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## Wasting time on the Internet, Kenneth Goldsmith (book review)

Kathleen McCallister

*William & Mary*, [krmccallister@wm.edu](mailto:krmccallister@wm.edu)

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gist W.E.B. Du Bois, as Du Bois witnesses the ghettoization of the Jews in Europe. The book then traces these designated living quarters through Jewish communities in Venice and Rome to the Nazis' deadly Warsaw ghetto. Next, Duneier explores the ghetto's relationship to U.S. racial policies and politics using the writings of three well-known black sociologists: Horace Clayton, Kenneth Clark, and William Julius Wilson. By providing their work, Duneier gives a clearer understanding of the serious issues relating to housing, school, and employment discrimination along with the various attempts by black scholars to play a societal role in remedying these uniquely American racial problems. **VERDICT** A clearly written book for anyone who is interested in the history of racism and its possible solutions.—**Amy Lewontin, Northeastern Univ. Lib., Boston**

**Goldsmith, Kenneth. *Wasting Time on the Internet*. Harper Perennial. Aug. 2016. 256p. notes. ISBN 9780062416476. pap. \$14.99; ebk. ISBN 9780062416483. soc sci**

How guilty should you feel after watching your 20th cat video of the day, or checking your Twitter feed for the 100th time? Not too guilty, states poet and conceptual artist Goldsmith, whose news-making University of Pennsylvania class, "Wasting Time on the Internet" spurred this book's writing. Our ways of interacting with the digital landscape are creating entirely new approaches to expression and collaboration. Furthermore, the author suggests that the online habits we indulge in have antecedents in patterns that have existed for years. He draws connections to the minutiae-laden *Diary of Samuel Pepys* (1659), James Boswell's *Life of Samuel Johnson* (1791), and the "assemblage" artwork of Joseph Cornell. Much of the book's value is in its encouragement to examine and reconsider the daily digital life that he says we now take for granted: the design choices of desktop icons, the minute-by-minute details of browser history, and the literal clouds of data stored on smartphones. **VERDICT** Goldsmith's brushing aside of problems such as Internet addiction and digital hoarding feel a little too casual, but his enthusiastic exploration of how technology is changing and expanding our lives makes for a thought-provoking read.—**Kathleen McCallister, Tulane Univ., New Orleans**

**Hill, Marc Lamont. *Nobody: Casualties of America's War on the Vulnerable, from Ferguson to Flint and Beyond*. Atria. Aug. 2016. 272p. notes. index. ISBN 9781501124945. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9781501124976. soc sci**

Hill (*The Classroom and the Cell*) uses recent high-profile, violent incidents against marginalized persons to highlight societal problems. The victims, or "Nobodies," are con-

sidered by society to be disposable, but their oppression can be contextualized as part of a larger story of politics, economics, and power. Hill links the 2014 murder of Michael Brown in Ferguson, MO, to the history of housing and segregation in St. Louis, as well as the 2012 killings of Jordan Davis and Trayvon Martin in relation to Florida's Stand Your Ground law. The criminal justice system is extensively explored, and Hill argues that practices such as plea bargains, settlements, and mandatory minimums are detrimental to crime victims. Also analyzed is the state of policing, along with the U.S. prison system and the Flint, MI, water crisis. Accounts of racial violence victims Sandra Bland, Eric Garner, and Freddie Gray are used as case studies. This analysis closes on a hopeful note by detailing activist movements which strive to counteract the forces that turn the vulnerable into Nobodies. **VERDICT** A thought-provoking and important analysis of oppression, recommended for those seeking clarity on current events.—**Rebekah Kati, Durham, NC**

**McSpadden, Lezley & Lyah Beth Leflore. *Tell the Truth & Shame the Devil: The Life, Legacy, and Love of My Son Michael Brown*. Regan Arts. May 2016. 272p. ISBN 9781942872528. \$26.95; ebk. ISBN 9781942872931. MEMOIR**

You may think you know how this story ends, but you don't know McSpadden, and you don't know Michael Brown, the boy she raised and lost on August 9, 2014, in Ferguson, MO, when he was shot and killed by white police officer Darren Wilson. At its heart, this memoir is a mother's tale of love, grief, and the struggle to raise her children the only way she knows how: working to make ends meet and bringing up her children to be all that they can be. Her narrative tells of violence and tragedy, poverty and prejudice but also speaks to Americans everywhere to wake up and see what's really happening in the lives of young black men and women. This book is a call to action and one worth reading. The language is alive and full of color, bringing McSpadden's energy and passion to life. Her experience takes a close look at issues of family and survival after the unspeakable loss of a child. **VERDICT** Evocative writing make this memoir a compelling and moving read. Excellent for those interested in women's lives, black lives, social justice, and current events.—**Gricel Dominguez, Florida International Univ. Lib.**

## TRAVEL & GEOGRAPHY

**Booth, Michael. *Super Sushi Ramen Express: One Family's Journey Through the Belly of Japan*. Picador. Sept. 2016. 336p. index. ISBN 9781250099808. \$26; ebk. ISBN 9781250099792. TRAV**

Globe-trotting Brit Booth (*Eating Dangerously*) hits the road for Japan, planning to learn the secrets of one of the world's most highly regarded food meccas. To add to the fun, the author's patient wife, Lissen, and two young sons—who predictably most enjoyed the sumo wrestlers but less of the cuisine—joined him. With such compelling chapter titles such as "The Sake Crisis" and "Sumo-Size Me," the text is a treat for readers even if they never taste a single morsel. The author begins by having lunch in a *dohyo*, where sumo wrestlers eat. Much to everyone's "disappointment," these huge athletes don't bulk up on chocolate but on sweet corn and tofu. Booth's wit is apparent as he learns about tempura from a chef who assures him that "lumps are good." An interesting side note is that contemporary Japanese now prefer beer to sake. Production of sake has dropped from 449 million gallons in 1975 to 185 million gallons today. Despite Booth's quest to learn about Japan's finest foods, he reveals that the now deceased Momofuku Ando, who invented ramen noodles, was a hero and multimillionaire with over 85 billion servings of ramen consumed in the world annually. **VERDICT** Mainly for foodies interested in Japanese cuisine.—**Susan G. Baird, formerly with Oak Lawn P.L., IL**

**DeBenedetti, Christian. *The Great American Ale Trail: The Craft Beer Lover's Guide to the Best Watering Holes in the Nation*. Running Pr. Apr. 2016. 432p. index. ISBN 9780762459698. \$22. TRAV**

Updated with 150 new entries, this revised edition of journalist DeBenedetti's 2011 book features approximately 500 sites to find great beer across the country. The author focuses mainly on craft brewers but also spotlights dining establishments, such as Lüke in New Orleans, that emphasize good selections and pairings. Each entry is approached consistently—background, philosophy, and essential beverage—which makes for easy comparison in cities like Denver, where there are multiple options. On the other hand, while the guide is arranged regionally, within each region the organization is less clear. Most states are represented, some minimally (one listing for New Jersey) and some not at all (Rhode Island, Arkansas). DeBenedetti suggests single and multiday itineraries for several states and mentions certain events, but as a travel guide this is otherwise limited to specific establishments where the beer is worth trying. Beer enthusiasts may quibble over omissions, but this volume would be useful for planning beer-related activities on U.S. getaways. **VERDICT** Recommended for collections where alcoholic beverages are a popular topic.—**Peter Hepburn, Coll. of the Canyons Lib., Santa Clarita, CA**

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