Cold War on Ice? Soviet Ice-Hockey Dominance and Foreign Policy
Magda B. Leichtová, Jiří Zákravský | Sport in Society
"Sport has been widely used as a tool of communication (ping-pong diplomacy), penalization (boycotts) and also safe competition during the Cold War. The allegedly apolitical Olympic Games held a prominent place in this system of de facto politicized sport, with both rivalling superpowers trying to prove their fitness through the winning of Olympic medals..."

Sleeping Soldiers: On Sleep and War
Helen M Kinsella | Security Dialogue
"In this article, I explore sleep specifically as a weapon of war, as a logistic of war, and as a metaphor for conscience in war. In proposing the capacity to sleep as a measure of the effects of strategies of war, and to recalibrate understandings of intimacy and vulnerability in war, I highlight the distinct effects of war on all its denizens..."

There and Back Again. Tolkien, Gamers, and the Remediation of Exclusion Through Fantasy Media
Emma Vossen | Feminist Media Histories
"The cultural ubiquity of The Lord of the Rings has shaped our contemporary assumptions about what the fantasy genre looks like, and these assumptions have in turn determined to a great extent what video games look like both historically and today. The Lord of the Rings and video games are, sadly, both well known for their lack of diversity, and this article argues that that is no coincidence."

Sweeping and Eliminating Evils: a Diachronic Study of Mafia in China
Xinlin Peng, Mingyu Gong, et al | International Journal of Legal Discourse
"Mafia organizations have long been a threat to Chinese society. The development of mafia organizations in China have experienced four stages: formation, dying out, resurgence, and recurrence. The Chinese government has attached great importance to the governance of mafia organizations and has suppressed mafia forces with some notable achievements..."

The Return of Religion or the End of Religion? On the Need To Rethink Religion As a Category of Social and Political Life
Jayne Svenungsson | Philosophy & Social Criticism
"This article...argues that we need to rethink the way we use religion as a category for organizing social and political life. If religion can no longer be taken as a purely descriptive category but rather should be seen as part of specific discursive practices, then we need to critically ponder the implications of the ways in which we map certain customs, behaviours and motifs as 'religious' and others as 'secular'."

Spatial Poetics Under Authoritarianism: Graffiti and the Contestation of Urban Redevelopment in Contemporary China
Nick R. Smith | Antipode
"This article investigates the expression of resistance to urban redevelopment in the authoritarian context of contemporary China...Through the practice of spatial poetics, residents manipulate the taken-for-granted meanings attached to urban space, challenging the spatial codes that authorise redevelopment..."
Can Dogs Be Racist? The Colonial Legacies of Racialized Dogs in Kenya and Zambia
Josh Doble | History Workshop Journal

"This article traces the colonial demarcation of 'native dogs' - juxtaposed to white settlers' 'pet' dogs - to understand how racial categories were imposed on domesticated animals, and how these racialized animals were then colonized through rabies legislation. Although the formal racialization of dogs ended with the dawn of political decolonization in the early 1960s, dogs continued to be co-opted for postcolonial racial discourse."

Clerical Sexual Abuse: Popes and the Policy of Sin
Jo Renee Formicola | Journal of Church and State

"A church with more than one billion adherents, dealing with a worldwide sexual abuse crisis, precipitated from within, and made worse by the responses of its own officials?...Why were Popes John Paul, Benedict, and Francis unable to develop effective strategies and, in turn, universal processes to end clerical sexual abuse?"

Transnational Moral Panic: Neoliberalism and the Spectre of MS-13
Steven Osuna | Race & Class

"Since the election of Donald Trump, MS-13, the Salvadoran street gang, has become a national security and foreign policy concern for his administration...The production of a moral panic over MS-13 has been transnationalised between the United States and El Salvador to displace the contradictions of global capitalism in El Salvador to a local and deported relative surplus population."

Confronting Indifference Toward Truth: Dealing With Workplace Bullshit
Ian P. McCarthy, David Hannah, et al | Business Horizons

"Many organizations are drowning in a flood of corporate bullshit, and this is particularly true of organizations in trouble, whose managers tend to make up stuff on the fly and with little regard for future consequences...Managers can actually do something about organizational bullshit, and this [article] provides a sequential framework that enables them to do so."

BOOKS

Google Rules: The History and Future of Copyright Under the Influence of Google
Joanne Elizabeth Gray | Oxford University Press

"This book delivers practical and achievable recommendations for how to regulate Google to achieve public interest outcomes."

The Emergence of Capitalism in Early America
Christopher W. Calvo | University Press of Florida

"...this book demonstrates that American thinkers fused different economic models, assumptions, and interests into a unique hybrid-capitalist system that shaped the trajectory of the nation's economy."

The International Alt-Right: Fascism for the 21st Century?
Patrik Hermansson, David Lawrence, Joe Mulhall, Simon Murdoch | Routledge

"The alt-right is a thoroughly modern far-right movement that uses cutting edge technology and this book reveals how they use cryptocurrencies, encryption, hacking, 'meme warfare', social media, and the dark web. This book explains where the alt-right came from, its history so far, what it believes, how it organises and operates, and its future trajectory."

JOURNALISM & ESSAYS

Sartre and De Beauvoir Divided By Palestine
Shalom Goldman | Marginalia

"On the issue of Israel and the Palestinians, more than on any other issue, de Beauvoir disagreed with Jean Paul Sartre. She admired Israel's accomplishments; he did not. He condemned Israel's actions but did not condemn human rights violations by its adversaries."
1980-1989: Rockism Faces the World
Robert Christgau | The Village Voice
"In the ’80s the only list that computes is pure megaplatinum - Prince and Bruce and U2 and Michael J. and Madonna, with maybe a few million-selling status symbols like Sting, Talking Heads, R.E.M., or Public Enemy tacked on for appearance’s sake."

Inside Mexico’s War on Drugs: Conversations With ‘El Narco’
Karina García Reyes | El País
"Where does all this violence come from? Who justifies its use, and how? How is violence reproduced within Mexican families, and echoed within communities?"

REPORTS, DISSERTATIONS, & MISCELLANEOUS

Economic Fetishes of ‘Modern’ Retail Capitalism
Mary O’Sullivan | Geneva School of Social Sciences
"This document grappels how capital operates as capitalism by studying how retail capitalists generate profits. Doing so shows how misguided economists are in casting Wal-Mart as a poster child of economic efficiency for a post-industrial age... and allows us to understand Wal-Mart’s own economic fetishes in running its business..."

Elites in the UK: Pulling Away?
Katharina Hecht | The Sutton Trust
"This work shows that geographic mobility is associated with the reproduction of social class advantage, instead of a common feature for those who have achieved upward social mobility... Long distance upward mobility need not entail moving geographically."

Democracy and Digital Authoritarianism: An Assessment of the EU’s External Engagement in the Promotion and Protection of Internet Freedom
Susanna Garside | EU Diplomacy
"To what extent does the EU engage externally in the promotion and protection of internet freedom? This paper answers by covering a wide variety of policy fields including human rights and democracy promotion, digital policy, enlargement and neighbourhood policy, development cooperation and trade policy."

VIDEOS

Automation, Labor, and the Architectural Imagination
Tara Shi | UC Berkeley College of Environmental Design
"Shifting labor practices [due to automation] are not only augmenting existing buildings, but are also producing new architectural typologies ... Issues like ethics, access, transparency and obsolescence in the built environment will only become more complex as the future increasingly automates."

Is Privacy Possible in the Proposed Sidewalk Toronto or Any ‘Smart City’?
Andrew Clement, Natasha Tusikov | Centre for Free Expression
"This panel explores questions of privacy, access to data, data governance and the protection of basic human rights and liberties by focussing on a key technology that is part of the Sidewalk Toronto proposal - the home and office building management systems."

The Politics of Writing Art Histories
Ceren Özpınar | British Institute at Ankara
"By examining how women artists have been positioned through particular models and tropes since the 1960s, this lecture explores the ways in which the actual encounters of artists take on further significance in their art, in order to formulate new visual epistemologies in art history."

PODCASTS
Subjectivity In-Between Times: Exploring the Notion of Time in Lacan's Work
Chenyang Wang | New Books

"A Chinese psychoanalyst explores how Lacan offers a radical rethinking of the past, present, and future: going beyond a linear approach to time and a reductive focus on early childhood, and rigorously theorising the interrelation of social, bodily, egoic and unsymbolisable aspects of temporal subjectivity."

Socialism and the Future of Heterodox Economics
Geoffrey Hodgson | The Governance Podcast

"Is socialism feasible? What is the future of heterodox economics after the financial crisis? A wide-ranging conversation on the nature of social democracy, neoliberalism, and new paradigms in economics."

Crony Capitalism In The Middle East
Ishac Diwan, Adeel Malik | LSE Middle East Centre Podcasts

"While the Middle East has witnessed a growing nexus between business and politics in the wake of liberalisation, little is discussed about the nature of business cronies, the sectors in which they operate, the mechanisms used to favour them and the possible impact of such crony relations on the region's development."