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Impoliteness in Language Studies on its Interplay with Power in Theory and Practice [Walter de Gruyter](#) **The volume addresses the enormous imbalance that exists between academic interest in politeness phenomena when compared to impoliteness phenomena. Researchers working with Brown and Levinson's ([1978] 1987) seminal work on politeness rarely focused explicitly on impoliteness. As a result, only one aspect of facework/relational work has been studied in detail. Next to this research desideratum, politeness research is on the move again, with alternative conceptions of politeness to those of Brown and Levinson being further developed. In this volume researchers present, discuss and explore the concept of linguistic impoliteness, the crucial differences and interconnectedness between lay understandings of impoliteness and the academic concept within a theory of facework/relational work, as well as the exercise of power that is involved when impoliteness occurs. The authors offer solid discussions of the theoretical issues involved and draw on data from political interaction, interaction with legally constituted authorities, workplace interaction in the factory and the office, code-switching and Internet practices. The collection offers inspiration for research on impoliteness in many different research fields, such as (critical) discourse analysis, conversation analysis, pragmatics and stylistics, as well as linguistic approaches to studies in conflict and conflict resolution. The Oxford Handbook of Pragmatics [Oxford University Press](#) **This volume brings together distinguished scholars from all over the world to present an authoritative, thorough, and yet accessible state-of-the-art survey of current issues in pragmatics. Following an introduction by the editor, the volume is divided into five thematic parts. Chapters in Part I are concerned****

with schools of thought, foundations, and theories, while Part II deals with central topics in pragmatics, including implicature, presupposition, speech acts, deixis, reference, and context. In Part III, the focus is on cognitively-oriented pragmatics, covering topics such as computational, experimental, and neuropragmatics. Part IV takes a look at socially and culturally-oriented pragmatics such as politeness/impoliteness studies, cross- and intercultural, and interlanguage pragmatics. Finally, the chapters in Part V explore the interfaces of pragmatics with semantics, grammar, morphology, the lexicon, prosody, language change, and information structure. The Oxford Handbook of Pragmatics will be an indispensable reference for scholars and students of pragmatics of all theoretical stripes. It will also be a valuable resource for linguists in other fields, including philosophy of language, semantics, morphosyntax, prosody, psycholinguistics, and sociolinguistics, and for researchers and students in the fields of cognitive science, artificial intelligence, computer science, anthropology, and sociology.

Men and the Emergence of Polite Society, Britain 1660-1800 [Routledge](#) This book presents an account of masculinity in eighteenth century Britain. In particular it is concerned with the impact of an emergent polite society on notions of manliness and the gentleman. From the 1660s a new type of social behaviour, politeness, was promoted by diverse writers. Based on continental ideas of refinement, it stressed the merits of genuine and generous sociability as befitted a progressive and tolerant nation. Early eighteenth century writers encouraged men to acquire the characteristics of politeness by becoming urbane town gentlemen. Later commentators promoted an alternative culture of sensibility typified by the man of feeling. Central to both was the need to spend more time with women, now seen as key agents of refinement. The relationship demanded a reworking of what it meant to be manly. Being manly and polite was a difficult balancing act. Refined manliness presented new problems for eighteenth century men. What was the relationship between politeness and duplicity? Were feminine actions such as tears and physical delicacy acceptable or not? Critics believed polite society led to effeminacy, not manliness, and condemned this failure of male identity with reference to the fop. This book reveals the significance of social over sexual conduct for eighteenth century definitions of masculinity. It shows how features traditionally associated with nineteenth century models were well established in the earlier figure of the polite town-dweller or sentimental man of feeling. Using personal stories and diverse public statements drawn from conduct books, magazines, sermons and novels, this is a vivid account of the changing status of men and masculinity as Britain moved into the modern period.

Pragmatics of Society [Walter de Gruyter](#) Pragmatics of society takes a socio-cultural perspective on pragmatics and gives a broad view of how social and cultural factors influence language use. The volume covers a wide range of topics within the field of sociopragmatics. This subfield of pragmatics encompasses sociolinguistic studies that focus on how pragmatic and discourse features vary according to macro-sociological

variables such as age, gender, class and region (variational pragmatics), and discourse/conversation analytical studies investigating variation according to the activity engaged in by the participants and the identities displayed as relevant in interaction. The volume also covers studies in linguistic pragmatics with a more general socio-cultural focus, including global and intercultural communication, politeness, critical discourse analysis and linguistic anthropology. Each article presents the state-of-the-art of the topic at hand, as well as new research.

Impolite Learning Conduct and Community in the Republic of Letters, 1680-1750 [Berghahn Books](#) During the period immediately preceding the Enlightenment, scholars throughout Europe located themselves within an informal social and cultural community. The members of this Republic of Letters traveled to meet each other, exchanged letters, contributed to scholarly journals, and helped with the publication of other scholars' work. In this book, Anne Goldgar examines the everyday interactions of the scholars and the values that underpinned their society. She argues that the pressures of the marketplace and the popularity of the new, competing Enlightenment literature diverted the older community's attention from the content of debates and toward the manner in which they were conducted. This tendency intensified an earlier reluctance to turn away from the personal communal structure to a more professional, academic society. Inferring ideas about cooperation through recorded instances of conflict, Goldgar looks at often amusing stories of plagiarism, theft, insult, and impersonation. These stories illuminate the fundamental academic ethos of obligation; the Republic's attempts, not always successful, to reorganize and professionalize the community, notably through literary journals; the basis of scholarly hierarchy and the ideal career path toward intellectual prominence; and the difficulties, in an international and non-denominational community, of dealing with the realities of religious and political division within Europe. In a final chapter, Goldgar presents a slant on the difficult transition from the old erudition to the

Enlightenment. The Ladies' Book of Etiquette, and Manual of Politeness A Complete Hand Book for the Use of the Lady in Polite Society [Impoliteness Using Language to Cause Offence](#) [Cambridge University Press](#) When is language considered 'impolite'? Is impolite language only used for anti-social purposes? Can impolite language be creative? What is the difference between 'impoliteness' and 'rudeness'? Grounded in naturally-occurring language data and drawing on findings from linguistic pragmatics and social psychology, Jonathan Culpeper provides a fascinating account of how impolite behaviour works. He examines not only its forms and functions but also people's understandings of it in both public and private contexts. He reveals, for example, the emotional consequences of impoliteness, how it shapes and is shaped by contexts, and how it is sometimes institutionalised. This book offers penetrating insights into a hitherto neglected and poorly understood phenomenon. It will be welcomed by students and researchers in linguistics and social psychology in particular.

Impoliteness in Interaction [John Benjamins Publishing](#) This study concerns the nature of

impoliteness in face-to-face spoken interaction. For more than three decades many pragmatic and sociolinguistic studies of interaction have considered politeness to be one central explanatory concept governing and underpinning face-to-face interaction. Politeness' "evil twin" impoliteness has been largely neglected until only very recently. This book, the first of its kind on the subject, considers the role that impoliteness has to play by drawing extracts from a range of discourse types (car parking disputes, army and police training, police-public interactions and kitchen discourse). The study considers the triggering of impoliteness; explores the dynamic progression of impolite exchanges, and examines the way in which such exchanges come to some form of resolution. 'Face' and the linguistic sophistication and manipulation of discursively expected norms to cause, or deflect impoliteness is also explored, as is the dynamic and sometimes hotly contested nature of an individual's socio-discoursal role. **Aspects of Linguistic Impoliteness** [Cambridge Scholars Publishing](#) **Aspects of Linguistic Impoliteness** aims to bring together a wide range of theoretical and methodological approaches exploring the notion of "impoliteness" and the usage of impoliteness phenomena in language and discourse per se, instead of simply considering impoliteness as "politeness that has gone wrong". Impoliteness draws mainly on linguistics, but also its sub-disciplines, as well as related disciplines such as psychology, philosophy, sociology, anthropology and communication. Various researchers have been selected to contribute to **Aspects of Linguistic Impoliteness**, and the diversity of sub-disciplinary approaches is reflected in the multi-dimensional organisation of the five sections of the book. The book is divided into five thematic parts, with 16 chapters in all, as follows. The first part aims to study the links between impoliteness and rudeness, by providing a general framework to these notions. The second part deals with occurrences of impoliteness in television series and drama, when the third part mainly focuses on the discursive creations of impoliteness found in literary works. The fourth part concentrates on impoliteness and the philosophy of language, and the fifth and final part offers some case-studies of impoliteness in modern communication. **Politeness, Impoliteness and Ritual** [Cambridge University Press](#) This book models how people use ritual practices in interaction, and politeness and impoliteness situated in/triggered by ritual practices. **Murder Is Bad Manners** [Simon and Schuster](#) At an English boarding school in the 1930s, crime-solving friends Hazel Wong and Daisy Wells struggle to find an exciting mystery to investigate until Hazel discovers the dead body of Miss Bell, the science teacher. **The Cambridge Handbook of Sociopragmatics** [Cambridge University Press](#) Sociopragmatics is a rapidly growing field and this is the first ever handbook dedicated to this exciting area of study. Bringing together an international team of leading editors and contributors, it provides a comprehensive, cutting-edge overview of the key concepts, topics, settings and methodologies involved in sociopragmatic research. The chapters are organised in a systematic fashion, and span a wide range of theoretical research on how language communicates

multiple meanings in context, how it influences our daily interactions and relationships with others, and how it helps construct our social worlds. Providing insight into a fascinating array of phenomena and novel research directions, the Handbook is not only relevant to experts of pragmatics but to any reader with an interest in language and its use in different contexts, including researchers in sociology, anthropology and communication, and students of applied linguistics and related areas, as well as professional practitioners in communication research.

Nothing Left to Lose How Canadians Squandered Their Freedom and How to Get It Back [Sutherland House](#) Canadians like to think that our lack of political drama in comparison to Trump-era America and Brexit-crazed UK is indicative of our civic virtue. But what if our relative calm is really evidence of less admirable qualities: excessive deference and obedience, and outright servility? In this no-holds-barred essay, acclaimed legal expert and author Philip Slayton (*Lawyers Gone Bad*) lays bare the unpleasant reality of public life in Canada: that the freedoms necessary for the survival of liberal democracy are eroding and disappearing within our borders. Ranging from universities to law courts, from Parliament to Canadian literature, Slayton's sharp insights spare no quarter of Canadian society. *Nothing Left to Lose* has something to delight and offend everyone. Its fiery call for action to rescue freedom in Canada is certain to spark a national conversation.

Politeness Some Universals in Language Usage [Cambridge University Press](#) This book studies the principles for constructing polite speeches, based on the detailed study of three unrelated languages and cultures.

The Pragmatics of Politeness [Oxford Studies in Sociolinguistics](#) This readable book presents a new general theoretical understanding of politeness. It offers an account of a wide range of politeness phenomena in English, illustrated by hundreds of examples of actual language use taken largely from authentic British and American sources. Building on his earlier pioneering work on politeness, Geoffrey Leech takes a pragmatic approach that is based on the controversial notion that politeness is communicative altruism. Leech's 1983 book, *Principles of Pragmatics*, introduced the now widely-accepted distinction between pragmalinguistic and sociopragmatic aspects of politeness; this book returns to the pragmalinguistic side, somewhat neglected in recent work. Drawing on neo-Gricean thinking, Leech rejects the prevalent view that it is impossible to apply the terms 'polite' or 'impolite' to linguistic phenomena. Leech covers all major speech acts that are either positively or negatively associated with politeness, such as requests, apologies, compliments, offers, criticisms, good wishes, condolences, congratulations, agreement, and disagreement. Additional chapters deal with impoliteness and the related phenomena of irony ("mock politeness") and banter ("mock impoliteness"), and with the role of politeness in the learning of English as a second language. A final chapter takes a fascinating look at more than a thousand years of history of politeness in the English language.

Language and Woman's Place Text and Commentaries [Oxford University Press](#) The 1975 publication of Robin Tolmach Lakoff's *Language*

and *Woman's Place*, is widely recognized as having inaugurated feminist research on the relationship between language and gender, touching off a remarkable response among language scholars, feminists, and general readers. For the past thirty years, scholars of language and gender have been debating and developing Lakoff's initial observations. Arguing that language is fundamental to gender inequality, Lakoff pointed to two areas in which inequalities can be found: Language used about women, such as the asymmetries between seemingly parallel terms like master and mistress, and language used by women, which places women in a double bind between being appropriately feminine and being fully human. Lakoff's central argument that "women's language" expresses powerlessness triggered a controversy that continues to this day. The revised and expanded edition presents the full text of the original first edition, along with an introduction and annotations by Lakoff in which she reflects on the text a quarter century later and expands on some of the most widely discussed issues it raises. The volume also brings together commentaries from twenty-six leading scholars of language, gender, and sexuality, within linguistics, anthropology, modern languages, education, information sciences, and other disciplines. The commentaries discuss the book's contribution to feminist research on language and explore its ongoing relevance for scholarship in the field. This new edition of *Language and Woman's Place* not only makes available once again the pioneering text of feminist linguistics; just as important, it places the text in the context of contemporary feminist and gender theory for a new generation of readers.

Directness and Indirectness Across Cultures [Springer](#) This book analyses the complex relationship between directness, indirectness, politeness and impoliteness. Definitions of directness and indirectness are discussed and problematised from a discursive theoretical perspective.

Talk to the Hand [HarperCollins UK](#) A battle-cry for civilised behaviour from the author of the multi-million selling *Eats, Shoots and Leaves*.

Watching the English: The Hidden Rules of English Behaviour [Hachette UK](#) In "Watching The English" anthropologist Kate Fox takes a revealing look at the quirks, habits and foibles of the English people. She puts the English national character under her anthropological microscope, and finds a strange and fascinating culture, governed by complex sets of unspoken rules and byzantine codes of behaviour. The rules of weather-speak. The ironic-gnome rule. The reflex apology rule. The paranoid-pantomime rule. Class indicators and class anxiety tests. The money-talk taboo and many more ...Through a mixture of anthropological analysis and her own unorthodox experiments (using herself as a reluctant guinea-pig), Kate Fox discovers what these unwritten behaviour codes tell us about Englishness.

Shaping Technology / Building Society Studies in Sociotechnical Change [MIT Press](#) Building on the influential book *The Social Construction of Technological Systems*, this volume carries forward the project of creating a theory of technological development and implementation that is strongly grounded in both sociology and history. Technology is everywhere, yet a theory of

technology and its social dimension remains to be fully developed. Building on the influential book *The Social Construction of Technological Systems*, this volume carries forward the project of creating a theory of technological development and implementation that is strongly grounded in both sociology and history. The 12 essays address the central question of how technologies become stabilized, how they attain a final form and use that is generally accepted. The essays are tied together by a general introduction, part introductions, and a theoretical conclusion. The first part of the book examines and criticizes the idea that technologies have common life cycles; three case studies cover the history of a successful but never produced British jet fighter, the manipulation of patents by a French R&D company to gain a market foothold, and the managed development of high-intensity fluorescent lighting to serve the interests of electricity suppliers as well as the producing company. The second part looks at broader interactions shaping technology and its social context: the question of who was to define "steel," the determination of what constitutes radioactive waste and its proper disposal, and the social construction of motion pictures as exemplified by Thomas Edison's successful development of the medium and its commercial failure. The last part offers theoretical studies suggesting alternative approaches to sociotechnologies; two studies argue for a strong sociotechnology in which artifact and social context are viewed as a single seamless web, while the third looks at the ways in which a social program is a technology.

Historical Sociopragmatics [John Benjamins Publishing](#) Maps out historical sociopragmatics, a multidisciplinary field located within historical pragmatics, but overlapping with socially-oriented fields, such as sociolinguistics and critical discourse analysis

English Politeness and Class [Cambridge University Press](#) A revealing account of politeness in conversation, focusing on the vital role it plays in maintaining class differences.

Politeness in the History of English From the Middle Ages to the Present Day [Cambridge University Press](#) From the Middle Ages up to the present day, this book traces politeness in the history of the English language.

Showing My Color Impolite Essays on Race and Identity [Harpercollins](#) Reflecting on changes in the racial landscape since the 1960s and drawing on a depth of personal and private experiences, a Pulitzer Prize-winning columnist for the "Chicago Tribune" reconnects the increasingly abstract political debates about black conservatives, affirmative action, and the "race card" to the people for whom these words mean something more than just votes.

Power and Politeness in Action Disagreements in Oral Communication [Walter de Gruyter](#) This study investigates the interface of power and politeness in the realization of disagreements in naturalistic language data. Power and politeness are important phenomena in face-to-face interaction. Disagreement is an arena in which these two key concepts are likely to be observed together: both disagreement and the exercise of power entail a conflict, and, at the same time, conflict will often be softened by the display of politeness (defined as marked relational work). The concept of power is of special interest to the field of

linguistics in that language is one of the primary means to exercise power. Often correlated with status and regarded as an influential aspect of situated speech, the workings of the exercise of power, however, have rarely been formally articulated. This study provides a theoretical framework within which to analyze the observed instances of disagreement and their co-occurrence with the exercise of power and display of politeness. In this framework, a checklist of propositions that allow us to operationalize the concept of power and identify its exercise in naturalistic linguistic data is combined with a view of language as socially constructed. A qualitative approach is used to analyze the concepts of power and politeness. The material for analysis comes from three different contexts: (1) a sociable argument in an informal, supportive and interactive family setting, (2) a business meeting among colleagues within a research institution, and (3) examples from public discourse collected during the US Election 2000.

English as a Global Language [Cambridge University Press](#) David Crystal's classic *English as a Global Language* considers the history, present status and future of the English language, focusing on its role as the leading international language. English has been deemed the most 'successful' language ever, with 1500 million speakers internationally, presenting a difficult task to those who wish to investigate it in its entirety. However, Crystal explores the subject in a measured but engaging way, always backing up observations with facts and figures. Written in a detailed and fascinating manner, this is a book written by an expert both for specialists in the subject and for general readers interested in the English language.

Ferguson: An Essay on the History of Civil Society [Cambridge University Press](#) A subtle critique of declining communal virtues, arguing instead for active citizenship.

Introducing Pragmatics in Use [Routledge](#) *Introducing Pragmatics in Use* is a lively and accessible introduction to pragmatics which both covers theory and applies it to real spoken and written data. This textbook systematically draws on a number of different language corpora and the corresponding software applications. Its primary focus is the application of a corpus methodology in order to examine core component areas such as deixis, politeness, speech acts, language variation and register. The main goal of the book is to contextualise pragmatics in the study of language through the analysis of different language contexts provided by spoken and written corpora. Substantially revised and updated, this second edition covers a wider range of topics, corpora and software packages. It consistently demonstrates the benefits of innovative analytical synergies and extends this to how corpus pragmatics can be further blended with, for example, conversation analysis or variational pragmatics. The second edition also offers a new chapter specifically dedicated to corpus pragmatics which proposes a framework for both form-to-function and function-to-form approaches. The book also addresses the - sometimes thorny - area of the integration of the teaching of pragmatics into the language classroom. All chapters in the second edition include a number of cohesive, step-by-step tasks that can be done in small groups in class or can be used as self-study

resources. A wide range of illustrative language samples drawn from a number of English language corpora, coupled with instructive tasks and annotated further reading sections, make this an ideal textbook for advanced undergraduate or postgraduate students of pragmatics, discourse analysis and corpus linguistics within applied languages / linguistics or TESOL programmes.

The Challenge of Crime in a Free Society A Report This report of the President's Commission on Law Enforcement and Administration of Justice -- established by President Lyndon Johnson on July 23, 1965 -- addresses the causes of crime and delinquency and recommends how to prevent crime and delinquency and improve law enforcement and the administration of criminal justice. In developing its findings and recommendations, the Commission held three national conferences, conducted five national surveys, held hundreds of meetings, and interviewed tens of thousands of individuals. Separate chapters of this report discuss crime in America, juvenile delinquency, the police, the courts, corrections, organized crime, narcotics and drug abuse, drunkenness offenses, gun control, science and technology, and research as an instrument for reform. Significant data were generated by the Commission's National Survey of Criminal Victims, the first of its kind conducted on such a scope. The survey found that not only do Americans experience far more crime than they report to the police, but they talk about crime and the reports of crime engender such fear among citizens that the basic quality of life of many Americans has eroded. The core conclusion of the Commission, however, is that a significant reduction in crime can be achieved if the Commission's recommendations (some 200) are implemented. The recommendations call for a cooperative attack on crime by the Federal Government, the States, the counties, the cities, civic organizations, religious institutions, business groups, and individual citizens. They propose basic changes in the operations of police, schools, prosecutors, employment agencies, defenders, social workers, prisons, housing authorities, and probation and parole officers.

InterGrammar Toward an Integrative Model of Verbal, Prosodic and Kinesic Choices in Speech [Walter de Gruyter](#) **What Stars Are Made Of The Life of Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin** Cecilia Payne-Gaposchkin was the revolutionary scientific thinker who discovered what stars are made of. But her name is hard to find alongside those of Hubble, Herschel, and other great astronomers. Donovan Moore tells the story of Payne's life of determination against all the obstacles a patriarchal society erected against her. **Recovering Civility during COVID-19** [Springer Nature](#) This Open Access book examines many of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic through the distinctive lens of civility. The idea of civility appears often in both public and academic debates, and a polarized political climate frequently leads to allegations of uncivil speech and behaviour. Norms of civility are always contested, even more so in moments of crisis such as a global pandemic. A focus on civility provides crucial insight and guidance on how to navigate the social and political challenges resulting from COVID-19. Furthermore, it offers a framework through which citizens and

policymakers can better understand the causes and consequences of incivility, and devise ways to recover civility in our social and political lives. **Losing Ground American Environmentalism at the Close of the Twentieth Century** [MIT Press](#) The journalist who broke the stories on the Dalkon shield and Ford Pinto offers a critique of the mainstream American environmental movement, from its conservationist origins to the advent of the "fourth wave" of today's environmentalists. **UP. The Presentation of Self in Everyday Life** [Peter Smith Pub Incorporated](#) **Swearing in English Bad Language, Purity and Power from 1586 to the Present** [Routledge](#) Do men use bad language more than women? How do social class and the use of bad language interact? Do young speakers use bad language more frequently than older speakers? Using the spoken section of the British National Corpus, **Swearing in English** explores questions such as these and considers at length the historical origins of modern attitudes to bad language. Drawing on a variety of methodologies including historical research and corpus linguistics, and a range of data such as corpora, dramatic texts, early modern newsbooks and television, **Tony McEnery** takes a socio-historical approach to discourses about bad language in English. Arguing that purity of speech and power have come to be connected via a series of moral panics about bad language, the book contends that these moral panics, over time, have generated the differences observable in bad language usage in present day English. A fascinating, comprehensive insight into an increasingly popular area, this book provides an explanation, and not simply a description, of how modern attitudes to bad language have come about. **Understanding Politeness** [Cambridge University Press](#) Politeness is key to all of our relationships and plays a fundamental part in the way we communicate with each other and the way we define ourselves. It is not limited only to conventional aspects of linguistic etiquette, but encompasses all types of interpersonal behaviour through which we explore and maintain our relationships. This groundbreaking exploration navigates the reader through this fascinating area and introduces them to a variety of new insights. The book is divided into three parts and is based on an innovative framework which relies on the concepts of social practice, time and space. In this multidisciplinary approach, the authors capture a range of user and observer understandings and provide a variety of examples from different languages and cultures. With its reader-friendly style, carefully constructed exercises and useful glossary, **Understanding Politeness** will be welcomed by both researchers and postgraduate students working on politeness, pragmatics and sociolinguistics more broadly. **Culture, Society and the Media** [Routledge](#) This book discusses two related themes concerning the role and processes of mass communication in society. The first deals with questions regarding the power of the media: how should it be defined? how is it wielded and by whom? are previous approaches and answers to such questions adequate? The second theme revolves around the divisions between the liberal pluralist and Marxist approaches to the analysis of the nature of the media. These divisions have, in recent years, been fundamental

to the debate concerning the understanding of the role of mass communication, and the examination of them in this book will challenge the reader to look more closely at a number of assumptions that have long been taken for granted. **The Invisible Hand** [Penguin UK](#) Adam Smith's landmark treatise on the free market paved the way for modern capitalism, arguing that competition is the engine of a productive society, and that self-interest will eventually come to enrich the whole community, as if by an 'invisible hand'. Throughout history, some books have changed the world. They have transformed the way we see ourselves - and each other. They have inspired debate, dissent, war and revolution. They have enlightened, outraged, provoked and comforted. They have enriched lives - and destroyed them. Now Penguin brings you the works of the great thinkers, pioneers, radicals and visionaries whose ideas shook civilization and helped make us who we are. **Tulipmania Money, Honor, and Knowledge in the Dutch Golden Age** [University of Chicago Press](#) In the 1630s the Netherlands was gripped by tulipmania: a speculative fever unprecedented in scale and, as popular history would have it, folly. We all know the outline of the story—how otherwise sensible merchants, nobles, and artisans spent all they had (and much that they didn't) on tulip bulbs. We have heard how these bulbs changed hands hundreds of times in a single day, and how some bulbs, sold and resold for thousands of guilders, never even existed. Tulipmania is seen as an example of the gullibility of crowds and the dangers of financial speculation. But it wasn't like that. As Anne Goldgar reveals in *Tulipmania*, not one of these stories is true. Making use of extensive archival research, she lays waste to the legends, revealing that while the 1630s did see a speculative bubble in tulip prices, neither the height of the bubble nor its bursting were anywhere near as dramatic as we tend to think. By clearing away the accumulated myths, Goldgar is able to show us instead the far more interesting reality: the ways in which tulipmania reflected deep anxieties about the transformation of Dutch society in the Golden Age. "Goldgar tells us at the start of her excellent debunking book: 'Most of what we have heard of [tulipmania] is not true.' . . . She tells a new story."—Simon Kuper, *Financial Times* [Aquinas on the Web? Doing Theology in an Internet Age](#) [A&C Black](#)