended consequences of such competing routes of connectivity on the socio-economic conditions of local communities.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=701197>

Global Perspectives on China's Belt and Road Initiative : Asserting Agency through Regional Connectivity / (Ed) Florian Schneider

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021

354p.

9789463727853

\$ 123.53 / HB

662gm.

The year 2013 saw the launch of the largest, most influential investment initiative in recent memory: China's Belt and Road Initiative (BRI). This globe-spanning strategy has reshaped local economies and regional networks, and it has become a contested subject for scholars and practitioners alike. How should we make sense of the complex interactions that the BRI has enabled? Understanding these processes requires truly global perspectives alongside careful attention to the role that local actors play in giving shape to individual BRI projects. The contributions in *Global Perspectives on China's Belt and Road Initiative: Asserting Agency through Regional Connectivity* provide both 'big picture' assessments of China's role in regional and global interactions and detailed case studies that home in on the role agency plays in BRI dynamics. Written by leading area studies scholars with diverse disciplinary expertise, this book reveals how Chinese efforts to recalibrate the world are taken up, challenged, revamped, and reworked in diverse contexts around the world.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750867>

Borderland Infrastructures : Trade, Development, and Control in Western China / Alessandro Rippa (Series Ed) Tina Harris & Willem van Schendel
Asian Borderlands Series
Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2020
288p. ; 156x234x25.4mm.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9789463725606
\$ 123.53 / HB
560gm.

Across the Chinese borderlands, investments in large-scale transnational infrastructure such as roads and special economic zones have increased exponentially over the past two decades. Based on long-term ethnographic research, *Borderland Infrastructures* addresses a major contradiction at the heart of this fast-paced development: small-scale traders have lost their historic strategic advantages under the growth of massive Chinese state investment and are now struggling to keep their businesses afloat. Concurrently, local ethnic minorities have become the target of radical resettlement projects, securitization, and tourism initiatives, and have in many cases grown increasingly dependent on state subsidies. At the juncture of anthropological explorations of the state, border studies, and research on transnational trade and infrastructure development, *Borderland Infrastructures* provides new analytical tools to understand how state power is experienced, mediated, and enacted in Xinjiang and Yunnan. In the process, Rippa offers a rich and nuanced ethnography of life across China's peripheries.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=701207>

Education

Globalization, Nationalism, and Music Education in the Twenty-First Century in Greater China / Wai-Chung Ho
Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021
348p.
Includes Index
9789463729932
\$ 135.30 / HB
650gm.

Globalization, Nationalism, and Music Education in the Twenty-First Century in Greater China examines the recent developments in school education and music education in Greater China – Mainland China, Hong

Kong, and Taiwan – and the relationship between, and integration of, national cultural identity and globalization in their respective school curriculums. Regardless of their common history and cultural backgrounds, in recent decades, these localities have experienced divergent political, cultural, and educational structures. Through an analysis of the literature, official curriculum documents, approved music textbooks, and a survey questionnaire and in-depth interviews with music teachers, this book also examines the ways in which policies for national identity formation and globalization interact to complement and contradict each other in the context of music education in respect to national and cultural values in the three territories. Wai-Chung Ho's substantive research interests include the sociology of music, China's education system, and the comparative study of East Asian music education. Her research focuses on education and development, with an emphasis on the impact of the interplay between globalization, nationalization, and localization on cultural development and school music education.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=745877>

History

Freedom of the Press : A Conceptual History, 1831-1949 / Yi Guo (Series Ed) Qiang Fang

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2020

264p. ; 156x234x25.4mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789463726115

China: From Revolution to Reform Series

\$ 116.48 / HB

532gm.

Western commentators have often criticized the state of press freedom in China, arguing that individual speech still suffers from arbitrary restrictions and that its mass media remains under an authoritarian mode. Yet the history of press freedom in the Chinese context has received little examination. Unlike conventional historical accounts which narrate the institutional development of censorship and people's resistance to arbitrary repression, *Freedom of the Press in China: A Conceptual History, 1831-1949* is the first comprehensive study presenting the intellectual trajectory of press freedom. It sheds light on the transcultural transference and localization of the concept in modern Chinese history, spanning from its initial introduction in 1831 to the establishment of the People's Republic of China in 1949. By examining intellectuals' thoughts, common people's

attitudes, and official opinions, along with the social-cultural factors that were involved in negotiating Chinese interpretations and practices in history, this book uncovers the dynamic and changing meanings of press freedom in modern China.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750871>

Law

The Communist Judicial System in China, 1927-1976 : Building on Fear / Qiang Fang

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021

336p. ; 156x234mm.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789463729451

China: From Revolution to Reform Series

\$ 135.30 / HB

640gm.

Drawing on hundreds of newly released judicial archives and court cases, this book analyzes the communist judicial system in China from its founding period to the death of Mao Zedong. It argues that the communist judicial system was built when the CCP was engaged in a life-or-death struggle with the GMD, meaning that the overriding aim of the judicial system was, from the outset, to safeguard the Party against both internal and external adversaries. This fundamental insecurity and perennial fear of loss of power obsessed the Party throughout the era of Mao and beyond, prompting it to launch numerous political campaigns, which forced communist judicial cadres to choose between upholding basic legal norms and maintaining Party order. In doing all of this, *The Communist Judicial System in China, 1927-1976: Building on Fear* fills a major lacuna in our understanding of communist-era China.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750862>

Politics

The Chinese Communist Youth League : Juniority and Responsiveness in a Party Youth Organization / Konstantinos D. Tsimonis (Series Ed) Qiang Fang

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021

324p.

Includes Index ; Bibliography

9789462989863

China: From Revolution to Reform Series
\$ 116.48 / HB
618gm.

Book Details:

The Chinese Communist Youth League is the largest youth political organization in the world, with over 80 million members. Former Chinese President Hu Jintao was a firm supporter of the League, and believed that it could play a bigger role in winning the hearts and minds of Chinese youth by actively engaging with their interests and demands. Accordingly, he provided the League with a new youth work mandate to increase its capacity for responsiveness under the slogan 'keep the Party assured and the youth satisfied'. This original investigation of the hitherto-unexamined organization uses a combination of interviews, surveys and ethnography to explore how the League implemented Hu's mandate at both local and national levels, exposing the contradictory nature of some of its campaigns. By doing so, it also sheds light on the reasons for Xi Jinping's turn against the League during his first term in office. The Chinese Communist Youth League: Juniority and Responsiveness in a Party Youth Organization develops the original concept of 'juniority' to capture the complex ways that generational power is institutionalized, alienating young people from official political processes, with significant implications for China's political development. The book will be of interest to researchers and students of Chinese politics, as well as to scholars of comparative youth politics and sociology.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750865>

Sanctions with Chinese Characteristics : Rhetoric and Restraint in China's Diplomacy / Angela Poh (Series Ed) Jonathan Rigg
Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021
376p. ; 156x234x25.4mm.
Includes Index ; Bibliography
9789463722353
Transforming Asia Series
\$ 128.24 / HB
692gm.

The view that China has become increasingly assertive under President Xi Jinping is now a common trope in academic and media discourse. However, until the end of Xi Jinping's first term in March 2018, China had been relatively restrained in its use of coercive economic measures. This is puzzling given the conventional belief among scholars and practitioners

that sanctions are a middle ground between diplomatic and military/paramilitary action. Using a wide range of methods and data — including in-depth interviews with 76 current and former politicians, policy-makers, diplomats, and commercial actors across 12 countries and 16 cities — *Sanctions with Chinese Characteristics: Rhetoric and Restraint in China's Diplomacy* examines the ways in which China had employed economic sanctions to further its political objectives, and the factors explaining China's behaviour. This book provides a systematic investigation into the ways in which Chinese decisionmakers approached sanctions both at the United Nations Security Council and unilaterally, and shows how China's longstanding sanctions rhetoric has had a constraining effect on its behaviour, resulting in its inability to employ sanctions in complete alignment with its immediate interests.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750870>

Decoding the Sino-North Korean Borderlands / (Eds) Adam Cathcart, Christopher Green & Steven Denney (Series Ed) Tina Harris & Willem van Schendel

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2021

444p. ; 156x234x31.75mm.

Includes Index

9789462987562

Asia Borderlands Series

\$ 151.77 / HB

788gm.

Since the 1990s, the Chinese-North Korean border region has undergone a gradual transformation into a site of intensified cooperation, competition, and intrigue. These changes have prompted a significant volume of critical scholarship and media commentary across multiple languages and disciplines. Drawing on existing studies and new data, *Decoding the Sino-North Korean Borderlands* brings much of this literature into concert by pulling together a wide range of insight on the region's economics, security, social cohesion, and information flows. Drawing from multilingual sources and transnational scholarship, this volume is enhanced by the extensive fieldwork undertaken by the editors and contributors in their quests to decode the borderland. In doing so, the volume emphasizes the link between theory, methodology, and practice in the field of Area Studies and social science more broadly.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750866>

The Heritage Turn in China : The Reinvention, Dissemination and Consumption of Heritage / (Eds) Carol Ludwig, Linda Walton & Yi-Wen Wang (Series Eds) Adele Esposito & Michael Herzfeld
Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2020
320p. ; 156x234x25.4mm.
Includes Index
9789462985667
Asian Heritages Series
\$ 123.53 / HB
610gm.

The Heritage Turn in China: The Reinvention, Dissemination and Consumption of Heritage focuses on heritage discourse and practice in China today as it has evolved from the 'heritage turn' that can be dated to the 1990s. Using a variety of disciplinary approaches to regionally and topically diverse case studies, the contributors to this edited volume show how particular versions of the past are selected, (re)invented, disseminated and consumed for contemporary purposes. These studies explore how the Chinese state utilises heritage not only for tourism, entertainment, educational and commercial purposes, but also as part of broader political strategies on both the national and international stage. Together, they argue that the Chinese state deploys modes of heritage governance to construct new modernities while strengthening collective national identity in support of both its political legitimacy and its claim to status as an international superpower. The authors also consider ways in which state management of heritage is contested by some stakeholders whose embrace of heritage has a different purpose and meaning.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=750878>

Sociology

Chinese "Cancer Villages" : Rural Development, Environmental Change and Public Health / Chen Ajiang, Cheng Pengli & Luo Yajuan (Translators)

Jennifer Holdaway & Wang Wuyi

Amsterdam: Amsterdam University Press, 2020

308p. ; 156x234x27.94mm.

Includes Index

9789089647221

\$ 128.25 / HB

600gm.

The phenomenon of "cancer villages" has emerged in many parts of rural China, drawing media attention and becoming a fact of social life. However, the relationship between pollution and disease is often hard to discern. Through sociological analysis of several villages with different social and economic structures, the authors offer a comprehensive, historically grounded analysis of the coexistence between the incidence of cancer, environmental pollution and villagers' lifestyles, as well as the perceptions, claims and responses of different actors. They situate the appearance of "cancer villages" in the context of social, economic and cultural change in China, tracing the evolution of the issue over two decades, and providing deep insights into the complex interactions and trade-offs between economic growth, environmental change and public health.

<http://www.marymartin.com/web?pid=701199>
