faries, and places them in a cultural or geographic context. There is no pronunciation guide, but words in the text that display in small capital letters are actually see also references. Each meaty entry also includes a citation to a (generally) scholarly work that is the main source of the information.

Author Theresa Bane, a professional vampirologist and author of the Encyclopedia of Vampire Mythology (McFarland, 2010) and Encyclopedia of Demons in World Religions (McFarland, 2012), has included a lengthy twenty-seven-page bibliography of both classic works on myths and the supernatural like James Frazer’s Golden Bough (1922); juvenile books like Jean Fritz’s The Good Giants and the Bad Pukwudgies (1982); contemporary books like Arrowsmith’s Field Guide to the Little People: A Curious Journey into the Hidden Realm of Eves, Faeries, Hobgoblins, and Other Not-So-Mythical Creatures (2009); and actual tales like Hans Christian Andersen’s Tales and Fairy Stories (1893). There is also a useful index.

This is a comprehensive and accessible work for adults and YAs. It covers more cultures than older works like Katherine Briggs’s An Encyclopedia of Fairies: Hobgoblins, Brownies, Bogies, and Other Supernatural Creatures (Pantheon Books, 1978), which is still very good but limited to Celtic and European fairy-folk.

The introduction states that the work also does not contain information about “fictional” fairies that did not have origins in folklore like J.M. Barrie’s Tinker Bell. Bane correctly warns users that this is not a spell book. If you need something that will give information about spells you might need something like Judika Illes’ Gods & Goddesses: The Ultimate Guide to the Magic of Fairies, Genies, Demons, Ghosts, and Other Supernatural Creatures (HarperOne, 2009), which has information on how to communicate with fairies as well as how to identify them and about 1000 different spirits. There are also no illustrations or photographs in the work, so if you need to find out how they look, see Brian Froud’s Field Guide to the Little People: A Curious Journey into the Hidden Realm of Eves, Faeries, Hobgoblins, and Other Not-So-Mythical Creatures (2009). As a result, each volume compliments the other quite nicely, and both could easily coexist on the same bookshelf.

Well organized and covering a broad spectrum of topics germane to the subject, this reference work is easy to recommend. The inclusion of a collection of primary source documents and an extensive bibliography, perfect for further and more in-depth exploration, make this a near essential resource. Academic libraries would be hard pressed to find a better reference source on this often overlooked topic.—Matthew Laudicina, Reference and Instruction Librarian, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York at New Paltz


There is increasing interest in music produced both in Latin America and from Latin Americans living within the United States, yet there have been few encyclopedias of Latin American music published in English, and fewer yet devoted to popular music. Editor George Torres, working with an advisory board and 57 contributors spanning the disciplines of musicology, ethnomusicology, anthropology, and Latin American and Latino studies scholars, vividly addresses this need in the Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music.

This densely detailed single volume encyclopedia
highlights the musical genres, instrumental ensembles, and unique musical instrumentation in the “Spanish-, Portuguese-, and French-speaking countries of the Western Hemisphere south of the United States” (xviii). Popular music is differentiated here from folk music by criteria of how the music is created and distributed. Rural or urban, popular music traverses geographic and cultural boundaries and is transmitted through mass media. Key ethno-musicological and sociohistorical concepts that characterize popular Latin American music are clearly explained. For example, there is a four-page article titled “Hybridity and Cultural Syncretism,” in which musicologist Mark Brill outlines the centuries of cultural fusion and the more recent acceleration of syncretic processes that have manifested in countless musical styles. Brill concludes that more recent globalization and mass commercialization have resulted in more homogenized music that has lost “much of the individuality that engendered it” (206). A 22-page index provides access to concepts, people, and topics embedded throughout 200 articles. For instance, the index term machismo leads to a clear discussion of the concept in an article titled “Gender in Latin American Popular Music.” Articles on individual Latin American countries outline the historical developments and cultural forces from which those countries’ musical innovations emerged. For instance, the seven-page article on Brazil provides historical demographics and elaborates on the African origins of the rhythms that characterize popular Brazilian genres, such as Samba, Choro, Música Sertaneja, and Música Popular Brasileira.

While this encyclopedia does not include biographical entries for musical performers, many of the articles identify representational musicians. The articles are arranged alphabetically, signed by the authors, and include at least one suggestion for further reading. Fresh and accessible, the Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music would complement and richly supplement Latin American music surveys, such as the Musics of Latin America, edited by Robin Moore (Norton, 2012). Both of these books interpret the music within the context of regional historical, cultural, and social tensions; however, the Encyclopedia of Latin American Popular Music is more comprehensive and contemporary in coverage. For more comprehensive and specialized treatment of Latin American music, including folk music, libraries should also collect Dale A. Olsen and Daniel E. Sheehy’s The Garland Encyclopedia of World Music, Volume 2, South America, Mexico, Central America, and the Caribbean (Garland, 1998).—Valerie Mittenberg, Coordinator of Reference Services, Sojourner Truth Library, State University of New York, New Paltz, New York.


As a paper format reference work, the two-volume Encyclopedia of Philosophy and the Social Sciences (EPSS) only takes up three inches of shelf space, but it does provide an impressive range of essays. The goal is “to convey a clear sense of how philosophy looks at the social sciences and to mark out a detailed picture of how exactly the two are interrelated, interwoven at certain times but also differentiated and contrasted at others” (xxix). Thus the EPSS’s aim varies, for example, from the more discipline-focused goals of the Encyclopedia of Philosophy, edited by Borchert (Macmillan, 2006), and Darity’s International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences (IESS) (Macmillan, 2008).

As might be expected readers find topics related to disciplines like anthropology, political science, economics, geography, law, psychology, and sociology. The EPSS entries address broad substantive categories such as “Emotions,” “Intelligence,” and “Free Will,” other topics like “Falsifiability” and “Explanation, theories of,” and narrower topics like the “Marxist Economics” and “Luhmann’s Social Theory.” Along with the goals of individual entries, the multi-perspectival approach is also facilitated by the first volume’s readers’ guide with entries listed under broad, expected headings such as “Philosophy and History,” “Philosophy and Economics,” and others such as “Feminism and Social Science,” and “Biology and Social Science.”

Each entry includes a basic overview of the topic and includes the views of key scholars on that topic. The related lists of further readings are helpful and support follow up study. The overviews contain brief, accessible content both for undergraduate and graduate students and for other academically inclined readers.

The breadth of this two-volume resource is significant, but organization choices are necessary. So, while there is no general entry for “Morality,” as there is in the Darity resource, related entries include “Moral Cognitivism,” “Social Norms,” “Normativism Versus Realism,” and “Collective Values.” An index is in the back of the second volume, and it shows numerous discussions that include moral issues and factors, including one on “Neuroethics” where, along with neuroscience, ethicists are looking to the social sciences.

For those who seek discussion and beginning guidance on topics at the interface of philosophy and the social sciences, the EPSS can be used alone or as a supplement to other sources. So for example, related coverage for the topic “Behaviorism” is found in Ramachandran’s Encyclopedia of Human Behavior (Elsevier, 2012), as well as in the Darity and Borchert resources. From the field of philosophy, the online Stanford Encyclopedia of Philosophy (plato.stanford.edu), edited by Zalta, has more extensive (and possibly more demanding) reading with longer reference lists, and plans for ongoing updates. Even so, the EPSS entry for “Action” has many solid, current references that were not found in either Borchert or Zalta.

In sum, both for those with basic resources (Borchert) and for those without, the contents of EPSS bring valuable contributions to the table. As noted, the essays are deliberately constructed to include and interactively engage perspectives from philosophy and the social sciences. For