WHAT’S WRONG WITH OBAMAMANIA?
Black America, Black Leadership, and the Death of Political Imagination
Ricky L. Jones

Juxtaposes the meteoric rise of Barack Obama with far-reaching—and disturbing—shifts in black leadership in post–Civil Rights America.

“…a penetrating look at how race politics has evolved.” — Booklist, starred review

Barack Obama’s sudden arrival on the national scene has created a wave of excitement in American politics, a phenomenon that has been dubbed “Obamamania.” In What’s Wrong with Obamamania?, Ricky L. Jones places Obama’s run for the presidency in the context of deep and often disturbing shifts in black leadership since the 1960s. From Charles Hamilton Houston to Thurgood Marshall to Jesse Jackson, from prosperity preachers to megachurches, from W. E. B. Du Bois’s Talented Tenth and civil rights advocates to Black Entertainment Television and hip-hop culture, Jones paints a picture of lowered expectations, cynicism, and nihilism that should give us all pause.

“This is an important contribution to intellectual clarity—a scarce commodity at a time of mania.” — Glen Ford, Executive Editor, BlackAgendaReport.com

“Jones revives a tradition of sharp and clear political thinking and courageous moral engagement.” — Joy James, author of Transcending the Talented Tenth: Black Leaders and American Intellectuals

Ricky L. Jones is Associate Professor of Pan-African Studies at the University of Louisville and the author of Black Haze: Violence, Sacrifice, and Manhood in Black Greek-Letter Fraternities, also published by SUNY Press.
NEW MORNING
Emerson in the Twenty-first Century
Arthur S. Lothstein and Michael Brodrick, editors

Essays and poems explore the contemporary relevance of Emerson’s work and thought.

New Morning brings together philosophers, poets, and literary critics to celebrate and engage the ideas of the great American writer and philosopher, Ralph Waldo Emerson. Emerson’s legacy influences many areas; he was a champion of democracy and civil rights, a naturalist, an idealist, an artist, a writer, and a philosopher. Rather than focusing on Emerson in his historical context, this volume brings to light the ways in which Emerson’s voice and work still speak powerfully to the concerns of the present moment. In short essays and poems, some of America’s most influential scholars and poets—including John J. McDermott, Mary Oliver, Mark Strand, Robert C. Pollock, Gary Snyder, and Lawrence Buell—underscore the relevance of Emerson’s thought to contemporary issues as varied as the environment, race, politics, spirituality, aesthetics, and education.

Arthur S. Lothstein is Professor of Philosophy at the C.W. Post Campus of Long Island University. Michael Brodrick is a graduate student in Philosophy at Vanderbilt University.
YOGA AND THE LUMINOUS
Patañjali’s Spiritual Path to Freedom
Christopher Key Chapple

A fresh look at Yoga philosophy.

In *Yoga and the Luminous*, a book that emerges from more than thirty years of practice, study, and reflection, Christopher Key Chapple addresses the need for an accessible explanation of Yoga’s difficult philosophy and its applications in daily life. Yoga practice takes an individual on an inward journey, and through Yoga, one enters a rarefied state of consciousness, a transparency and luminosity described by its great philosopher Patañjali as being “like a clear jewel.” Exploring Yoga through the prism of practice, Chapple begins with a historical overview of the many Yogic traditions in Indian religions. He continues with Yoga practice and the philosophy of Sāṃkhya, and then, in step-by-step fashion, he brings the reader to an understanding of the ethics of Yoga, the role of movement and breath, and the processes of concentration and meditation. Finally, building on the root metaphor of luminosity and light, Chapple explains the applications of Yoga in daily life.

“This book is based not only on a deep understanding of the Yoga Sūtra in its Jaina and Buddhist intellectual context but also on a lifetime of practicing the text. The result is a combination of intellectual insight and practical understanding written in clear English that communicates effectively to a wide range of readers.” — Harold Coward, author of *The Perfectibility of Human Nature in Eastern and Western Thought*

Christopher Key Chapple is Doshi Professor of Indic and Comparative Theology at Loyola Marymount University. He is the author or editor of many books, including *Reconciling Yogas: Haribhadra’s Collection of Views on Yoga* and *Ecological Prospects: Scientific, Religious, and Aesthetic Perspectives*, both also published by SUNY Press.
A BUDDHIST IN THE CLASSROOM
Sid Brown

A Buddhist perspective on classroom teaching.

Sid Brown brings a Buddhist perspective into the classroom to explore the ethical quandaries, lived experiences, and intimacy of teaching. Addressing such topics as attention, community, rage, wonder, consumerism, and simple kindness, Brown demonstrates how this centuries-old tradition can inform and enrich classroom life.

Readers do not have to be Buddhists to appreciate the gifts of this tradition and Brown’s fresh perspective on education. Stories from Buddhist texts offer illustrative teaching moments, and an archive of practical tools and suggestions make this book a valuable reference. While Brown teaches at the college level, teachers of students at all levels and those who are interested in the educational experience will gain insight from this book.

“With a personal style that makes use of anecdotes and descriptions of teaching situations, Sid Brown presents Buddhist principles as they apply to the classroom in a very vibrant and relevant way.”
— Ruben L. F. Habito, author of Healing Breath: Zen for Christians and Buddhists in a Wounded World

Sid Brown is Associate Professor of Religion at Sewanee: The University of the South and the author of The Journey of One Buddhist Nun: Even Against the Wind, also published by SUNY Press.
THE LIVING CLASSROOM
Teaching and Collective Consciousness

Christopher M. Bache

Describes the emergence of powerful fields of consciousness that influence students’ learning and personal transformation.

This pioneering work in teaching and transpersonal psychology explores the dynamics of collective consciousness in the classroom. Combining scientific research with personal accounts collected over thirty years, Christopher M. Bache examines the subtle influences that radiate invisibly around teachers as they work—unintended, cognitive resonances that spring up between teachers and students in the classroom. Moving beyond theory, this book is rich with student stories and offers practical, hands-on strategies for teachers who want to begin working with these learning fields to take their teaching to a more conscious level.

“This seminal work is an inspiration to all of us who see collaborative dialogue and conversational leadership (including teaching) as a powerful path for accessing the kind of collective wisdom that is so needed in today’s challenging times.” — Juanita Brown, Cofounder of The World Café and coauthor of The World Café: Shaping Our Future through Conversations That Matter

“What a joy to read this book by a master teacher with a new vision for educators.” — Marilyn Schlitz, Director of Research and Education, Institute of Noetic Sciences

Christopher M. Bache is Professor of Religious Studies at Youngstown State University and the author of Dark Night, Early Dawn: Steps to a Deep Ecology of Mind, also published by SUNY Press.
TEACHING NONMAJORS
Advice for Liberal Arts Professors
P. Sven Arvidson

Delivers uncomplicated and useful techniques for better teaching
to nonmajors in liberal arts courses.

Teaching Nonmajors focuses on what dedicated teachers want to know—
how can I teach better in the classroom? Unlike most books on teaching,
this book delivers uncomplicated and immediately useful techniques and
strategies for teaching required courses to nonmajors. Providing practical
examples and brief anecdotes drawn from a variety of disciplines in the
liberal arts and sciences, the author describes simple ways to break up
lectures, how to stimulate the best discussions, the art of assignments,
how to improve student ratings, and successful strategies for engaging
nonmajors and for handling problem students. Teaching Nonmajors is
written especially for liberal arts college and university professors at all
career stages—from adjuncts and new professors, to seasoned professors
looking for a fresh approach heading into a new term.

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and Senior Faculty Fellow in the Center for Excellence in
Teaching and Learning at Seattle University. He is the author of
The Sphere of Attention: Context and Margin.
OLYMPIC INDUSTRY RESISTANCE
Challenging Olympic Power and Propaganda
Helen Jefferson Lenskyj

A critical look at the Olympics in the postbribery, post-9/11 era, particularly at consequences for host cities and so-called “Olympic education” for schoolchildren.

Scholar and activist Helen Jefferson Lenskyj continues her critique of the Olympic industry, looking specifically at developments in the post-9/11 and postbribery scandal era. Examining events and activism in host cities, as well as in several locations that bid unsuccessfully on the Olympics, Lenskyj shows how basic rights and freedoms, particularly of the press and of assembly, are compromised. Lenskyj investigates the pro-Olympic bias in media treatment of bids and preparations, the “fallen hero” phenomenon that includes doping and female athletes who pose nude in calendars, and takes issue with “Olympic education” curricular materials for schoolchildren. Also discussed are the problems of housing and homelessness created when the Olympics become a catalyst for urban redevelopment projects.

“Lenskyj presents an impassioned critique of the exploits and exploitations of successive Olympics, from rehousing scandals, to brainwashing of children into the secular theology of Olympism, to suppression of academic freedom, to the financial and decision-making culture of secrecy, to sellouts by women in sport of both feminist and nonfeminist persuasions. Very few escape her attention.” — Celia Brackenridge, Brunel University

Helen Jefferson Lenskyj is Professor of Sociology at the University of Toronto. She is the author of several books on the Olympic industry, including The Best Olympics Ever? Social Impacts of Sydney 2000 and Inside the Olympic Industry: Power, Politics, and Activism, both also published by SUNY Press.
THE OPRAH AFFECT
Critical Essays on Oprah’s Book Club
Cecilia Konchar Farr and Jaime Harker, editors

Essays explore the broad cultural impact of Oprah’s Book Club.

The Oprah Affect explores the cultural impact of Oprah’s Book Club, particularly in light of debates about the definition and purpose of literature in American culture. For the critics collected here, Oprah’s Book Club stands, in the context of American literary history, not as an egregious undermining of who we are and what we represent, as some have maintained, but as the latest manifestation of a tradition that encourages symbiotic relationships between readers and texts. Powered by women writers and readers, novels in this tradition attract crowds, sell well, and make unabashed appeals to emotion. The essays consider the interlocking issues of affect, affinity, accessibility, and activism in the context of this tradition. The contributors map a range of possibilities for further research on Oprah’s Book Club.

Cecilia Konchar Farr is Professor of English and Women’s Studies at the College of St. Catherine and author of Reading Oprah: How Oprah’s Book Club Changed the Way America Reads, also published by SUNY Press.

Jaime Harker is Assistant Professor of Cultural Studies and Writing Across the Curriculum at the University of Mississippi and author of America the Middlebrow: Women’s Novels, Progressivism, and Middlebrow Authorship between the Wars.
TAKING SOUTH PARK SERIOUSLY
Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock, editor

Collection of scholarly essays on the wildly popular Comedy Central show.

Since it came on the air in 1997, Comedy Central’s top-rated animated program, South Park, has been criticized for its crude, scatological humor and political insensitivity. However, the program also fearlessly wades into the morass of American political life as it tackles and satirizes all American sacred cows, including “political correctness,” the value of celebrities, ideas about childhood, and the role of religion in American life. In the process, South Park raises provocative and timely questions about politics, identity, and the media’s influence in shaping American thinking.

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Taking South Park Seriously brings together scholars who explore the broader implications of South Park’s immense popularity by examining the program’s politics, aesthetics, and cultural impact. Topics covered include the pleasures of watching the show, South Park’s relationship to other animated programs, and the program’s representations of racial and ethnic minorities, the disabled, celebrities, children, religion, and education. This book will be of interest not only to communications and cultural studies scholars, but to anyone who has ever laughed along with Cartman, Stan, Kyle, and Kenny.

Jeffrey Andrew Weinstock is Associate Professor of English at Central Michigan University and the author of several books, including The Rocky Horror Picture Show and Spectral America: Phantoms and the National Imagination.
Poets on the Edge introduces four decades of Israel’s most vigorous poetic voices. Selected and translated by author Tsipi Keller, the collection showcases a generous sampling of work from twenty-seven established and emerging poets, bringing many to readers of English for the first time. Thematically and stylistically innovative, the poems chart the evolution of new currents in Hebrew poetry that emerged in the late 1950s and early 1960s and, in breaking from traditional structures of line, rhyme, and meter, have become as liberated as any contemporary American verse. Writing on politics, sexual identity, skepticism, intellectualism, community, country, love, fear, and death, these poets are daring, original, and direct, and their poems are matched by the freshness and precision of Keller’s translations.

Tsipi Keller was born in Prague, raised in Israel, and has been living in the United States since 1974. Her short fiction and her poetry translations have appeared in many journals and anthologies, and her novels include Jackpot; Retelling; and The Prophet of Tenth Street. Keller has also translated several poetry collections, including Dan Pagis’s Last Poems and Irit Katzir’s And I Wrote Poems. She lives in West Palm Beach, Florida.

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“...This comprehensive and amazing anthology is a great read best taken slowly, savoring each page of outstanding poetry. Tsipi Keller has had the patience and intelligence to select a stimulating and powerful group of poems, with accurate and very readable translations.” — Shirley Kaufman