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Social media utopianism

Jacob Silverman's *Terms of Service: Social Media and the Price of Constant Connection** (2015) is published by Harper. Fred Turner's *From Counterculture to Cyberculture: Stewart Brand, the Whole Earth Network, and the Rise of Digital Utopianism** (Chicago, 2006) chronicles the rise of the "Californian ideology" that helped pave the way for the matrix of phenomena we now know as social media. Media sociologist Felicia Wu Song was a guest on volume 108 of the *Journal*, discussing her book *Virtual Communities: Bowling Alone, Online Together** (Peter Lang, 2009). The 2014 *Frontline* documentary, "Generation Like" — a sequel to "Growing Up Online" (2008) and "Digital Nation" (2010) — is an instructive examination of how commercial forces shape the socializing available through social media.

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Political science & revelation

The anthology *Reason, Revelation, and the Civic Order: Political Philosophy and the Claims of Faith** (2014), co-edited by Carson Holloway, was published by Northern Illinois University Press. Holloway's *The Way of Life: John Paul II and the Challenge of Liberal Modernity** (2008) was published by Baylor University Press. The Dallas Willard book quoted in this feature was *Knowing Christ Today: Why We Can Trust Spiritual Knowledge** (HarperOne, 2009).

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Theology of the family

Joseph Atkinson's *Biblical and Theological Foundations of the Family: The Domestic Church** (2015) is published by the Catholic University of America Press. A central chapter in the book is called "Hebraic Anthropological Principles: Corporate Personality." Atkinson remarks: "The role that the family . . . play[s] in the salvific will of God is predicated on this constitutive corporate dimension of both the individual and the family and ultimately is what allows the family to function as the carrier of the covenant." One of the books Atkinson cites extensively in his critique of modern atomistic individualism is Jean De Fraine's 1965 study, *Adam and the Family of Man* (Alba House).

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Monasticism

Greg Peters's *The Story of Monasticism: Retrieving an Ancient Tradition for Contemporary Spirituality** (2015) is published by Baker Academic. See also his *Reforming the Monastery: Protestant Theologies of the Religious Life** (Cascade Books, 2014). Early in *The Story of Monasticism*, Peters recommends two books that

Part 1

1 Introduction

- 2 **Jacob Silverman**, on the utopian dreams of liberation that have driven the rise of online communications and that animate the mythic appeal of social media
- 3 **Carson Holloway**, on the curious indifference among political scientists to religious truth claims and ways of life derived from revelation
- 4 **Joseph Atkinson**, on why a rich theology of the family is fundamental to understanding the nature of redemption, which is personal but never individualistic

Part 2

- 1 **Greg Peters**, on lessons from the theology and practice of monasticism for the contemporary pursuit of Christian maturity and faithfulness
- 2 **Antonio López**, on how the givenness and giftedness of Creation is obscured by technological culture, which in turn distorts our understanding of freedom
- 3 **Julian Johnson**, on how Western music since the seventeenth century has reflected the anxieties and ambiguities of the modern age

*An asterisk means that the book is in print; if you wish to purchase it from our friends at Eighth Day Books, call 1.800.841.2541.

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discuss the idea of a religious vocation, one by a Roman Catholic author (Brian Mullady, *The Call of God: A Short Primer on the Theology of Vocation* [Institute on Religious Life, 2008]), the other by a Protestant (Douglas J. Schuurman, *Vocation: Discerning Our Callings in Life** [Eerdmans, 2004]).

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Gift and the meaning of freedom

Antonio López was one of the editors of *Retrieving Origins and the Claim of Multiculturalism** (Eerdmans, 2014). The book includes a very incisive introductory chapter by López, as well as his essay "Retrieval of Otherness in a Technological Culture." In this essay, López cites two books by George Parkin Grant: *Technology and Empire: Perspectives on North America* (House of Anansi, 1969) and *Philosophy in the Mass Age** (University of Toronto Press, 1959, 1995). On Grant, see also Arthur Davis, *George Grant and the Subversion of Modernity: Art, Philosophy, Politics, Religion, and Education** (Univ. of Toronto Press, 1996) and Joan Lockwood O'Donovan, *George Grant and the Twilight of Justice* (Univ. of Toronto Press, 1984).

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Music and modernity

Julian Johnson's *Out of Time: Music and the Making of Modernity** (2015) is published by Oxford University Press, as was Johnson's *Who Needs Classical Music?: Cultural Choice and Musical Value** (2002) and Jeremy Begbie's *Music, Modernity, and God: Essays in Listening** (2013). See also Andrew Bowie, *Music, Philosophy, and Modernity* (Cambridge University Press, 2007); Karol Berger, *Bach's Cycle, Mozart's Arrow: An Essay on the Origins of Musical Modernity*, and John Butt, *Bach's Dialogue with Modernity: Perspectives on the Passions** (Cambridge University Press, 2010).

The **MARS HILL AUDIO** *Journal* is produced at our studio in rural central Virginia, outside of historic Charlottesville. The *Journal* is one of several audio products we distribute, all of them intended to encourage greater wisdom about interaction with contemporary culture.

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