About West Virginia University Press

West Virginia University Press is the only university press, and the largest publisher of any kind, in the state of West Virginia. A part of West Virginia University, we publish books and scholarly journals by authors around the world, with a particular emphasis on Appalachian studies, higher education, and interdisciplinary books about energy and environment. We also publish highly regarded works of fiction and creative nonfiction.

Titles published by West Virginia University Press have received reviews and attention in the New York Times, the New York Review of Books, the Atlantic, Harper's, PBS NewsHour, the Wall Street Journal, Smithsonian, the Times Literary Supplement, the Paris Review, the Los Angeles Review of Books, Time, Publishers Weekly, Library Journal, Booklist, Kirkus, Vox, Bustle, BuzzFeed, and the Chronicle of Higher Education, among many other regional and global outlets. You can find our books at bookstores and online retailers.

At West Virginia University Press, we strive to extend and enhance the reputation of WVU as a major research institution by publishing the very best work in our areas of specialization. Learn more at wvupress.com.

From Kevin M. Gannon’s *Radical Hope*

It has never been more difficult to teach in higher education than in our current moment. Nearly all of our post-secondary institutions are reeling from decades’ worth of financial strangulation, the fruit of a neoliberal, market-driven ideology with little room for the notion of a public good. In our classrooms, many of which exhibit the effects of years’ worth of deferred maintenance, we have fewer resources with which to teach more students. Most of us, numerically speaking, do this teaching in a precarious position as adjunct and contingent faculty. Even for those of us who are tenured or on the tenure track, those guarantees mean less than they did in earlier periods. The academic job market is a smoldering crater; faculty hiring and compensation are well below the levels we actually need to accomplish our missions. Moreover, the general public is souring on higher education. A college education was once the epitome of the American dream; now, a majority of one political party believes colleges and universities have “a negative effect” on the United States, while others despair about the increasingly devastating financial burdens of higher education. And the nexus of all these trends is the environment in which we, as faculty, are expected to be effective—even transformative—teachers.
“A must-read for pedagogues and theorists alike. Gannon’s explorations into history, power, and academia place students and the environments in which they learn front and center for the rest of us to consider. This work isn’t about reform, but transformation, and Gannon’s book pushes us in the right direction.”

—José Luis Vilson, author of This Is Not a Test: A New Narrative on Race, Class, and Education

RADICAL HOPE
A Teaching Manifesto
Kevin M. Gannon

Higher education has seen better days. Harsh budget cuts, the precarious nature of employment in college teaching, and political hostility to the entire enterprise of education have made for an increasingly fraught landscape. Radical Hope is an ambitious response to this state of affairs, at once political and practical—the work of an activist, teacher, and public intellectual grappling with some of the most pressing topics at the intersection of higher education and social justice.

Kevin Gannon asks that the contemporary university’s manifold problems be approached as opportunities for critical engagement, arguing that, when done effectively, teaching is by definition emancipatory and hopeful. Considering individual pedagogical practice, the students who are the primary audience and beneficiaries of teaching, and the institutions and systems within which teaching occurs, Radical Hope surveys the field, tackling everything from impostor syndrome to cell phones in class to allegations of a campus “free speech crisis.” Throughout, Gannon translates ideals into tangible strategies and practices (including key takeaways at the conclusion of each chapter), with the goal of reclaiming teachers’ essential role in the discourse of higher education.

“This is the book I needed to read—it was a fresh drink of water in a time of turmoil and despair in education. Gannon grounds his calls for radical hope in the work of educational scholars like Freire, hooks, and Giroux, and offers helpful examples and recommendations based on his years of teaching experience. He tackles real issues we are facing at our institutions head-on without capitulating to clichés or trendy solutions often offered in books about higher education.”

—Amy Collier, Middlebury College
Mountaineers Are Always Free
Heritage, Dissent, and a West Virginia Icon
Rosemary V. Hathaway

The West Virginia University Mountaineer is not just a mascot: it is a symbol of West Virginia history and identity embraced throughout the state. In this deeply informed but accessible study, folklorist Rosemary Hathaway explores the figure’s early history as a backwoods trickster, its deployment in emerging mass media, and finally its long and sometimes conflicted career—beginning officially in 1937—as the symbol of West Virginia University.

Alternately a rabble-rouser and a romantic embodiment of the state’s history, the Mountaineer has been subject to ongoing reinterpretation while consistently conveying the value of independence. Hathaway’s account draws on multiple sources, including archival research, personal history, and interviews with former students who have portrayed the mascot, to explore the complex forces and tensions animating the Mountaineer figure. Often serving as a focus for white, masculinist, and Appalachian identities in particular, the Mountaineer that emerges from this study is something distinct from the hillbilly. Frontiersman and rebel both, the Mountaineer figure traditionally and energetically resists attempts (even those by the university) to tame or contain it.

“Folklorist Rosemary Hathaway’s well-researched and engaging book explores the evolution of the WVU ‘mascot’ the Mountaineer from its preindustrial origins to the present. Imaginatively analyzing personal, local, and national sources, Hathaway reveals how the ongoing transformations of the Mountaineer have both built upon and challenged regional and national stereotypes in ways that reflect competing conceptions of freedom and identity.”

—Anthony Harkins, author of Hillbilly: A Cultural History of an American Icon

“With her personal, familial connection to the subject and background as a folklorist, Rosemary Hathaway has written a well-crafted and thoroughly researched narrative with nuance, a strong historical foundation, and important analysis. Mountaineers Are Always Free has both relevance to the current political moment and the power to endure.”

—Emily Hilliard, state folklorist and founding director of the West Virginia Folklife Program
HILLBILLY HUSTLE
Wesley Browne

Knox Thompson thinks he’s working a hustle, but it’s a hustle that’s working him. Trying to keep his pizza shop and parents afloat, he cleans out a backroom Kentucky poker game only to be roped into dealing marijuana by the proprietor—an arrangement Knox only halfheartedly resists.

Knox’s shop makes the perfect front for a marijuana operation, but his supplier turns out to be violent and calculating, and Knox ends up under his thumb. It’s not long before more than just the pizza shop is at risk.

“Clever as hell, funny as hell, genuine as hell.”
—Hannah Pittard, author of Visible Empire

“Sheds light on a whole new kind of Appalachia that’s never been seen before.”
—Silas House, author of Southernmost

“A narrative rolled as expertly as Willie Nelson’s nightcap. It takes shape between breakneck page turns and well-timed punch lines.”
—David Joy, author of The Line That Held Us

“Wesley Browne writes like the smart-talking, card-shuffling, bullet-dodging, bourbon-soaked love child of Ron Rash, Elmore Leonard, and the Coen brothers.”
—Benjamin Percy, author of Suicide Woods

“One of those literary Appalachian noir novels that, somehow, gives a nod to Raymond Chandler and Raymond Carver, to Robert B. Parker and Donald Ray Pollock.”
—George Singleton, author of Staff Picks

“Wonder Boys meets Elmore Leonard.”
—Amy Greene, author of Bloodroot

ST. CHRISTOPHER ON PLUTO
Nancy McKinley

MK and Colleen get reacquainted while working at different stores in a bankrupt mall. Way back, the women went to Catholic school together and collaborated on racy letters to a soldier in Vietnam who thought they were much older than seventh graders—a ruse that typifies later shenanigans, usually brought on by red-headed Colleen, a self-proclaimed “Celtic warrior.”

After ditching Colleen’s car to collect the insurance, they drive from one unexpected event to the next in Big Blue, MK’s Buick clunker with a St. Christopher statue glued to the dash. The glow-in-the-dark icon guides them past the farm debris, mine ruins, and fracking waste of the northern brow of Appalachia. Yet their world is not a dystopia. Rather, MK and Colleen show why, amid all the desperation, there is still a community of hope, filled with people looking out for their neighbors and with survivors who offer joy, laughter, and good will.

“St. Christopher on Pluto is good word medicine. I belly laughed and was so touched so many times, I had to keep tissues on hand. I will stock up and give this book to any friend overwhelmed by life.”
—Beverly Donofrio, author of Riding in Cars with Boys

“Set amidst Pennsylvania small-town life, the linked stories in St. Christopher on Pluto tackle big subjects: war, faith, AIDS, female friendship, race, and aging. Gravitas and comedy are not an easy combination, but Nancy McKinley masterfully mixes the two in a moving, memorable, and inspiring collection.”
—Steven Schwartz, author of Madagascar: New and Selected Stories

“This book is the real hillbilly elegy, this tour through an Appalachia whose female warriors mess up and flounder but somehow survive. Nancy McKinley’s stories are both sad and hilarious, and punctuated by unexpected wonder.”
—John Vernon, author of The Last Canyon
HEEDING THE CALL
A Study of Denise Giardina’s Novels
William Jolliff

In Heeding the Call, William Jolliff offers the first book-length discussion of West Virginia writer and activist Denise Giardina, perhaps best known for her novel Storming Heaven, which helped spark renewed interest in the turn-of-the-century Mine Wars. Jolliff proposes that Giardina’s fiction be considered under three thematic complexes: regional, political, and theological. Though addressing all three, Heeding the Call foregrounds the theological because it is the least accessible to most readers and critics.

In chapters devoted to each of Giardina’s novels, Jolliff attends to her uses of history, her formal techniques, and the central themes that make each work significant. What becomes clear is that while the author’s religious beliefs inform her fiction, she never offers easy answers. Her narratives consistently push her characters—and her readers—into more challenging and meaningful questions. Jolliff concludes by arguing that although Giardina’s initial fame has been tied to her significance as an Appalachian novelist, future studies must look beyond the regional to the deeply human questions her novels so persistently engage.

"A needed book. Heeding the Call offers acute commentary on all of Giardina’s novels and ties them together with overarching themes. Educators, students, scholars, and readers alike will find it useful."
—Theresa L. Burriss, director of the Appalachian Regional and Rural Studies Center, Radford University

STORYTELLING IN QUEER APPALACHIA
Imagining and Writing the Unspeakable Other
Edited by Hillery Glasby, Sherrie Gradin, and Rachael Ryerson

In one of the first collections of scholarship at the intersection of LGBTQ studies and Appalachian studies, voices from the region’s valleys, hollers, mountains, and campuses blend personal stories with scholarly and creative examinations of living and surviving as queers in Appalachia. The essayists collected in Storytelling in Queer Appalachia are academics, social workers, riot grrrl activists, teachers, students, practitioners, scholars of divinity, and boundary crossers, all imagining how to make legible the unspeakable other of Appalachian queerness.

Focusing especially on disciplinary approaches from rhetoric and composition, the volume explores sexual identities in rural places, community and individual meaning-making among the Appalachian diaspora, the storytelling infrastructure of queer Appalachia, and the role of the metronormative in discourses of difference. Storytelling in Queer Appalachia affirms queer people, fights for queer visibility over queer erasure, seeks intersectional understandings, and imagines radically embodied queer selves through social media.

"Storytelling in Queer Appalachia offers us a beautifully disruptive way to rethink our understandings of a singular Appalachia—as a place, as a people, as an ideology. These insightful chapters approach queerness-in-place through a host of engaging lenses and frameworks."
—William P. Banks, coeditor of Approaches to Teaching LGBT Literature
WHEELING’S POLONIA
Reconstructing Polish Community in a West Virginia Steel Town
William Hal Gorby

William Hal Gorby’s study of Wheeling’s Polish community weaves together stories of immigrating, working, and creating a distinctly Polish American community, or Polonia, in the heart of the upper Ohio Valley steel industry. It addresses major topics in the history of the United States in the first half of the twentieth century, while shifting from urban historians’ traditional focus on large cities to a case study in a smaller Appalachian setting.

Wheeling was a center of West Virginia’s labor movement, and Polish immigrants became a crucial element within the city’s active working-class culture. Arriving at what was also the center of the state’s Roman Catholic Diocese, Poles built religious and fraternal institutions to support new arrivals and to seek solace in times of economic strain and family hardship. The city’s history of crime and organized vice also affected new immigrants, who often lived in neighborhoods targeted for selective enforcement of Prohibition.

At once a deeply textured evocation of the city’s ethnic institutions and an engagement with larger questions about belonging, change, and justice, Wheeling’s Polonia is an inspiring account of a diverse working-class culture and the immigrants who built it.

“Wheeling’s Polonia is an important work. Gorby skillfully makes the case for why this story is significant, not just for labor and working-class history but also (by implication) for today’s electoral map. He shows a sensitivity to these workers and to the various facets of their identity as they evolved over time that many scholars and pundits often lack.”

—Donna T. Haverty-Stacke, author of America’s Forgotten Holiday: May Day and Nationalism, 1867–1960
I'M AFRAID OF THAT WATER
A Collaborative Ethnography of a West Virginia Water Crisis
Edited by Luke Eric Lassiter, Brian A. Hoey, and Elizabeth Campbell

On January 9, 2014, residents across Charleston, West Virginia, awoke to an unusual licorice smell in the air and a similar taste in the public drinking water. That evening residents were informed the tap water in tens of thousands of homes, hundreds of businesses, and dozens of schools and hospitals—the water made available to as many as 300,000 citizens in a nine-county region—had been contaminated with a chemical used for cleaning crushed coal.

This book tells a particular set of stories about that chemical spill and its aftermath, an unfolding water crisis that would lead to months, even years, of fear and distrust. It is both oral history and collaborative ethnography, jointly conceptualized, researched, and written by people—more than fifty in all—across various positions in academia and local communities.

“I'm Afraid of That Water foregrounds the ongoing concerns of West Virginians (and people in comparable situations in places like Flint, Michigan) confronted by the problem of contamination, where thresholds for official safety may be crossed, but a genuine return to normality is elusive.”

—Peter Little, Rhode Island College

THE BOOK OF THE DEAD
Muriel Rukeyser
Introduction by Catherine Venable Moore

Written in response to the Hawk’s Nest Tunnel disaster of 1931 in Gauley Bridge, West Virginia, The Book of the Dead is an important part of West Virginia’s cultural heritage and a powerful account of one of the worst industrial catastrophes in American history. The poems collected here investigate the roots of a tragedy that killed hundreds of workers, most of whom African American. They are a rare engagement with the overlap between race and environment in Appalachia.

“Innovative, gorgeous, and deeply moving.”

—Publishers Weekly (starred review)
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Stian Rice is a food systems geographer whose research examines the slow-moving social and environmental changes to agricultural production and food consumption. He received a doctorate in geography from Kent State University and is currently with the Center for Urban Environmental Research and Education at the University of Maryland, Baltimore County.

GEOGRAPHY

FOOD STUDIES

ENERGY CULTURE
Art and Theory on Oil and Beyond
Edited by Imre Szeman and Jeff Diamanti

Energy Culture is a provocative book about oil’s firm grip on our politics and everyday lives. It brings together essays and artwork produced in a collaborative environment to stimulate new ways of thinking and to achieve a more just and sustainable world. Imbued with a sense of urgency and hope, Energy Culture exposes the deep imbrications of energy and culture while pointing provocatively to ways of thinking and living otherwise.

“An exemplary multidisciplinary approach to entangled questions of energy, politics, and aesthetics. Energy Culture should excite and inspire an interdisciplinary community of scholars, artists, and activists.” —Thomas S. Davis, author of The Extinct Scene: Late Modernism and Everyday Life

CAPITALIST PIGS
Pigs, Pork, and Power in America
J. L. Anderson

J. L. Anderson has written an ambitious history of pigs and pig products from the Columbian exchange to the present, emphasizing critical stories of production, consumption, and waste in American history. He examines different cultural assumptions about pigs to provide a window into the nation’s regional, racial, and class fault lines, and maps where pigs are (and are not) to reveal a deep history of the American landscape. A contribution to American history, food studies, agricultural history, and animal studies, Capitalist Pigs is an accessible, deeply researched, and often surprising portrait of one of the planet’s most consequential interspecies relationships.

“In the vein of William Cronon’s Nature’s Metropolis, this is a meaty, accessible, and clear-eyed agricultural history.”

—Booklist

FAMINE IN THE REMAKING
Food System Change and Mass Starvation in Hawaii, Madagascar, and Cambodia
Stian Rice

Mass starvation’s causes may seem simple and immediate: crop failure, poverty, outbreaks of violence, and poor governance. But famines are complex, and scholars cannot fully understand what causes them unless they look at their numerous social and environmental precursors over long arcs of history and over long distances.

Famine in the Remaking examines the relationship between the reorganization of food systems and large-scale food crises through a comparative historical analysis of three famines: Hawaii in the 1820s, Madagascar in the 1920s, and Cambodia in the 1970s. This examination identifies the structural transformations—that is, changes to the relationships between producers and consumers—that make food systems more vulnerable to failure. Moving beyond the economic and political explanations for food crisis that have dominated the literature, Stian Rice emphasizes important socioecological interactions, developing a framework for crisis evolution that identifies two distinct temporal phases and five different types of causal mechanisms involved in food system failure. His framework contributes to current work in famine prevention and, animated by a commitment to social justice, offers the potential for early intervention in emerging food crises.

“Important and impressive scholarly work.”

—Pritam Singh, University of Oxford

ALSO OF INTEREST

WEBSITE
GEOGRAPHY’S QUANTITATIVE REVOLUTIONS
Edward A. Ackerman and the Cold War Origins of Big Data
Elvin Wyly

This book traces the recent history of geography, information, and technology through the biography of Edward A. Ackerman, an important but forgotten figure in geography’s “quantitative revolution.” It argues that Ackerman’s work helped encode the hidden logics of a distorted philosophical heritage—a dangerous, cybernetic form of thought known as militant neo-Kantianism—into the network architectures of today’s pervasive worlds of surveillance capitalism.

“Wly’s approach is sweeping in scope yet detailed in its discussion of the archival evidence. He places great store in sociopolitical and disciplinary context, and makes strong linkages between the past and the present intellectual contexts. The scholarship is meticulous. The writing is fluid and lively.”
—Audrey Kobayashi, Queen’s University

THE POLITICS OF LISTS
Bureaucracy and Genocide under the Khmer Rouge
James A. Tyner

2019 Julian Minghi Distinguished Book Award Winner

Scholars from a number of disciplines have, especially since the advent of the war on terror, developed critical perspectives on a cluster of related topics in contemporary life: militarization, surveillance, policing, biopolitics (the relation between state power and physical bodies), and the like. James A. Tyner, a geographer who has contributed to this literature with several highly regarded books, here turns to the bureaucratic roots of genocide, building on insight from Hannah Arendt, Zygmunt Bauman, and others to better understand the Khmer Rouge and its implications for the broader study of life, death, and power.

“A well-written and engaging study of why we must grapple with the bureaucratic culture of violence.”
—Ian Shaw, author of Predator Empire: Drone Warfare and Full Spectrum Dominance

BEYOND POPULISM
Angry Politics and the Twilight of Neoliberalism
Edited by Jeff Maskovsky and Sophie Bjork-James

Across the world, politics is lurching to the right, ethnic nationalism is on the rise, and people are furious. Beyond Populism critically examines the new destructive projects of resentment that have surfaced in the political spaces opened by neoliberalism’s failures, particularly since the financial collapse of 2008. It contextualizes the recent history of the Global North—notably Brexit and the Trump election—among wider comparative politics, with chapters on India, Colombia, Eastern Europe, the Philippines, Ethiopia, and other parts of the globe marked by populist insurgencies.

The essays collected here explore how global, regional, national, and local structures of power produce angry politics. They go beyond conventional academic debates about populism to explore the different kinds of anger that shape politics today and to make legible the multiplicity of forces, antagonisms, conflicts, and emergent political forms that mark the present. By examining the politics of anger, Beyond Populism also considers what is needed to transform anger from a reactionary to an emancipatory force.

“This book, on one of the major conundrums of our time, refuses foreclosure and widens the horizon.”
—Don Kalb, coeditor of Worldwide Mobilizations: Class Struggles and Urban Commoning
TEACHING ABOUT RACE AND RACISM IN THE COLLEGE CLASSROOM
Notes from a White Professor
Cyndi Kernahan

In this book, Cyndi Kernahan argues that you can be honest and unflinching in your teaching about racism while also providing a compassionate learning environment that allows for mistakes and avoids shaming students. She provides evidence for how learning works with respect to race and racism along with practical teaching strategies rooted in that evidence to help instructors feel more confident.

“Kernahan’s honest, compassionate, and evidence-based discussions are a bracing antidote to the often stilted, evasive, and anxiety-ridden discourses around race’s intersections with teaching and learning. Those of us who teach about race and racism need this book on our shelves.”

—Kevin M. Gannon (@TheTattooedProf), Grand View University

INTENTIONAL TECH
Principles to Guide the Use of Educational Technology in College Teaching
Derek Bruff

Arguing that teaching and learning goals should drive instructors’ technology use, not the other way around, Intentional Tech explores seven research-based principles for matching technology to pedagogy. Through stories of instructors who creatively and effectively use educational technology, author Derek Bruff approaches technology not by asking “How to?” but by posing a more fundamental question: “Why?”

“Derek Bruff is an engaging—and often charming—guide throughout this concise book. The stories he tells keep things moving at a crisp pace and offer pedagogical inspiration. His principles provide a useful framework and establish a clear foundation for his practical advice.”

—Peter Felten, coauthor of The Undergraduate Experience: Focusing Institutions on What Matters Most

HOW HUMANS LEARN
The Science and Stories behind Effective College Teaching
Joshua R. Eyler

Even on good days, teaching is a challenging profession. One way to make the job of college instructors easier, however, is to know more about the ways students learn. How Humans Learn aims to do just that by peering behind the curtain and surveying research in fields as diverse as developmental psychology, anthropology, and cognitive neuroscience for insight into the science behind learning.

“A wonderful tool for reflection on one’s own teaching practice, a way to catalog one’s own values and how we put them into practice in the classroom and out.”

—Inside Higher Ed
APPOINTED
An American Novel
William H. Anderson and Walter H. Stowers
Edited by Eric Gardner and Bryan Sinche

Appointed is a recently recovered novel written by William Anderson and Walter Stowers, two of the editors of the Detroit Plaindealer, a long-running and well-regarded African American newspaper of the late nineteenth century. As a coauthored novel of frustrated ambition, cross-racial friendship, and the tragedy of lynching, this novel represents a unique contribution to African American literary history.

"An admirable edition that will certainly find its way into courses on African American literature, and American literature more broadly."
—Benjamin Fagan, author of The Black Newspaper and the Chosen Nation

THE BLACK BUTTERFLY
Brazilian Slavery and the Literary Imagination
Marcus Wood

The Black Butterfly focuses on the slavery writings of three of Brazil’s literary giants—Machado de Assis, Castro Alves, and Euclides da Cunha. These authors wrote in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, as Brazil moved into and then through the 1888 abolition of slavery. Wood finds that all three writers responded to the memory of slavery in ways that departed from their counterparts in Europe and North America, where emancipation has typically been depicted as a moment of closure. The Black Butterfly is a revolutionary text that insists Brazilian culture has always refused a clean break between slavery and its aftermath.

“A groundbreaking interpretation of Brazilian literature in the context of transatlantic slavery and studies of race.”
—Aquiles Alencar Brayner, the British Library

THE PAINTED FOREST
Krista Eastman

“Thoughtful and elegant. . . . Eastman’s deep fascination with and love of her home state, in all its complexity and eccentricity, permeate this moving book and will live on in the reader’s mind.”
—Publishers Weekly

FAR FLUNG
Improvisations on National Parks, Driving to Russia, Not Marrying a Ranger, the Language of Heartbreak, and Other Natural Disasters
Cassandra Kircher

“Intimate and moving essays on nature, family, and adventures in the wild.”
—Foreword Reviews

LOWEST WHITE BOY
Greg Bottoms

“Greg Bottoms is one of the most innovative and intriguing nonfiction writers at work, and this is his most powerful book to date, a crucial interrogation of whiteness, white supremacy, and the formation of one American lowest white boy.”
—Jeff Sharlet, author of The Family: The Secret Fundamentalism at the Heart of American Power
AMERICAN GRIEF IN FOUR STAGES
Stories
Sadie Hoagland

American Grief in Four Stages is a collection of stories that imagines trauma as a space in which language fails us and narrative escapes us. These stories play with form and explore the impossibility of elegy and the inability of our culture to communicate grief, or sympathy, outside of cliché. This collection asks the reader to envisage the ways in which we suffer as both unbearably painful and unbearably American.

“Assured, haunting, and deeply empathetic.”
—Kirkus (starred review)

FATHERLESS
A Memoir
Keith Maillard

This story begins with a phone call out of the blue: a lawyer tells a writer that his ninety-six-year-old father, with whom he has had no contact since the age of three and whom he has twice tried to find without success, has just died, leaving him nothing. Half-reluctant, half-fascinated, both angry and curious, Keith Maillard begins to research his father’s life. The result is a suspenseful work of historical reconstruction—a social history often reading like a detective story—as well as a psychologically acute portrait of the impact of a father’s absence.

“This memoir is an astonishing act of generosity and tenacity, exploring the profound flaws of one family’s dynamics and the resilience of the human spirit.”
—Eden Robinson, author of Son of a Trickster

LGBTQ FICTION AND POETRY FROM APPALACHIA

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31 images · 6 tables
APPALACHIAN RECKONING
A Region Responds to Hillbilly Elegy
Edited by Anthony Harkins and Meredith McCarroll

Appalachian Reckoning is a retort, at turns rigorous, critical, angry, and hopeful, to the long shadow Hillbilly Elegy has cast over the region and its imagining. The essays and creative work collected in Appalachian Reckoning provide a deeply personal portrait of a place that is at once culturally rich and economically distressed, unique and typically American.

“The most sustained pushback to Vance’s book … thus far. It’s a volley of intellectual buckshot from high up alongside the hollow.”

—New York Times

“While Vance offers one bleak ‘window’ into the extensive multi-state region, this valuable collection shows resilience, hope, and belonging are in Appalachia, too.”

—Publishers Weekly

“A book of over 40 essays and poems that bring the real Appalachia to life.”

—The Bitter Southerner

“A vibrant collection of essays … many by women, people of colour and queer people, largely written out of Hillbilly Elegy.”

—Times Literary Supplement

“A welcome and valuable resource for anyone studying or writing about this much-maligned region.”

—Kirkus (starred review)

“Stunning in its intellectual and creative riches.”

—Foreword Reviews (starred review)