



**UNIVERSITY OF  
ILLINOIS PRESS**



2023 | ANNUAL REPORT

## LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

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Photo credit UI News Bureau,  
L. Brian Stauffer

Three years past the onset of the pandemic, our acquisitions staff have returned to conference travel and are ramping up their lists; current journals content is snugly ensconced at the Scholarly Publishing Collective; and a newly revived regional trade list is helping secure the bottom line and expand our local profile. New hires across the Press are energizing our programs as we launch and refresh book series, invigorate our journals program, and reimagine marketing and publicity, all while maintaining the highest production standards of our industry and seeking to foster a more equitable and inclusive culture in our workplace and relationships.

Five years into our second century, our signature programs are going strong. To date, we have presented nine publishing symposia and hosted seven 'Round the Press interns and five summer interns, the latter sponsored by the UIC Provost's Graduate Internship Award program. We are securing new partnerships and grants that include: a co-publishing arrangement with the Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum; a grant from the City of Chicago's Department of Cultural Affairs and Special Events (DCASE) to support a monuments project celebrating the Latina experience in the Pilsen neighborhood; and a pilot program, supported by funding from the UI System, that will provide all members of the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI) with subscriptions to virtually all UI Press journals content.

Amid these exciting moves toward collaboration, openness, and shared resources, however, the free circulation of ideas is under threat. Censorship not only limits the range of what people can read, it also restricts knowledge production and dissemination. It seeks to delegitimize, defund, marginalize, and silence voices, perspectives, and histories that challenge heteronormative frames, interpretations, and speakers. It engenders fear of speaking out on "sensitive" topics like histories of discrimination and repression, systemic racism, and non-normative gender and sexuality. It closes avenues of opportunity and advancement. It shutteres archives, narrows research, and constrains learning.

In line with our land-grant mission, we pledge to devote ourselves and our resources to amplifying voices that articulate difference, and to elevating scholars and communities that manifest and embody diversity. We affirm the value of fact-based, peer-reviewed content that is grounded in archival or ethnographic research and constructed on sound intellectual foundations. We will continue to invest in publications and programs that enhance cultural literacy in our region and in the broader scholarly community.

Affirm difference by reading about it. Find out more at [www.press.uillinois.edu](http://www.press.uillinois.edu).

Sincerely,

Laurie Matheson, DMA

## ABOUT THE PRESS

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Established in 1918, the University of Illinois Press publishes and disseminates worldwide eighty new books per year and forty-three humanities and social science journals with a staff of forty. A founding member of the Association of American University Presses, now the Association of University Presses (AUPresses), the University of Illinois Press is proud to serve the state and University of Illinois and the broader scholarly community in advancing the twin goals of scholarly communication and an informed citizenry.



ASSOCIATION  
of UNIVERSITY  
PRESSES

The University of Illinois Press is  
a founding member of the  
Association of University Presses.

On the cover: Image from Unsplash.  
com.

# UIP Expands Its Outreach

## UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS PRESS PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM

The University of Illinois Press continued its series of publishing symposia during the 2022–2023 academic year. The twice-annual events bring together industry professionals, authors, and scholars to discuss specific aspects of academic publishing. Both of this year's UIP symposia featured a pair of fifty-minute panels. Each reached over 150 participants. The Fall and Spring symposia remained online.

Cosponsors of the symposia: the University of Illinois Chicago Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research; the UIC Institute for the Humanities; the UIC Library; the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign Humanities Research Institute and the UIUC Office of the Vice Chancellor for Research and Innovation; and the Office of the Vice President for Academic Affairs.

### FALL PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 15, 2022

#### Session 1. Moving up: Publishing Strategies for Career Advancement in the Academy

Panelists: **Jamie F. Chriqui** is Senior Associate Dean and a professor of health policy and administration in the School of Public Health at the University of Illinois at Chicago (chair); **Stephanie Y. Crawford** is Executive Associate Dean for Faculty Affairs & Strategic Initiatives and professor in the Department of Pharmacy Systems, Outcomes and Policy at the University of Illinois at Chicago College of Pharmacy; **Julie Greene** is a professor of history at the University of Maryland; **Amanda E. Lewis** is the director of the Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy and College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and distinguished professor of Black studies and sociology at the University of Illinois at Chicago.

The session addressed issues like what publishing projects yield the greatest benefits to professional advancement and how early career faculty can best choose to invest their energies in a publishing project. The panelists' advice included strategies for article and book publications, the pros and cons of taking part in multi-contributor edited volumes, and the potential implications of open access, born digital, and crossover/trade projects.

To watch a recording of the full session, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WeKkck7usFg>

#### Session 2. Crossing Over: Strategies for Pursuing Careers in Publishing

Panelists: **Alison Syring** is an acquisitions editor at the University of Illinois Press (chair); **Angela Burton** is the intellectual property manager at the University of Illinois Press; **Claire Eder** is the production coordinator at University Press of Kentucky; **Jermey Matthews** is the senior acquisitions editor for physical sciences, engineering, and mathematics at the MIT Press.

The panel discussed scholarly publishing as an academic-adjacent career alternative and shared their paths into the field. In addition, the session provided practical advice on building a publishing resume, identifying opportunities, and getting your foot in the door, plus insights about what search committees in publishing look for in an applicant.

To watch a recording of the full session, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qJ0vUqisihE>

### SPRING PUBLISHING SYMPOSIUM, THURSDAY, APRIL 6, 2023

#### Session 1. Dissertation to Book: Success Stories and Strategies from the Field

Panelists: **Laurie Matheson** is director of the University of Illinois Press (chair); **Thomas A. Castillo** is an associate professor of history at Coastal Carolina University; **Erin L. Durban** is an assistant professor of anthropology at the University of Minnesota–Twin Cities and affiliated with American Studies and Gender, Women and Sexuality Studies; **Mirelsie Velázquez** is an associate professor of Latina/o Studies at the University of Illinois at Urbana–Champaign.

In this session, three authors each shared the story of turning their dissertation into a published book. The panelists paid special attention to how they reconceptualized and repurposed a dissertation with strategies like new research, expanding a project's scope, crafting different governing arguments, and/or restructuring. From that point, the authors addressed the peer review and revision process and the project's evolution over the course of that process, and offered tips and lessons learned.

To watch a recording of the full session, go to: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dz9\\_gPukNd4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dz9_gPukNd4)

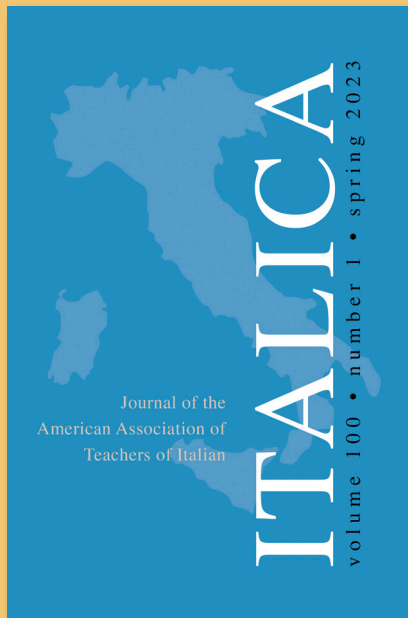
#### Session 2. Book Series: Their Rhyme and Reason

Panelists: **Daniel Nasset** is editor-in-chief at the University of Illinois Press (chair); **Dan Schiller** is a professor emeritus of information science and communication at the University of Illinois Urbana–Champaign; **Jaime Schultz** is a professor of kinesiology, with an affiliate faculty appointment in Women's, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, at Pennsylvania State University; **Justus Nieland** is a professor and chairperson of the Department of English at Michigan State University, and teaches in the Film Studies Program;

Industry veterans provided an in-depth look at an important area of academic publishing. The panelists addressed common questions, from the origins and purpose of a book series to the varied roles that can be played by a series editor, and from how editors select books for a series to how an author may benefit from publishing a series book.

To watch a recording of the full session, go to: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l0hk36By7Ag>

# Journals Highlights

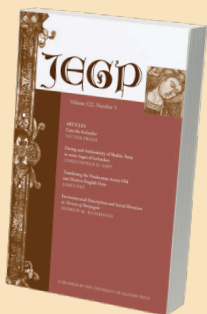


## NEW JOURNAL: *ITALICA*

UIP welcomes *Italica*, a quarterly journal that publishes critical studies on all aspects of Italian literature, culture, cinema, linguistics, language pedagogy, as well as interdisciplinary and comparative studies. The journal also features a section devoted to translations of Italian major works/authors, cultural debates, and interviews. *Italica* is receptive to all scholarly methods and theoretical perspectives and is the official journal of the American Association of Teachers of Italian. With a rich history of scholarship, *Italica* celebrates its 100th volume year in 2023. This journal is a valuable addition to our growing collection of Italian studies journals at UIP, which includes *Diasporic Italy: Journal of the Italian American Studies Association*, *Italian American Review*, and *Italian Americana*.

## ILLINOIS JOURNAL COLLECTION LAUNCHED

In 2022, UIP began a partnership with the Scholarly Publishing Collective, which provides digital access and promotion through library-relations networks and agents for more than 40 of its journals. Institutions can choose to subscribe to specific titles or the entire run of UIP content through a new product launched in 2023—the Illinois Journal Collection. Pricing for the Collection varies based on an institution’s Carnegie Basic Classification, public library population, national income level, and highest degree offered for international institutions. This package is expected to increase revenue for client journals and heighten their visibility and usage, especially for newer titles, while also making UIP journal content more accessible in underserved populations globally.



# UIP Books Make an Impact

This year, several UIP titles appeared in national and regional news outlets. The high-profile articles demonstrate the impact of the scholarship we publish on shaping the understanding of our world and history. Additionally, UIP authors provided critical expertise that added to our understanding of current events and cultural conversations.

## 3 Fields Books in the News

**Benjamin Vogt's** book *Prairie Up: An Introduction to Natural Garden Design* found widespread acclaim in the native plant movement with coverage in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Publishers Weekly*, *Library Journal*, *Horticulture*, *Slate*, *Midwest Living* and more.

*Made in Chicago: Stories Behind 30 Great Hometown Bites*, by **Monica Eng** and **David Hammond**, delighted foodies looking to eat off the beaten path with coverage by NBC 5, CBS 2, ABC 7, WGN, *Chicago Reader*, *Chicago Tribune*, *New City*, *Chicago Magazine*, and more. It was also a *BookRiot* Most Anticipated Travel Book of 2023.

**Adam Selzer's** book *Graceland Cemetery: Chicago Stories, Symbols, and Secrets* took readers on a journey through one of Chicago's most famous cemeteries. Covered by *Chicago Reader*, *The Chicago Tribune*, WGN, Fox 32, *Third Coast Review*, *NewCity* and more.

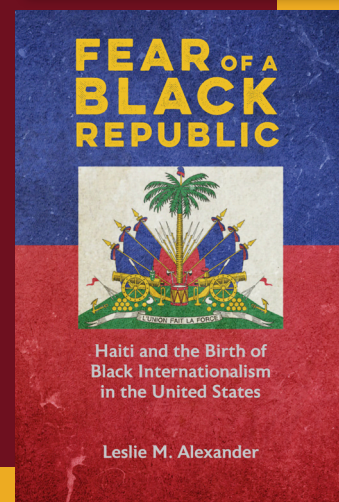
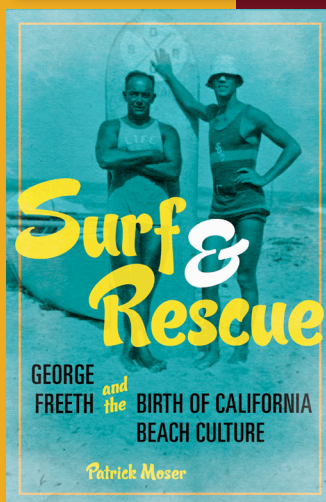
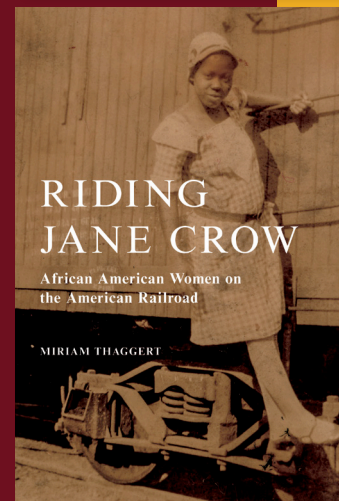
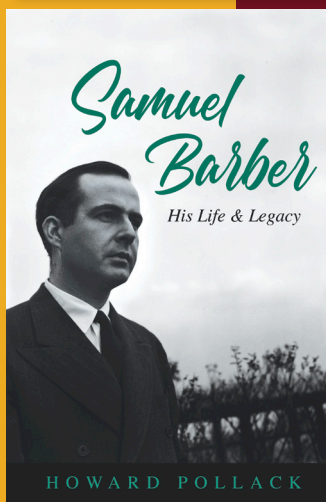
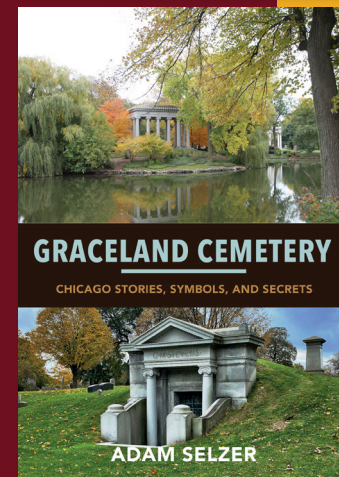
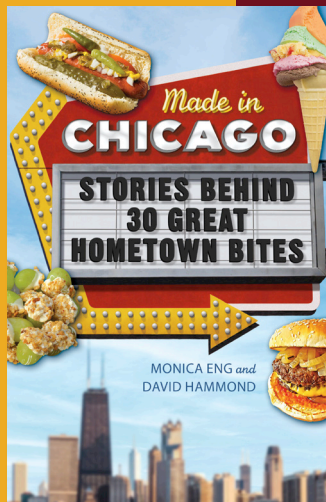
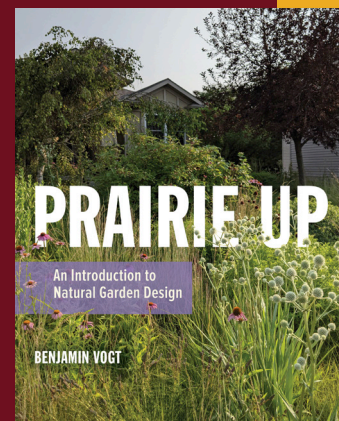
## UIP Books in the News

**Howard Pollack's** book, *Samuel Barber: His Life and Legacy*, brought the 'Adagio for Strings' composer to life with a starred review in *Library Journal*, and reviews in the *Wall Street Journal*, *New Yorker*, *Gramophone*, and *Gay and Lesbian Review*.

*Riding Jane Crow: African American Women on the American Railroad*, by **Miriam Thaggert**, illuminated Black women's experiences with train travel with an exhibit tied to the book at the Newberry Library and coverage in the *Chicago Defender*, *Chicago Reader*, *Chicago Sun-Times*, *CBS Chicago*, a starred review in *Library Journal*, and more.

*Surf and Rescue: George Freeth and the Birth of California Beach Culture*, by **Patrick Moser**, made waves with reviews in the *Los Angeles Review of Books*, *San Francisco Chronicle*, and a starred review in *Library Journal*. *Library Journal* also named it A Best Arts and Humanities Book of 2022.

**Leslie Alexander's** book *Fear of a Black Republic: Haiti and the Birth of Black Internationalism in the United States* broadened our understanding of Haiti's place in the global Black freedom struggle. Alexander appeared as an on-screen commentator in the Hulu *1619 Project* documentary, was interviewed on the *Slate* podcast *A Word with Jason Johnson*, and the book was covered in *Ms*.



# Our Internship Program

## UIC INTERN 2023

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### Selena Cotte

“My time at the press has been an excellent opportunity to learn about academic publishing through the various duties, structures, and philosophies I’ve been exposed to. Through my time in both Acquisitions and Journals Marketing, I’ve had access to deep-in-the-weeds processes that keep the Press running and have been able to create a holistic view of the important academic role that presses play in the broader educational system. Speaking with individuals in various departments has been the most valuable part of my time. These talks have showed me the many different tasks that must be performed to keep the Press in motion. I feel now far more confident in my own ability to publish as an academic writer, given my newfound familiarity with various systems and considerations that the Press has in place; and informed of the possibilities outside of a traditional tenure track position that my PhD can provide me.”



## INTERNS AT WORK

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### Some of our interns during the 2022–2023 school year

**Jesus Chavez** is a junior pursuing his bachelor’s degree in consumer economics and finance. Jesus assisted the Marketing Department with sales and administrative tasks while also working in the Production Department with the Press’s ongoing National Endowment for the Humanities–funded e-books program.

**Annah Freudenburg** is a PhD student in the English Department focusing on literary studies. Annah was the ‘Round the Press intern and spent time contributing to each department. In Journals, for instance, Annah helped organize and research information related to indexing. She also brought creativity and insight into writing social media posts aimed at gaining recognition for recently published journal issues.

**Omer Israel** is a senior and intern assisting staffers in the Business Office. Omar’s duties for the Press include data entry and submitting forms to vendors.

**Sasha Preskill** is a senior majoring in music open studies with a minor in English. As a publicity intern in the Marketing Department, Sasha assisted with researching media contacts, creating press sheets, pulling quotes from reviews, putting together resource kits for authors, and more.

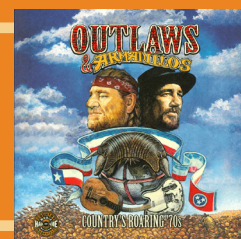
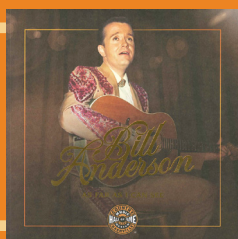
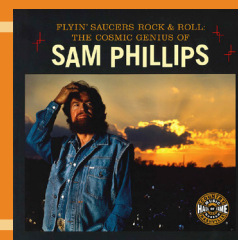
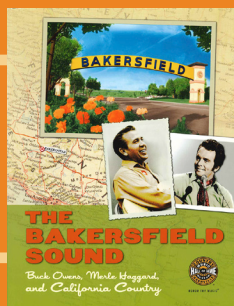
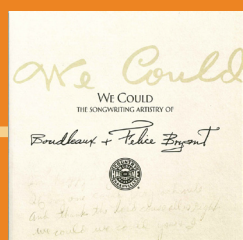
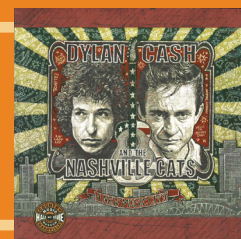
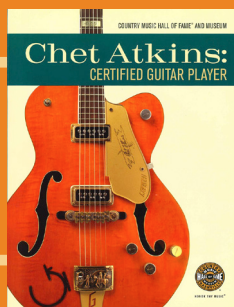
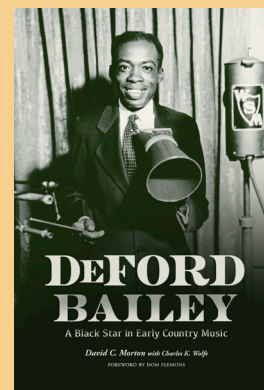
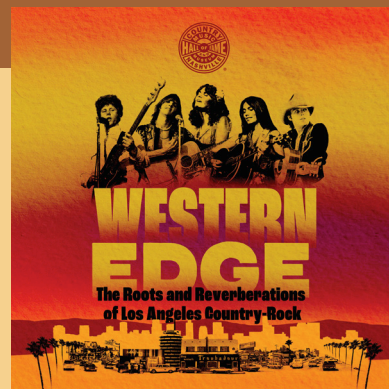
# Spotlight: A New Partnership

The University of Illinois Press's longtime dedication to music books makes it a natural partner of Nashville's landmark Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum. In late 2022, UIP began to co-publish and distribute titles from the museum's publishing company CMF Press. The partnership made its debut with *Western Edge: The Roots and Reverberations of Los Angeles Country-Rock*.

The reissued biography *DeFord Bailey: A Black Star in Early Country Music* arrived at booksellers the following spring. In addition to the original text, the reissue includes a new chapter on Bailey's thoughts about race relations, more than 40 photographs, a complete session discography, and a tie in with an online multimedia companion hosted by the museum.

"The Country Music Hall of Fame and Museum is a national treasure that shares our vital mission to document and celebrate roots music culture and its makers," said UIP director **Laurie Matheson**. "We are excited to build on the synergies of this partnership in extending the reach and impact of country music publications."

Since the 1980s, CMF Press has published some of the most significant titles about the art, business, and culture of country music. Bestsellers include Charles K. Wolfe's *A Good-Natured Riot: The Birth of the Grand Ole Opry*, and David Cantwell and Bill Friskics-Warren's *Heartaches by the Number: Country Music's 500 Greatest Singles*.



# Spotlight: Short Takes

## CARLI/UIP Journals partnership

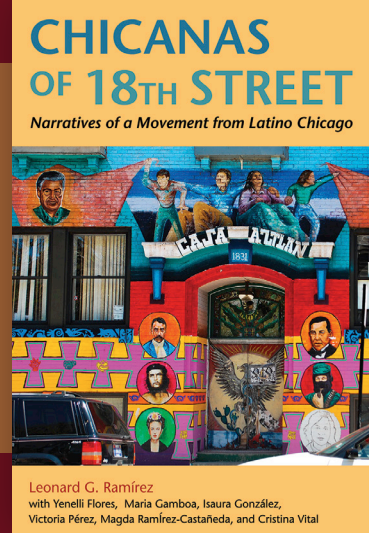
In July 2023, UIP launched a new partnership with the Consortium of Academic and Research Libraries in Illinois (CARLI), providing access to over forty of our scholarly journals. This initiative, which is funded by the University of Illinois System, Office of the Executive Vice President/Vice President for Academic Affairs, ensures that all CARLI libraries have access to electronic formats of all UIP journals for the five-year period of the pilot program. With this collaboration, nearly 3,000 library subscriptions are granted to ensure complete coverage of UIP journals throughout the CARLI system.

“Our 43 humanities and social science journals offer approachable, thought-provoking content on a range of subjects from music to philosophy, history to archaeology,” journals manager **Clydette Wantland** said. “This partnership significantly extends the reach and impact of our journals publications by providing these intellectual and academic resources to new audiences and users across the state of Illinois.”

## Monuments Project

The Pilsen Latina Histories Monuments Project, a collaboration between the University of Illinois Press, University of Illinois System, and the Pilsen Arts Community House, received a \$200,000 grant from the Chicago Monuments Projects of the Chicago Department of Cultural and Special Events. The new grant will fund one or two temporary or permanent monuments to be selected through a community planning process led by Teresa Magaña, director of the Pilsen Arts and Community House, with academic support from Professor Hinda Seif (Dept. of Sociology/Anthropology, UI Springfield) and UI Chicago doctoral student Liliana Macías (History). The project’s lead artist is Diana Solís, a Pilsen photographer and visual artist and 2023 Latinx Art Fellow.

The idea of commemorating Latina activism in Pilsen was inspired by the 2011 UIP book *Chicanas of 18th Street: Narratives of a Movement from Latino Chicago*, by Leonard G. Ramírez. The book presents oral histories of six Chicana activists working in Chicago during the 1960s and '70s.

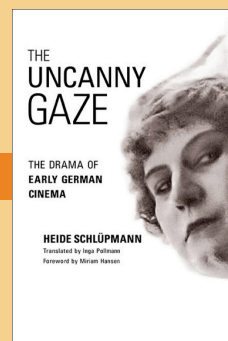
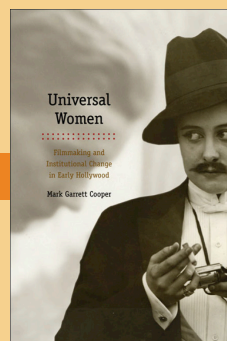
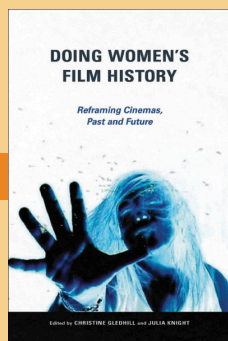
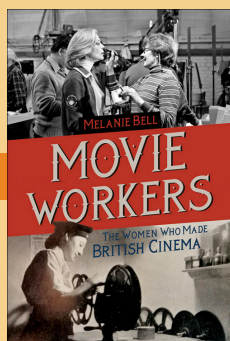
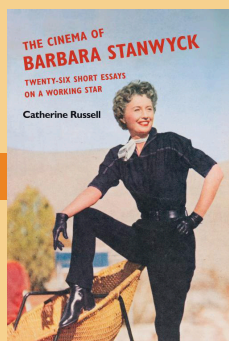
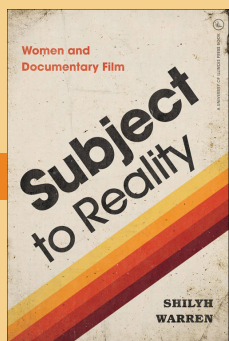


Leonard G. Ramírez  
with Yenelli Flores, Marta Gamboa, Isaura González,  
Victoria Pérez, Magda Ramírez-Castañeda, and Cristina Vital

## WOMEN'S MEDIA HISTORY NOW!

UIP assistant acquisitions editor **Mariah Schaefer** re-envisioned our Women and Film History International series as Women's Media History Now! Mariah added new series editor Sangita Gopal to

established editors Kay Armatage, Jane M. Gaines, and Christine Gledhill while expanding the series' boundaries and working with the editors to develop the new series name.



## SELECTED AWARD WINNERS

*A House for the Struggle: The Black Press and the Built Environment in Chicago*, by E. James West

**Winner of the American Journalism Historians Association Book of the Year**

**Winner of the British Association for American Studies Book Prize**

**Winner of the Michael Nelson Prize, International Association for Media and History**

**Winner, Jane Jacobs Urban Communication Book Award, Outstanding Book on the History of Chicago Award, Union League Club of Chicago**

**Honorable Mention, Research Society for American Periodicals Book Prize**

**Winner, Superior Achievement, Best of Illinois History, Illinois State Historical Society Awards**

*The Lady Swings: Memoirs of a Jazz Drummer*, by Dottie Dodgion and Wayne Enstice

**A *Variety* Best Music Book**

**Honored during the "In Memoriam" segment of the Grammy Awards**

**Certificate of Merit, Best Historical Research in Recorded Jazz, Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections**

**Finalist, Book of the Year About Jazz: Biography and Autobiography, Jazz Journalists Association**

*Peace Be Still: How James Cleveland and the Angelic Choir Created a Gospel Classic*, by Robert M. Marovich

**Certificate of Merit, Best Historical Research in Recorded Blues, Gospel, Soul, Hip-Hop or R&B, Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections**

**A *Choice* Outstanding Academic Title**

*Food Instagram: Identity, Influence, and Negotiation*, edited by Emily J. H. Contois and Zenia Kish

**Winner of the Association for the Study of Food and Society Book Prize for Edited Volume**

*The Heart of a Woman: The Life and Music of Florence B. Price*, by Rae Linda Brown, edited by Guthrie P. Ramsey Jr.

**Honorable Mention, Irving Lowens Book Award, Society for American Music**

**Winner, Pauline Alderman Award for Outstanding Scholarship on Women in Music, International Alliance for Women in Music**

*Riding Jane Crow: African American Women on the American Railroad*, by Miriam Thaggert

**Honorable Mention, Mary Nickliss Prize in U.S. Women's and/or Gender History, Organization of American Historians**

*Mormon Women at the Crossroads: Global Narratives and the Power of Connectedness*, by Caroline Kline

**Winner of the Mormon History Association Best International Book Award**

*Homer Rodeheaver and the Rise of the Gospel Music Industry*, by Kevin Mungons and Douglas Yeo

**Winner, Best History, Best Historical Research in Recorded Blues, Gospel, Soul, Hip-Hop or R&B, Excellence in Historical Recorded Sound Research from the Association for Recorded Sound Collections**

*Chen Yi*, by Leta E. Miller and J. Michele Edwards

**Winner of the Leila Webster Memorial Music Award for Outstanding Scholarship on Women in Music, International Alliance for Women in Music**

*Strong Winds and Widow Makers: Workers, Nature, and Environmental Conflict in Pacific Northwest Timber Country*, by Steven C. Beda

**Winner, Philip Taft Labor History Book Prize, Cornell University's Industrial and Labor Relations School and Labor and Working-Class History Association**  
**Cowinner of the Pacific Coast Branch Book Award, Pacific Coast Branch of the American Historical Association**

*The Poetics of Difference: Queer Feminist Forms in the African Diaspora*, by Mecca Jamilah Sullivan

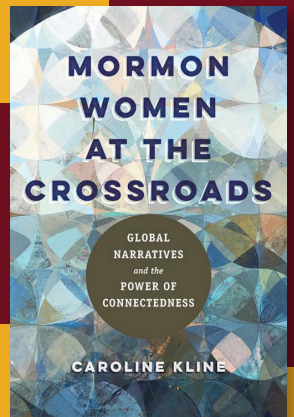
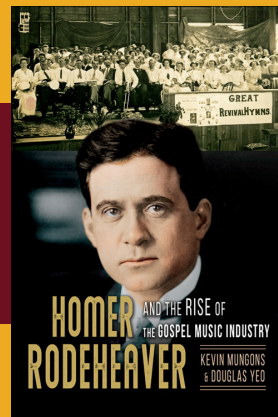
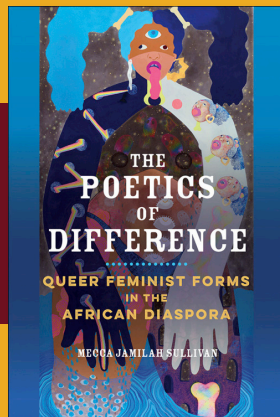
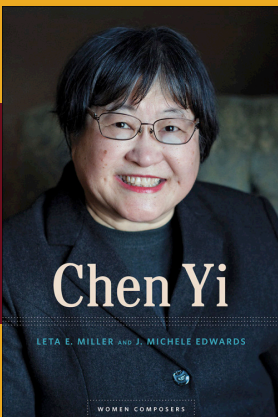
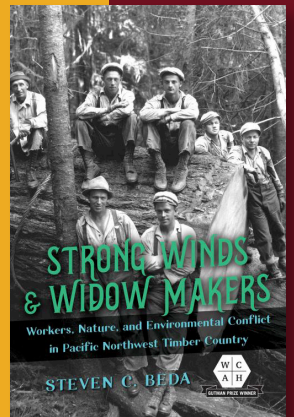
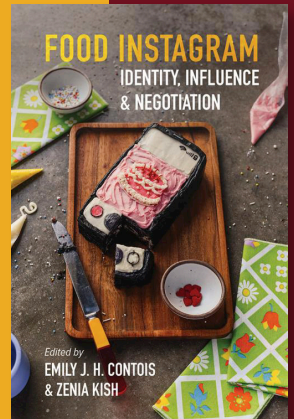
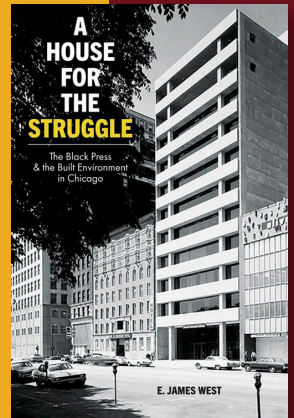
**Winner, William Sanders Scarborough Prize, Modern Language Association**

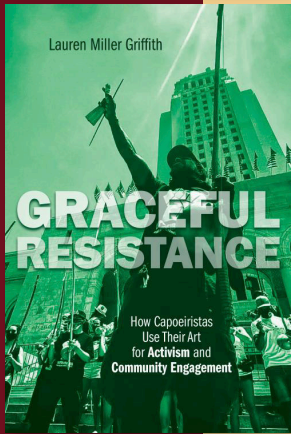
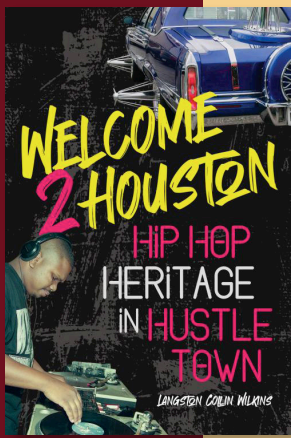
*Cheffes de Cuisine: Women and Work in the Professional French Kitchen*, by Rachel E. Black

**Works of Distinction, LDEI M.F.K. Fisher Prize for Excellence in Culinary Media Content**

*The House That Madigan Built: The Record Run of Illinois' Velvet Hammer*, by Ray Long

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*Samuel Barber: His Life and Legacy*, by Howard Pollack  
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*Welcome 2 Houston: Hip Hop Heritage in Hustle Town*, by Langston Collin Wilkins  
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*Dream Books and Gamblers: Black Women's Work in Chicago's Policy Game*, by Elizabeth Schroeder Schlabach  
**Supported by Furthermore grants in publishing, a program of the J. M. Kaplan Fund.**

## New Faces at the Press

**S. Leigh Ann Cowan** joined the Press in September of 2022 as an assistant to acquisitions editors Alison Syring and Dominique J. Moore. Previously, Leigh Ann worked as an editorial assistant at Gallaudet University Press and was a 2019 graduate of the Denver Publishing Institute. Her academic background includes an M.A. in English and in deaf studies. She works remotely from Arkansas.

In March 2023, **Kacey Nguyen** joined UIP as the new assistant sales manager. She is responsible for course adoption, desk and exam copy requests, and facilitates sales and inventory within the marketing department. Kacey's academic background includes B.A. degrees in history and gender and sexuality studies from the University of California, Irvine, as well as an M.A. in Social Sciences from the University of Chicago. She works remotely from Chicago.

**Mary Warner** joined UIP as the journals marketing assistant in February 2023. She has an M.A. in professional writing from Carnegie Mellon University and a B.A. in English from Hobart and William Smith Colleges. Mary works remotely from Austin, Texas.



Top to bottom:  
Leigh Ann Cowan,  
Kacey Nguyen,  
and Mary Warner

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