WANG IN LOVE
AND BONDAGE
Three Novellas by Wang Xiaobo
WANG XIAOBO
TRANSLATED AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY
HONGLING ZHANG AND JASON SOMMER

The first English translation of work by Wang Xiaobo, one of the most important writers of twentieth-century China.

A cclaimed as one of the most important writers of twentieth-century China, the late Wang Xiaobo (1952–1997) is known for his frank, often antic treatment of sex and his gift for reveling in human absurdity and provoking laughter from horror. Comprised of three novellas, “The Golden Age,” “East Palace, West Palace,” and “2015,” this book is the first English translation of his work.

“East Palace, West Palace,” one of the first contemporary Chinese fictional works dealing with male homosexuality, is an S/M-oriented love story between a masochistic gay writer and a handsome policeman unaware of his sadistic tendencies. In “The Golden Age,” for which Wang Xiaobo is perhaps best known, the protagonist, Wang Er (literally, Wang number two) is a city student sent to the countryside for rustification during the Cultural Revolution. There he meets a lovely young doctor whom he encourages to live up to her undeserved reputation as “damaged goods.” In “2015,” another Wang Er, after being put into a labor camp for practicing painting without a license, becomes the love object of a sadistic policewoman.

Although the sexual and social roles of Wang Xiaobo’s characters intertwine, sexuality functions not as protest but as an absurd metaphor for state power and the voluntary, even enthusiastic, collaboration of those subject to it. Full of deadpan humor and oddball sex, Wang Xiaobo’s novellas allow us to see, through a subtly shifting kaleidoscope, scenes from the elaborate dance the individual must do with the state in twentieth-century China.

“The late Wang Xiaobo is not known in the West. However, this fine collaborative translation of Wang’s unconventional and engaging novellas will change that, and call into question any stereotypical views of contemporary Chinese fiction.” — Howard Goldblatt, University of Notre Dame

At Fontbonne University, HONGLING ZHANG teaches fiction writing and has published short stories in both Chinese and English, and JASON SOMMER is Professor of English and Poet-in-Residence. He has published three collections of poetry, including The Man Who Sleeps in My Office.
DYING TO TEACH
A Memoir of Love, Loss, and Learning
JEFFREY BERMAN

Affirms the power of writing to memorialize loss and work through grief.

In Dying to Teach, Jeffrey Berman confronts the most wrenching loss imaginable: the death of his beloved wife, Barbara. Through four interrelated narratives—how Barbara wrote about her illness in a cancer diary, how he cared for her throughout her illness, how his students reacted to his disclosure that she was dying, and how he responded to her death—Berman explores his efforts to hold on to Barbara precisely as she was letting go of life. Intensely personal, Dying to Teach affirms the power of writing to memorialize loss and work through grief, and demonstrates the importance of death education: teachers and students writing and talking about a subject that, until now, has often been deemed too personal for the classroom.

“Dying to Teach touches one as an étude, or perhaps a pavane to a lover, a partner, a fellow voyager. It is a beautiful tribute to a glorious woman, and a reminder of the sheer power generated when art, sensitivity, and rare literacy are blended. In these remarkable pages, Jeffrey Berman brings us life, death, and then, magically, a return to life. The insights of this book, and the music of the words, will not soon be forgotten by readers of this master memoir.” — Thomas J. Cottle, author of When the Music Stopped: Discovering My Mother

“Jeff Berman has been writing a glowing series of books in which he demonstrates how encouraging students to discuss their most intense experiences can enlarge their humanity as well as add to their store of intellectual knowledge. This book culminates the series. I think it is probably the bravest book I shall ever read. Jeff dares to let me share the most personally devastating and terrifying experience with which life menaces us. And he dares to use that experience in the classroom to write an unforgettable experience in his students’ minds. His way of teaching may not be for all of us, but all of us will be better for having read about it.” — Norman N. Holland, author of Death in a Delphi Seminar: A Postmodern Mystery

“…This is a stunning book.” — Marian M. MacCurdy, coeditor of Writing and Healing: Toward an Informed Practice

JEFFREY BERMAN is Professor of English at the University at Albany, State University of New York. His previous books include Empathic Teaching: Education for Life and Risky Writing: Self-Disclosure and Self-Transformation in the Classroom.
TEACHERS UNITED
The Rise of New York State United Teachers
DENNIS GAFFNEY

The inspiring history of NYSUT, New York State’s largest union, and a powerful progressive force in the state and in the country.

This book tells the story of the rise of New York State United Teachers (NYSUT), New York State’s largest union. Using first-hand accounts by rank-and-file teachers as well as leaders, Dennis Gaffney documents how teachers, once underpaid and hopelessly divided, finally organized, lifting themselves from the underclass to the middle class to become a formidable grassroots political force able to defeat and elect U.S. senators. He describes how New York’s teachers sparked the modern-day teachers’ movement, and what key lessons other labor unions can learn from NYSUT’s unity and success. Teachers United also shows how NYSUT has been a leader of educational reform, winning more money for education, creating smaller classes, raising academic standards, and training better teachers.

“What a pleasure to read a modern-day labor history, so informative and consistently engaging, that brings alive the struggles of those who have built one of the most successful unions of the last half-century: NYSUT. I’d recommend this book to all students of labor history and activists who want a reminder of how vital and essential unions still are. I was inspired.” — John J. Sweeney, President, AFL-CIO

“Dennis Gaffney has produced a lively narrative that keeps the action moving across many years of NYSUT union activity. He’s also managed to write what amounts to a book-within-a-book, with a compelling biography of founder Albert Shanker embedded in a larger story of organized labor.” — Paul Grondahl, author of Mayor Corning: Albany Icon, Albany Enigma

DENNIS GAFFNEY is a professional writer and teaches journalism at the University at Albany, State University of New York.
TORTURE
When the Unthinkable is Morally Permissible
Mirko Bagaric and Julie Clarke

Argues that there are moral grounds to use torture where the lives of the innocent are at stake.

The “war on terror” has brought the subject of torture to the forefront of public attention. In contrast to other discussions that focus narrowly on the practice of torture, and condemn it under any and all circumstances, Mirko Bagaric and Julie Clarke argue that to take this position is to live in a moral vacuum. The subject of torture causes our emotions to conflict with our reason. When we have a choice between saving the life of an innocent person, and not harming a terrorist or other wrongdoer, it is indecent to absolutely prefer the interests of the wrongdoer. In contrast, they propose a moral standard where each individual’s interest counts equally. Within this standard, the ostensibly brutal act of torture may be permissible if it has the potential to achieve compassionate outcomes in the form of saving innocent lives.

“I like several things about this book—first and foremost the courage of the authors. I know that the positions they have taken have been lambasted by many, often in a personal attack. I happen to disagree with much that has been said in the book. But I do believe they should be allowed to state their position. Many civil libertarians argue that to even debate the validity of torture is reprehensible—that there are some issues that should not be debated, like genocide, slavery, and…torture.” — Marcy Strauss, Loyola Law School in Los Angeles

“Among this book’s many virtues is the way in which the book avoids tangents and drives relentlessly onward in making its points. It is a controversial, provocative, and important book.” — John T. Parry, Lewis & Clark Law School

At Deakin University in Australia, Mirko Bagaric is Professor of Law and Julie Clarke is Lecturer in Law. Bagaric’s books include How to Live: Being Happy and Dealing with Moral Dilemmas and Clarke’s include (with P. Clarke and N. Courmadias) Butterworths Casebook Companions-Contract Law.
**AWAKENING WARRIOR**

*Revolution in the Ethics of Warfare*

**TIMOTHY L. CHALLANS**

*Explores moral progress in the American military.*

Awakening Warrior argues for a revolution in the ethics of warfare for the American War Machine—those political and military institutions that engage the world with physical force. Timothy L. Challans focuses on the systemic, institutional level of morality rather than bemoaning the moral shortcomings of individuals. He asks: What are the limits of individual moral agency? What kind of responsibility do individuals have when considering institutional moral error? How is it that neutral or benign moral actions performed by individuals can have such catastrophic morally negative effects from a systemic perspective? Drawing upon and extending the ethical theories of Kant, Dewey, and Rawls, Challans makes the case for an original set of moral principles to guide ethical action on the battlefield.

“Challans has written a trenchant, robust, and deeply informed critique of current military morality. He attacks the heavily religious slant given to the moral instruction of warriors, the dogmatic reliance on the idea that the sole end of war is victory, and the refusal to teach even officers to think for themselves about the moral issues raised by their profession. Drawing on years of active duty and of teaching ethics at West Point and other military schools, Challans presents positive recommendations for reforming codes of military ethics and methods of teaching them to young soldiers. The book will no doubt infuriate many of the military leaders who are its chief target. It has policy implications going beyond their concerns, however, and it deserves the thoughtful attention of all citizens who are disturbed by the moral lapses of the American military in the past few decades.” — J. B. Schneewind, author of *The Invention of Autonomy: A History of Modern Moral Philosophy*

“…I strongly recommend that all members of the military profession read this text carefully and reflect on the important arguments found throughout. — LTC Paul Christopher, USA (Ret.), author of *The Ethics of War and Peace: An Introduction to Legal and Moral Issues, Third Edition*

“This is a groundbreaking and potentially controversial book in the context of professional military ethics. It fundamentally challenges the normal ways of teaching ethics in the military.” — Martin L. Cook, author of *The Moral Warrior: Ethics and Service in the U.S. Military*

**TIMOTHY L. CHALLANS** is Associate Professor of Philosophy at the School of Advanced Military Studies (SAMS).
The Birth of Novalis
Friedrich von Hardenberg’s Journal of 1797, with Selected Letters and Documents
Translated, Edited, and with an Introduction by Bruce Donehower

A frank and candid glimpse into the early life of the maturing poet.

Friedrich von Hardenberg, who later became known as the poet Novalis, kept a journal between April and July 1797 that captured his moods, thoughts, and observations following the death of his fifteen-year-old fiancée Sophie von Kühn and his dearly loved younger brother Erasmus. The journal’s short, day-to-day entries allow a frank and candid glimpse into the inner life of the maturing poet, and are complemented by selections from Hardenberg’s letters. Taken together, and read in conjunction with the fragments written before, during, and shortly after this period of time, the journal and letters shed light on a process of self-discovery during which Hardenberg became convinced of his poetic vocation and acknowledged this conviction in an act of self-christening, as the poet Novalis.

“This book offers, for the very first time, a reliable and lucid translation into English of the most important primary sources pertaining to the biography of the German Romantic poet-philosopher Novalis. Here we glimpse the inner workings of a now legendary event: the transformation of the mining student Friedrich von Hardenberg into the romantic poet Novalis. The idea to gather letters and supporting biographical material from precisely this period and unite them into a single volume is both a masterly and welcome enterprise. It finally allows an English-speaking audience direct access to one of the most fascinating and enduring love relationships in literary history—that of Sophie von Kühn and Friedrich von Hardenberg. Donehower’s insightful introduction and thoroughly readable commentary interspersed between the letters does a great deal to separate the fact from the fiction and myth in Hardenberg’s biography.”
— David W. Wood, University of Paris IV, Sorbonne

“Making this material available in English is a great service and long overdue. It offers the materials to contextualize Novalis’ other writings, showing how his work responds to his particular biographical context (unavoidable, given the strong mythmaking surrounding Novalis’ personal losses and their fictionalizations).”
— Katherine Arens, author of Empire in Decline: Fritz Mauthner’s Critique of Wilhelminian Germany

Bruce Donehower is Lecturer in the University Writing Program at the University of California at Davis. He is the author of Miko, Little Hunter of the North.
NOTES FOR A ROMANTIC ENCYCLOPAEDIA

Das Allgemeine Brouillon

NOVALIS

TRANSLATED, EDITED, AND WITH AN INTRODUCTION BY

DAVID W. WOOD

The first English translation of Novalis’s unfinished notes for a universal science, Das Allgemeine Brouillon.

Novalis is best known in history as the poet of early German Romanticism. However, this translation of Das Allgemeine Brouillon, or “Universal Notebook,” finally introduces him to the English-speaking world as an extraordinarily gifted philosopher in his own right and shatters the myth of him as a mere daydreaming and irrational poet. Composed of more than 1,100 notebook entries, this is easily Novalis’s largest theoretical work and certainly one of the most remarkable and audacious undertakings of the “Golden Age” of German philosophy. In it, Novalis reflects on numerous aspects of human culture, including philosophy, poetry, the natural sciences, the fine arts, mathematics, mineralogy, history, and religion, and brings them all together into what he calls a “Romantic Encyclopaedia” or “Scientific Bible.”

Novalis’s Romantic Encyclopaedia fully embodies the author’s own personal brand of philosophy, “Magical Idealism.” With meditations on mankind and nature, the possible future development of our faculties of reason, imagination, and the senses, and the unification of the different sciences, these notes contain a veritable treasure trove of richly poetic and philosophic thoughts.

“Wood’s translation will radically change our sense of the range and shape of ‘philosophy’ in German Idealism and Romanticism, and will make a major contribution to our understanding of the stakes and divisions in the encyclopaedic project from the Enlightenment to the present.” — Tilottama Rajan, author of Deconstruction and the Reminders of Phenomenology: Sartre, Derrida, Foucault, Baudrillard

Novalis (1772–1801) was the foremost poet-philosopher of early German Romanticism. Universally acclaimed as a poetic genius for such works as Hymns to the Night and the unfinished novel Heinrich von Ofterdingen, he especially favored the fragment form for his philosophical meditations. The latter reach their climax in this volume, his astonishing plan for a universal science.

David W. Wood is a PhD candidate in German Idealism at the Sorbonne in Paris. He is the translator of Goethe and Love by Karl Julius Schröer.

A volume in the SUNY series, Intersections: Philosophy and Critical Theory

Rodolphe Gasché, editor

January • 288 pp.
$35.00 jacketed hc
978-0-7914-6973-6

Philosophy
EMERSON AND EROS
The Making of a Cultural Hero
LEN GOUGEON

Traces the spiritual, psychological, and intellectual evolution of one of America’s most important cultural figures.

This critical biography traces the spiritual, psychological, and intellectual growth of one of America’s foremost oracles and prophets, Ralph Waldo Emerson (1803–1882). Beginning with his undergraduate career at Harvard and spanning the range of his adult life, the book examines the complex, often painful emotional journey inward that would eventually transform Emerson from an average Unitarian minister into one of the century’s most formidable intellectual figures. By connecting Emerson’s inner life with his outer life, Len Gougeon illustrates a virtually seamless relationship between Emerson’s Transcendental philosophy and his later career as a social reformer, a rebel who sought to “unsettle all things” in an effort to redeem his society.

In tracing the path of Emerson’s evolution, Gougeon makes use of insights by Joseph Campbell, Erich Neumann, Mircea Eliade, and N. O. Brown. Like Emerson, all of these thinkers directly experienced the fragmentation and dehumanization of the Western world, and all were influenced both directly and indirectly by Emerson and his philosophy. Ultimately, this study demonstrates how Emerson’s philosophy would become a major force of liberal reformation in American society, a force whose impact is still felt today.

“I’ve read this book with immense pleasure; it is a compelling work of scholarship and spiritual exploration.” — Jay Parini, author of Robert Frost: A Life

“Gougeon’s major contribution will be a portrait of the heroic Emerson, a conventional young man undergoing a spiritual crisis that sends him on an inward journey from which he emerges, reintegrated, to acts of heroism, a rebel against the ossified Fathers, the Establishment itself. This is not just a literary argument directed at specialists. Gougeon’s audience is much broader: he wishes to tell a universal story about the genesis and triumph of a hero that will inspire students and general readers today, for we too face a world that is grim and fragmenting, leaderless and resistant to change.” — Laura Dassow Walls, author of Emerson’s Life in Science: The Culture of Truth

LEN GOUGEON is Distinguished University Fellow and Professor of American Literature at the University of Scranton. A former president of the Ralph Waldo Emerson Society, he is the author of Virtue’s Hero: Emerson, Antislavery, and Reform and coeditor (with Joel Myerson) of Emerson’s Antislavery Writings.
**ANNE SEXTON**

**Teacher of Weird Abundance**

**PAULA M. SALVIO**

**FOREWORD BY MADELEINE R. GRUMET**

*The poet’s life as a teacher.*

A Pulitzer Prize–winning poet who confessed the unrelenting anguish of addiction and depression, Anne Sexton (1928–1974) was also a dedicated teacher. In this book, Paula M. Salvio opens up Sexton’s classroom, uncovering a teacher who willfully demonstrated that the personal could also be plural.

Salvio looks at how Sexton framed and used the personal in teaching and learning, and considers the extent to which our histories—both personal and social—exert their influence on teaching. In doing so, she situates the teaching life of Anne Sexton at the center of what feminist philosophers consider to be key problems and questions in feminist pedagogy: navigating the appropriate distance between teacher and student, the relationship between writer and poetic subject, and the relationship between emotional life and knowledge. Examining Sexton’s pedagogy, with its “weird abundance” of tactics and strategies, Salvio argues that Sexton’s use of the autobiographical “I” is as much a literary identity as a literal identity, one that can speak with great force to educators who recognize its vital role in the humanities classroom.

“Who is the poet who teaches? When that poet is Sexton, Paula Salvio argues, the issue of teaching persona is never far from the center of the room. The fact that Sexton has never been studied through this lens is the first reason to read this book; the second is that Salvio teaches her readers more about Sexton, poetry, and teaching than any course I know.” — Dawn Skorczewski, author of *Teaching One Moment at a Time: Disruption and Repair in the Classroom*

**PAULA M. SALVIO** is Associate Professor of Education at the University of New Hampshire and the coeditor (with Gail M. Boldt) of *Love’s Return: Psychoanalytic Essays on Childhood, Teaching, and Learning.*
In Dreaming about the Divine, Bonnelle Lewis Strickling argues that people dream about the divine in forms that fit their current emotional and spiritual condition. Using Jungian psychology and the philosophy of Karl Jaspers, Strickling contends that dreams about the divine occur in the context of existential issues; psychic and emotional crises which open us to the experience of the divine. She concludes that working with dreams of the divine can be spiritually, psychically, and emotionally helpful both to people who are engaged in a spiritual search and also to people who are already committed to a spiritual tradition.

“Bonnelle Lewis Strickling has written a compelling book that illustrates powerfully the point that, as Jacques Derrida said, it is when we are ‘hoping, sighing, dreaming’ that we give form to what is really going on in our hearts, that we give shape to our deepest desire beyond desire. A beautiful and moving work.” — John D. Caputo, author of Philosophy and Theology

“The texture of this work is intellectually stimulating, emotionally engaging, and spiritually brave. It also reflects the author’s own deep psychospiritual journey.” — Jeremy Taylor, author of The Living Labyrinth: Exploring Universal Themes in Myths, Dreams, and the Symbolism of Waking Life

“Strickling creates a totally original, yet deeply satisfying approach to the psychospiritual dynamics of dreaming and provides excellent practical methods for helping people develop a fruitful, open-ended dialogue with the dreaming imagination.” — Kelly Bulkeley, author of Visions of the Night: Dreams, Religion, and Psychology

A practicing Jungian therapist, Bonnelle Lewis Strickling is also Chair of Philosophy at Langara College and Clinical Associate of Psychology at Simon Fraser University.
BUT ONE RACE
The Life of Robert Purvis
MARGARET HOPE BACON

Biography of famous black abolitionist and voting rights advocate, Robert Purvis.

Born in South Carolina to a wealthy white father and mixed race mother, Robert Purvis (1810–1898) was one of the nineteenth century’s leading black abolitionists and orators. In this first biography of Purvis, Margaret Hope Bacon uses his eloquent and often fierce speeches to provide a glimpse into the life of a passionate and distinguished man, intimately involved with a wide range of major reform movements, including abolition, civil rights, Underground Railroad activism, women’s rights, Irish Home Rule, Native American rights, and prison reform. Citing his role in developing the Philadelphia Vigilant Committee, an all black organization that helped escaped slaves secure passage to the North, the New York Times described Purvis at the time of his death as the president of the Underground Railroad. Voicing his opposition to a decision by the state of Pennsylvania to disenfranchise black voters in 1838, Purvis declared “there is but one race, the human race.” But One Race is the dramatic story of one of the most important figures of his time.

“In this long-overdue biography of Robert Purvis, Margaret Hope Bacon has given us back one of the towering figures in the history of civil rights. Bacon has given us not only the political man—whose name should be as familiar to us as that of Frederick Douglass and Harriet Tubman—but also a compelling, full-round portrait of a deeply complex and appealing human being, whose natural optimism was sorely tested by the early loss of several children to disease, and by white America’s repeated betrayal of his abiding faith in the nation’s promise of freedom and equality.” — Fergus M. Bordewich, author of Bound for Canaan: The Underground Railroad and the War for the Soul of America

“Margaret Bacon has worked tirelessly in her effort to rescue Robert Purvis from obscurity and present him to the modern reader as a man who was both of his time and ahead of it in his demands for an equality that knew no lines of race or sex.” — Julie Winch, author of A Gentleman of Color: The Life of James Forten

MARGARET HOPE BACON is an independent scholar and the author of many books, including Valiant Friend: The Life of Lucretia Mott and Abby Hopper Gibbons: Prison Reformer and Social Activist, also published by SUNY Press.
In this fascinating book, Roderick Main examines meaningful coincidence or what Swiss psychiatrist C. G. Jung called synchronicity. Moving beyond Jung’s psychological theory, he explores the plausibility and value of viewing synchronicity as a form of spiritual experience and clarifies connections between the phenomenon and a range of traditional spiritual concepts, including numinosity, miraculousness, transformation, unity, transcendence and immanence, providence, and revelation. Through the detailed analysis of two remarkable series of synchronistic events, Main illustrates and further develops these connections. He also includes an examination of the alleged synchronistic basis of the ancient Chinese Oracle of Change, the I Ching.

“Main’s presentation of the existing literature on synchronicity is nearly exhaustive. He explicates the varying positions held by others and then proceeds to criticize all of them. His criticisms of others, especially Jung, are unfailingly logical, precise, and fair. He then lays out his own views systematically and illustrates them in an array of venues, each of which he analyzes methodically and open-mindedly. Bold and original, this is an important work.” — Robert A. Segal, University of Aberdeen

“By breaking synchronicity out of the cage of psychological study into the larger world of religious and spiritual concern, Main addresses an important topic that has not been adequately treated despite the recent torrent of writing on synchronicity. The care and thoroughness of his analysis is impressive. Mature, authoritative, and interesting, this is Main’s best work.” — Victor Mansfield, author of Synchronicity, Science, and Soul-Making: Understanding Jungian Synchronicity through Physics, Buddhism, and Philosophy

Roderick Main is Lecturer in Psychoanalytic Studies at the University of Essex in the United Kingdom and the author of The Rupture of Time: Synchronicity and Jung’s Critique of Modern Western Culture.