

European Association for American Studies biennial conference
Constanta, Romania
22nd - 25th April, 2016

As President of the Romanian Association for American Studies (RAAS), it is my pleasure to welcome you to the 2016 EAAS conference in Constanța, Romania.

Constanța is an ancient and beautiful resort city on the Black Sea coast, nowadays one of the most cosmopolitan cities in the country. A great attraction for the youth, in the summer it is a favorite holiday destination and for the rest of the year, a student metropolis. The ancient cultural tradition established in Tomis by Publius Ovidius Naso, the Roman poet exiled to the Greek-Roman city in the year 9 A.D., is continued today in the largest institution of higher education in the region, *Ovidius University*, the venue of the conference. The easiest entry point for international visitors is Bucharest airport; accommodation and travel in Romania is not expensive and Constanța provides a great opportunity to add vacation and exploration time to your conference visit. This conference website will be expanded in due course to give full details of travel and accommodation options.

The 2016 EAAS conference launches the open-call for presentations whose deadline, not to be missed, is June 15, 2015. The EAAS officers and the local organizers are happy to announce the presence of three eminent key-note speakers who will focus on the latest developments in American Studies in their respective fields of expertise:

Rodica Mihaila

Professor Emeritus, University of Bucharest
Director, Fulbright Commission Bucharest

Garry Gerstle

Paul Mellon Professor of American Studies
Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge

Linda Cox

Executive Director
Bronx River Alliance/Bronx River Administrator
New York

On behalf of the EAAS and RAAS, I look forward to welcoming you in Constanța in April 2016.

Professor Adina Ciugureanu,

RAAS President
EAAS Treasurer
Professor of British and American Studies
Ovidius University Constanța, Romania

******Proposals are now invited******

******for the next Conference of the******

******European Association for American Studies******

EAAS Conference Call for Proposals

Open Call for Presentations

To highlight the range and diversity of American Studies in Europe the EAAS is issuing an open call for proposals for the 2016 conference.

Proposers may wish to identify and explore long-standing, current and emerging intellectual debates in American Studies; to explore critically the varying practices and methodologies in American Studies; to bring to life current discussions and to posit potential paradigms in American Studies.

The various anniversaries of 2016 provide a variety of potential foundations for proposals.

- 150 years earlier marked the start of post-Civil War Reconstruction.
- The 1860s was the era of the dime novel, and Seeley Regester's *The Dead Letter*, credited by some as the first full-length American crime novel, appeared in 1866.
- 125 years will have passed since Thomas Edison patented the motion camera.
- 1916 saw the creation of the US National Parks Service;
- the opening of the nation's first birth control clinic;
- the election from Montana of Jeanette Rankin, the first woman to sit in the US House of Representatives;
- the release of D.W. Griffith's *Intolerance*;
- the publication of Carl Sandburg's *Chicago Poems*.
- Shirley Jackson, Walker Percy, and Walter Cronkite were born in 1916.
- Henry James died in the same year.
- The National Organization for Women celebrates its 50th anniversary in 2016.
- Robert Heinlein's *The Moon is a Harsh Mistress*, its narrative echoing the American Revolution, also dates from 1966.
- *Star Trek* first reached TV screens in that same year.

Contemporary American Studies topics could include, for example:

- discussion and exploration through various methodologies of the USA's strong, diverse and expanding literary canon;
- the multi-dimensional character and seemingly endless inventiveness of America's cultural output;
- the adaptability of American culture in an age offering radically new social media;
- the heritage that might be left after the nation's first African-American presidency.

The EAAS conference encompasses topics across the disciplinary spectrum in American Studies, as well as interdisciplinary and multi-disciplinary approaches to the subject. The themes mentioned above are only indicative, and not in any way intended to be a definitive list.

The conference content will be defined by the range and breadth of your suggestions and the conference committee looks forward to receiving many different and stimulating proposals.

Format

The EAAS is moving away from its former Workshop format. Proposals are now invited that may use a variety of presentation styles. The conference structure is expected mainly to consist of traditional panel sessions with papers, and proposals targeted at this format are very welcome indeed, but submissions may also be proposed as roundtables, workshops, shop-talks, dialogues, interviews, performances, individual lecture presentations, readings or in other innovative formats. It is expected that the conference will be made up mainly of sessions lasting 90 minutes or 2 hours, but there may be opportunity for shorter sessions. All proposals are expected to include the opportunity for discussion.

Session chairs

Volunteers are invited to fill the role of chairs or facilitators for sessions where these positions are vacant. Volunteers to chair sessions should indicate their willingness in the submission form and include keywords outlining their areas of expertise. The conference committee will gratefully call on volunteers to add them to appropriate sessions where possible.

EAAS has established the practice of publishing a small number of papers from each conference in an edited collection. The local conference committee looks forward to continuing this tradition, and may request session chairs to nominate work for consideration by the editors.

Selection

The EAAS is committed to a conference that reflects the broadest disciplinary range within American Studies, the multinational membership of the EAAS, and the international participation that its biennial meetings attract.

The conference committee will take these aims into account in reviewing proposals and in constructing the conference programme.

Proposal Deadline and Notes

The deadline for Proposals will be 15 June 2015.

Use this link to access the submission form:

<http://www.enl.auth.gr/abstracts/index.html>

All proposals must include the name and institutional affiliation of the proposer.

Proposals are invited for individual paper presentations or complete panels, roundtables, workshops, shop-talks, dialogues, interviews, performances, individual lecture presentations, readings or other innovative formats. All

proposals are expected to include the opportunity for discussion. Colleagues are also invited to volunteer as session chairs or facilitators using this web form.

Submissions should state a title for the panel/presentation/paper/proposal and a small number of keywords providing an indication of the disciplinary reach and content of the proposal.

Proposals for individual papers should consist of an abstract (max. 250 words) including brief mention of any relevant supporting information.

Proposals for panels and other formats should provide a brief explanation of the structure and goals of the proposed session (500 words), accompanied by details of the contributors and 250-word abstracts of each contribution.

All proposals must include details of any audiovisual or other equipment required to deliver the session/presentation, using the appropriate field in the web form.

Colleagues volunteering as session chairs or facilitators should include keywords indicating their expertise and interests

Small grants may be awarded at a later date by EAAS to help some presenters attend the conference. The resource for such grants is very limited, and any such awards will be in an amount no more than €200, and eligibility to compete for support will be restricted to such categories as presenters who are members of American Studies associations in low GDP countries, and postgraduate students without other financial support. Acceptance on to the EAAS conference programme does not imply the award of any financial support.

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