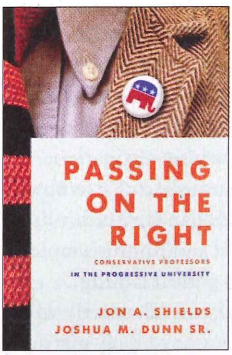
Passing on the Right: Conservative Professors in the Progressive University

Jon A. Fields and Joshua M. Dunn Sr. Oxford Univ., $29.95 (248p) ISBN 978-0-19-986305-1

Shields and Dunn, professors of government at Claremont McKenna College and the University of Colorado–Colorado Springs, respectively, team up to survey the plight of academic conservatives and the stigma they face on overwhelmingly liberal campuses. Based on extensive interviews, their evenhanded study throws light on a "hidden world" that exists within the ostensible leftist monoculture of the social sciences and humanities. Sociology is a particularly one-sided field, in which outspoken conservatives are likely to face strong opposition from their peers. On the other hand, economics abides multiple viewpoints. The authors provocatively compare the state of many right-wing professors to gay people living in "the closet." To avoid suspicion, "closet conservatives" conceal their politics, self-protectively designing research agendas to cover their tracks and engaging in self-censorship on résumés, publications, donations, and grants, especially prior to tenure. By remaining silent, they pass as liberals among other-minded colleagues. Shields and Dunn try to show that conservative professors are not closed-minded or combative by nature. Instead, the academics profiled here consistently remain faithful to academic ideals. Correcting the ideological imbalance will be difficult, the authors conclude. They quixotically propose affirmative-action hiring for academic conservatives but admit the idea has a near absence of support among the professoriat, even on the right. *(Apr.)*



Connectography: Mapping the Future of Global Civilization

Parag Khanna. Random House, $30 (512p) ISBN 978-0-8129-8855-0

According to international relations expert Khanna (*How to Run the World*), the notion of geography as destiny is obsolete—a nation's fate will be shaped not by where it's located but by who its partners are. States that excel at networking will grow and prosper. Already, Russia and China are building supply chains with the developing world by offering technology and infrastructure in return for access and raw materials. Dubai has rapidly achieved equal status with traditional international hubs like London and New York City. Khanna's insights are at once self-evident and revelatory. Why conquer when you can seduce? However, he demonstrates limits to the power of modern checkbook diplomacy—violent protests in African nations against China's heavy economic involvement are on the rise. Khanna argues that an interdependent world will see fewer wars over access and resources. His seemingly inexhaustible expertise about the global economy is impressive, but readers may feel as if they are on a supersonic non-stop flight to international hot spots, complete with jet lag. This is a prescient guide to the geopolitics of today and tomorrow. *Agent: Jennifer Joel, ICM. (Apr.)*

The Killing of Osama Bin Laden

Seymour M. Hersh. Verso, $19.95 (172p) ISBN 978-1-78478-436-2

Respected investigative journalist Hersh's controversial account of the death of al-Qaeda leader Osama bin Laden is the highlight of this collection of four essays originally published in the *London Review of Books* between May 2015 and January 2016. Few aspects of the official version of Seal Team Six's killing of bin Laden in May 2011 survive Hersh's scrutiny. For him, the White House's "most blatant lie" was that the American mission was kept secret from Pakistan's senior military leadership. Most of Hersh's essay derives from an unnamed "retired senior intelligence official" whose anonymity has been cited as the reason why Hersh's exposé did not appear in another of his usual publications, the *New Yorker*. Not all of the source's arguments convince—for example, even if bin Laden was no longer overseeing al-Qaeda operations, the White House could still have justified killing him rather than capturing him, undercutting the source's point that the White House lied about his role at the time of his death.