

Alien Ocean Anthropological Voyages In Microbial Seas

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[Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas](#) Princeton University Press

Are we alone? asks the writeup on the back cover of the dust jacket. The contributors to this collection raise questions that may have been overlooked by physical scientists about the ease of establishing meaningful communication with an extraterrestrial intelligence. By drawing on issues at the core of contemporary archaeology and anthropology, we can be much better prepared for contact with an extraterrestrial civilization, should that day ever come. NASA SP-2013-4413.

[Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas](#) Reaktion Books

A new approach to writing culture has arrived: multispecies ethnography. Plants, animals, fungi, and microbes appear alongside humans in this singular book about natural and cultural history. Anthropologists have collaborated with artists and biological scientists to illuminate how diverse organisms are entangled in political, economic, and cultural systems. Contributions from influential writers and scholars, such as Dorion Sagan, Karen Barad, Donna Haraway, and Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing, are featured along with essays by emergent artists and cultural anthropologists. Delectable mushrooms flourishing in the aftermath of ecological disaster, microbial cultures enlivening the politics and value of food, and nascent life forms running wild in the age of biotechnology all figure in this curated collection of essays and artifacts. Recipes provide instructions on how to cook acorn mush, make cheese out of human milk, and enliven forests after they have been clear-cut. The Multispecies Salon investigates messianic dreams, environmental nightmares, and modest sites of biocultural hope. For additional materials see the companion website: www.multispecies-salon.org/ Contributors. Karen Barad, Caitlin Berrigan, Karin Bolender, Maria Brodine, Brandon Costelloe-Kuehn, David S. Edmunds, Christine Hamilton, Donna J. Haraway, Stefan Helmreich, Angela James, Lindsay Kelley, Eben Kirksey, Linda Noel, Heather Paxson, Nathan Rich, Anna Rodriguez, Dorion Sagan, Craig Schuetze, Nicholas Shapiro, Miriam Simun, Kim TallBear, Anna Lowenhaupt Tsing

[The Art of Educated Guessing and Opportunistic Problem Solving](#) Univ of California Press

Offers a critical assessment of fundamental flaws in the American electoral system, looking at how a minor "spoiler" candidate can affect the election by taking enough votes away from the most popular candidate to tip the election to another, and proposes a simple but fair solution designed to transform the electoral system.

[A Biography of Henry Head](#) Univ of California Press

An antidote to mathematical rigor mortis, teaching how to guess answers without needing a proof or an exact calculation. In problem solving, as in street fighting, rules are for fools: do whatever works—don't just stand there! Yet we often fear an unjustified leap even though it may land us on a correct result. Traditional mathematics teaching is largely about solving exactly stated problems exactly, yet life often hands us partly defined problems needing only moderately accurate solutions. This engaging book is an antidote to the rigor mortis brought on by too much mathematical rigor, teaching us how to guess answers without needing a proof or an exact calculation. In *Street-Fighting Mathematics*, Sanjoy Mahajan builds, sharpens, and demonstrates tools for educated guessing and down-and-dirty, opportunistic problem solving across diverse fields of knowledge—from mathematics to management. Mahajan describes six tools: dimensional analysis, easy cases, lumping, picture proofs, successive approximation, and reasoning by analogy. Illustrating each tool with numerous examples, he carefully separates the tool—the general principle—from the particular application so that the reader can most easily grasp the tool itself to use on problems of particular interest. *Street-Fighting Mathematics* grew out of a short course taught by the author at MIT for students ranging from first-year undergraduates to graduate students ready for careers in physics, mathematics, management, electrical engineering, computer science, and biology. They benefited from an approach that avoided rigor and taught them how to use mathematics to solve real problems. *Street-Fighting Mathematics* will appear in print and online under a Creative Commons Noncommercial Share Alike license.

[Routes and Roots](#) Routledge

"Chimerizations features a radically new form of documentation of Florian Hecker's sound works that dramatize the phenomenon of Auditory Chimaeras. The publication presents the documentation of Hecker's recent sound pieces: *Magnitude Estimation*, 2010; *Hecker Leckey Sound Voice Chimera*, 2011; *Bregman/Deutsch Chimera*, 2011; *Chimerization (MIT Project)*, 2011 *Chimerization 2012*; and

Hinge, 2012. The images, installation-reference and productions stills, have been altered by Hecker using a Sift Flow Algorithm. The result is varied and idiosyncratic, with the same image undergoing multiple translations, effectively creating a visual parallel to the chimeric phenomenon produced in the sound works they document." --Publisher description.

[From Babel to the Big Bang & Beyond](#) Duke University Press Books

"Alien Ocean immerses readers in worlds being newly explored by marine biologists: the deep sea, the microscopic realm, and oceans beyond national boundaries. Working alongside scientists on ships at sea, in coastal research labs, and at undersea volcanoes, Stefan Helmreich charts how revolutions in genomics, bioinformatics, and remote sensing have pressed marine biologists to view the sea as animated by its smallest inhabitants: marine microbes. Thriving in astonishingly extreme conditions, such microbes have become key figures in scientific and public debates about the origin of life, climate change, biotechnology, and even the possibility of life on other worlds."--Cover.

[An Anthropology of Anthropology](#) NYU Press

Part detective story, part exposé and part travelogue, this book investigates one of the signature biotech stories of our time and, in doing so, opens a window onto the world of genome science. Fortun examines how deCODE Genetics in Iceland became one of the wealthiest, and most scandalous, companies of its kind.

[The Undersea Network](#) Univ of California Press

"An insightful study of how Thoreau's profession as a surveyor impacts his environmental sensibility and informs his literary works; further, Chura shows that the manuscript surveys and corresponding field notes are themselves worthy of literary analysis." --Sandra Harbert Petruionis, coeditor of *More Day to Dawn: Thoreau's Walden for the Twenty-first Century* "Chura's thorough understanding of the cultural import and physical practice of 19th-century surveying provides a fresh and interesting perspective on Thoreau's life and works. . . . He combines a spry writing style with meticulous research in this delightful book, which introduces readers to another side of Thoreau's life and thought. Highly recommended." --G. D. MacDonald, Virginia State University "Most books about Henry David Thoreau focus on his writing, philosophy, or literary vision, paying little attention to how he made a living while engaged in such transcendentalist pursuits. In *Thoreau the Land Surveyor*, Patrick Chura corrects this oversight." --Lorianne DiSabato, *The New England Quarterly* "A scholarly book that's as beautiful as it is unput-downable. . . Not only is Chura a fine writer here, he is one heck of a historian. He enriches every page with carefully considered research. . . I loved this book from start to finish." --Mike Tidwell, author of *The Ponds of Kalambayi: An African Sojourn*. "An insightful study of how Thoreau's profession as a surveyor impacts his environmental sensibility and informs his literary works; further, Chura shows that the manuscript surveys and corresponding field notes are themselves worthy of literary analysis." "This book on the significance of land surveying to Henry Thoreau's writing is one that we have long needed. Chura's practical experience as a surveyor combined with his literary scholarship makes him the perfect person to write it."--Richard J. Schneider, editor of *Henry David Thoreau: A Documentary Volume* Henry David Thoreau, one of America's most prominent environmental writers, supported himself as a land surveyor for much of his life, parceling land that would be sold off to loggers. In the only study of its kind, Patrick Chura analyzes this seeming contradiction to show how the best surveyor in Concord combined civil engineering with civil disobedience. Placing Thoreau's surveying in historical context, *Thoreau the Land Surveyor* explains the cultural and ideological implications of surveying work in the mid-nineteenth century. Chura explains the ways that Thoreau's environmentalist disposition and philosophical convictions asserted themselves even as he reduced the land to measurable terms and acted as an agent for bringing it under proprietary control. He also describes in detail Thoreau's 1846 survey of Walden Pond. By identifying the origins of Walden in--of all places--surveying data, Chura re-creates a previously lost supporting manuscript of this American classic.

[Anthropology in Fluid Environments](#) University of Illinois Press

Drawing upon such diverse sources as the archives of antinuclear activists and radio advertisers, catalogs of fireworks and dental drills, and daybooks of physicists, travel diaries and civil defense pamphlets, Schwartz traces the process by which noise today has become as powerfully metaphorical as the original Babel.

[Open Fields](#) Duke University Press

Elizabeth DeLoughrey invokes the cyclical model of the continual movement and rhythm of the ocean ('tidalectics') to destabilize the national, ethnic, and even regional frameworks that have been the mainstays of literary study. The result is a privileging of alter/native epistemologies whereby island cultures are positioned where they should have been all along—at the forefront of the world historical process of transoceanic migration and landfall. The research, determination, and intellectual dexterity that infuse this nuanced and meticulous reading of Pacific and Caribbean literature invigorate and deepen our interest in and appreciation of island literature. —Vilsoni Hereniko, University of Hawai'i "Elizabeth DeLoughrey brings contemporary hybridity, diaspora, and globalization theory to bear on ideas of indigeneity to show the complexities of 'native' identities and rights and their grounded opposition as 'indigenous regionalism' to free-floating globalized cosmopolitanism. Her models are instructive for all postcolonial readers in an age of transnational migrations." —Paul Sharrad, University of Wollongong, Australia *Routes and Roots* is the first comparative study of Caribbean and Pacific Island literatures and the first work to bring indigenous and diaspora literary studies together in a sustained dialogue. Taking the "tidalectic" between land and sea as a dynamic starting point, Elizabeth DeLoughrey foregrounds geography and history in her exploration of how island writers inscribe the complex relation between routes and roots. The first section looks at the sea as history in literatures of the Atlantic middle passage and Pacific Island voyaging, theorizing the transoceanic imaginary. The second section turns to the land to examine indigenous epistemologies in nation-building literatures. Both sections are particularly attentive to the ways in which the metaphors of routes and roots are gendered, exploring how masculine travelers are naturalized through their voyages across feminized lands and seas. This methodology of charting transoceanic migration and landfall helps elucidate how theories and people travel, positioning island cultures in the world historical process. In fact, DeLoughrey demonstrates how these tropical island cultures helped constitute the very metropolises that deemed them peripheral to modernity. Fresh in its ideas, original in its approach, *Routes and Roots* engages broadly with history, anthropology, and feminist, postcolonial, Caribbean, and Pacific literary and cultural studies. It productively traverses diaspora and indigenous studies in a way that will facilitate broader discussion between these

often segregated disciplines.

[Iceland and DeCODE Genetics in a World of Speculation](#) Zone Books (NY)

In our "wireless" world it is easy to take the importance of the undersea cable systems for granted, but the stakes of their successful operation are huge, as they are responsible for carrying almost all transoceanic Internet traffic. In *The Undersea Network* Nicole Starosielski follows these cables from the ocean depths to their landing zones on the sandy beaches of the South Pacific, bringing them to the surface of media scholarship and making visible the materiality of the wired network. In doing so, she charts the cable network's cultural, historical, geographic and environmental dimensions. Starosielski argues that the environments the cables occupy are historical and political realms, where the network and the connections it enables are made possible by the deliberate negotiation and manipulation of technology, culture, politics and geography. Accompanying the book is an interactive digital mapping project, where readers can trace cable routes, view photographs and archival materials, and read stories about the island cable hubs.

[Archaeology, Anthropology, and Interstellar Communication](#) Princeton University Press

In a stimulating interchange between feminist studies and biology, Banu Subramaniam explores how her dissertation on flower color variation in morning glories launched her on an intellectual odyssey that engaged the feminist studies of sciences in the experimental practices of science by tracing the central and critical idea of variation in biology. As she shows, the histories of eugenics and genetics and their impact on the metaphorical understandings of difference and diversity that permeate common understandings of differences among people exist in contexts that seem distant from the so-called objective hard sciences. Journeying into areas that range from the social history of plants to speculative fiction, Subramaniam uncovers key relationships between the life sciences, women's studies, evolutionary and invasive biology, and the history of ecology, and how ideas of diversity and difference emerged and persist in each field.

[The Racial Politics of South African Rooibos Tea](#) University of Chicago Press

What is life? What is water? What is sound? In *Sounding the Limits of Life*, anthropologist Stefan Helmreich investigates how contemporary scientists—biologists, oceanographers, and audio engineers—are redefining these crucial concepts. Life, water, and sound are phenomena at once empirical and abstract, material and formal, scientific and social. In the age of synthetic biology, rising sea levels, and new technologies of listening, these phenomena stretch toward their conceptual snapping points, breaching the boundaries between the natural, cultural, and virtual. Through examinations of the computational life sciences, marine biology, astrobiology, acoustics, and more, Helmreich follows scientists to the limits of these categories. Along the way, he offers critical accounts of such other-than-human entities as digital life forms, microbes, coral reefs, whales, seawater, extraterrestrials, tsunamis, seashells, and bionic cochlea. He develops a new notion of "sounding"—as investigating, fathoming, listening—to describe the form of inquiry appropriate for tracking meanings and practices of the biological, aquatic, and sonic in a time of global change and climate crisis. *Sounding the Limits of Life* shows that life, water, and sound no longer mean what they once did, and that what count as their essential natures are under dynamic revision.

[Counterplay](#) Duke University Press

Alien Ocean Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas Univ of California Press

A Seascape Epistemology Harvard University Press

An anthropological study of the social functions and meanings of medicines in different cultures.

Hydro-criticism Elements

"Helmreich's analysis—extensive, imaginative, rigorous, and insightful—promises to establish him as the cultural authority on A-Life. . . . He shows that, in the age of complexity, science simultaneously disenchants and re-enchants the world. . . . The book is written in a personal and engaging style . . . so full of ideas and interesting asides [that] Helmreich takes on the persona of a smart and well-informed tour guide of the A-Life world [with] an enviable ability to take very complex ideas and discuss them comprehensibly without simplifying them."—Hugh Gusterson, author of *Nuclear Rites*

Essays in the Anthropology of Biology and Beyond Univ of California Press

As sea levels rise, ice caps melt, and the ocean acidifies, the twin forces of globalization and global warming have irrevocably braided human-centered history with the geologic force of the ocean. This reality has broadly challenged those working in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences to fundamentally alter the ways in which they produce knowledge.

Contributors to this special issue of *English Language Notes* interrogate the methods of humanities' recent oceanic turn--grouped here under the rubric of "ocean studies"--by reimagining human histories, aesthetics, and ontologies as entangled with the temporal and spatial scales, geographies, and agencies of the ocean. Topics include the representations of the sea and related technologies in 1950s films; multiple accounts of the ocean's role as a mediator of power, colonization, and censorship; queer eroticism and the ocean; literature's shifting account of seafaring in the modernist period and today; and the strange conundrum of T. S. Eliot's "The Dry Salvages" as an inspiration for modern radical Caribbean scholars. Contributors. Hester Blum, Brandi Bushman, Jeremy Chow, Margaret Cohen, Elizabeth DeLoughrey, Harris Feinsod, Isabel Hofmeyr, Charne Lavery, Nicole Rizzuto, Meg Samuelson, Allison Shelton, Teresa Shewry, Maxwell Uphaus

[Is It Time to Shift Paradigms](#) Macmillan

The book uses anthropological methods and insights to study the practice of anthropology. It calls for a paradigm shift, away from the publication treadmill, toward a more profile-raising paradigm that focuses on addressing a broad array of social concerns in meaningful ways.

[Making Noise](#) Duke University Press

In one form or another, water participates in the making and unmaking of people's lives, practices, and stories. Contributors' detailed ethnographic work analyzes the union and mutual shaping of water and social lives. This volume discusses current ecological disturbances and engages in a world where unbounded relationalities and unsettled frames of orientation mark the lives of all, anthropologists included. Water emerges as a fluid object in more senses than one, challenging anthropologists to foreground the mutable character of their objects of study and to responsibly engage with the generative role of cultural analysis.

The Science of Variation and the Politics of Diversity *Alien Ocean* Anthropological Voyages in Microbial Seas

This volume's contributors evaluate the accomplishments, limits, and consequences of using quantitative metrics in global health. Whether analyzing maternal mortality rates, the relationships between political goals and metrics data, or the links between health outcomes and a program's fiscal support, the contributors question the ability of metrics to solve global health problems. They capture a moment when global health scholars and practitioners must evaluate the potential effectiveness and

pitfalls of different metrics—even as they remain elusive and problematic. Contributors. Vincanne Adams, Susan Erikson, Molly Hales, Pierre Minn, Adeola Oni-Orisan, Carolyn Smith-Morris, Marlee Tichenor, Lily Walkover, Claire L. Wendland