Douglas Selvage | Journal of Cold War Studies
“...Just as important for the ongoing formulation and spread of the KGB's AIDS disinformation was a cycle of misinformation and disinformation that arose between U.S.-based conspiracy theorists—especially Lyndon LaRouche and his followers—and authors and publications espousing Moscow’s preferred theses regarding AIDS.”

Homo Trumpiens: Ben Lerner’s The Topeka School
Christian Lorentzen | Sewanee Review
“Ben Lerner...is less an anti-rebel or anti-anti-rebel than a writer who has arrived at a truce between irony and sincerity by decoupling self-consciousness from cynicism. Lerner’s lodestars are the poetry of Walt Whitman and John Ashbery, visual art, and the classic European novel. The governing concept of The Topeka School is the ‘man-child’”

The Search for the Imperfect Language
Massimo Leone | Semiotica
“The meta-semiotic ideology that underpins most contemporary semiotics seems at odds with the one that underlies the attempt at planning and creating a new language...The article analyses linguistic utopias from the perspective of present-day semiotics.”

Doctor Beddooe’s Democratic Toys: Education, Embodiment, and Empowerment
Lisa Ann Robertson | Essays in Romanticism
“...This article reads the toys in conjunction with texts by Beddoes himself and others in his circle that advocate political, social, and educational reform. The rational toys, I argue, are a material manifestation of Beddoes’s democratic materialist philosophy.”

The Other Europe? Scandinavian Intellectuals and the Fragility of Democracy in the Wake of World War II
Johan Strang | Journal of Modern European History
“Focusing on the fears of socialist planning, concerns about the position of individual rights and freedoms in modern societies, and the anxieties concerning the secular total state, the article suggests that the Scandinavian post-war democratic settlement was indeed built around a different set of ideas from those evident in many other places in Europe...”

Monitoring the Self: François-Marc-Louis Naville and His Moral Tables
Harro Maas | History of Science
“This paper examines the self-measurement and self-tracking practices of a turn-of-the-nineteenth-century Genevese pastor and pedagogical innovator, François-Marc-Louis Naville, who extensively used Benjamin Franklin’s tools of moral calculation and a lesser known tool, Marc-Antoine Jullien’s moral thermometer, to set a direction to his life and to monitor and improve his moral character.”

Geoffrey Scott and Modern Architectural Thought: The Creation of a Legacy Throughout the Twentieth Century
Raúl Martínez Martínez | Journal of the History of Ideas
“Geoffrey Scott’s influential book The Architecture of Humanism has become an irrevocable part of the architectural canon...Though it has always been placed within the classical camp this article will, for the first time, underscore its influence within the modernist field of thought before and after World War II.”
BOOKS

Turkish Intelligence and the Cold War: The Turkish Secret Service, the US and the UK
Egemen Bezci | Bloomsbury Academic

"[This books] shows that a pragmatic approach offers states new opportunities to protect national interests, by conducting "intelligence diplomacy' to influence crucial areas such as nuclear weapons and to exploit cooperation in support of their own strategic imperatives."

How To Be a Dictator: The Cult of Personality in the Twentieth Century
Frank Dikötter | University of Wisconsin Press

"No dictator can rule through fear and violence alone. Naked power can be grabbed and held temporarily, but it never suffices in the long term. At a time when democracy is in retreat, are we seeing a revival of the same techniques among some of today’s world leaders?"

The Alchemy of Meth: A Decomposition
Jason Pine | Routledge

"[This book] looks at meth through materials, landscapes, and institutions and bases the book on fieldwork among meth cooks, recovery professionals, pastors, public defenders, narcotics agents, and pharmaceutical executives."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Sonic Anthropocene: Can Sound and Video Art Take On Climate Change
Alice Bucknell | Elephant

"In our image-saturated culture, sound hits harder than visuals. A host of artists are using immersive light, video and performance installations to tackle our global environmental meltdown, addressing ecological collapse with gut-punching results."

How Can We Curb the Spread of Scientific Racism?
John Horgan | Scientific American

"As long as racism still infects our societies, it confounds attempts to disentangle the relative contributions of genes and environment to racial inequality."

The World According To Roger Ballen
Michael Grieve | British Journal of Photography

"For nearly 40 years Roger Ballen has been an outsider, operating on the margins with his fellow art brut artists. Now a new book and exhibition offer a glimpse inside the workings and processes of his dark mind, a world, he says, that, reveals itself through itself"

VIDEOS

Adversity, Resilience, and the Developing Brain
Christopher Monk | Ann Arbor District Library

"This video characterizes the developmental risks of childhood adversity and discusses the social and biological mechanisms that may explain the striking degree of resilience found in the adolescent brain."

The Polar Bear Catastrophe That Never Happened
Susan Crockford | The Global Warming Policy Forum

"Since 2005 Arctic biologists have insisted the polar bear is extremely sensitive to sharp reductions in sea ice. However, research shows that assumption to be false: summer sea ice fell decades before it was expected yet the predicted devastation of polar bears never happened."

The Critic's Critic: G. K. Chesterton on God and Literature
Dale Ahlquist | de Nicola Center for Ethics and Culture ndethics

"The lecturer laments that Chesterton as a literary critic has been overlooked, saying, 'we have the problem of the 300-pound writer who has fallen through the cracks.'"
PODCASTS

**Leibniz Discovers Asia: Social Networking in the Republic of Letters**
Michael Carhart | JHIdeas Podcast

“Placing comparative linguistics within Leibniz’s intellectual program, the podcast offers extensive insight into a book about how Leibniz built his early modern scholarly network, the network’s functionality within the international Republic of Letters, and its limitations.”

**Room for a Stranger**
Melanie Cheng, Ailsa Piper | Sydney Writers’ Festival

“This podcast talks explores a novel that unfolds the seemingly ordinary lives of an elderly woman and struggling student living under the same roof to reveal the complex and important truths about connection and home.”

**Prescribing the Dharma: Psychotherapists, Buddhist Traditions, and Defining Religion**
Ira Helderman | New Books in Psychoanalysis

“Interest in the psychotherapeutic capacity of Buddhist teachings and practices is widely evident in the popular imagination. News media routinely report on the neuropsychological study of Buddhist meditation and applications of mindfulness practices in settings including corporate offices, the U.S. military, and university health centers.”

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