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How to re-found an association ...
(Photograph by MH)

ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT

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When the members of the EAAS Board received my message containing the agenda of the upcoming Zurich Board Meeting (3–5 April 2009) they learned that I proposed to conduct two meetings: The regular Board Meeting was to be preceded by a gathering that I called the Formation Meeting. Let me explain to you all why this became necessary:

EAAS, as you know, was founded in 1954. The present structure came into being in 1976 and the organization has been operating under articles that were revised several times. The last revision took place in Cambridge during the 2005 board meeting. It is this version of the articles that was available online and that we have been following since then. However, we were also governed by a second set of articles. These articles had been drawn up, in German, by Walter Hoelbling who served as EAAS secretary from 1994 to 2002. On November 21, 2000 – under the presidency of Josef Jařab – the German-language articles were registered with the police department of the Austrian state of Styria in Graz.

In 2006, I was asked by Marc Chénétier to register our newly elected vice president, Martin Heusser, and the secretary general, Jenel Virden. I did, but written confirmation never came. Last year, after I had been elected president of EAAS and the issue of registration had once again arisen, I was officially notified that the Graz articles were no longer compat-

ible with the Austrian law of associations which had undergone significant changes in 2002. The 2002 law contains a clause stipulating that all existing associations had to adjust their articles by 30 June 2006 at the latest. I was made aware of this clause in an e-mail message from a Graz official, dated 6 November 2008, only after I had enquired why it took so long to register the new officers. I was then directed to a web site maintained by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior which contained this statement on the EAAS officers: President: Marc Chénétier (24 March 2004 – 23 March

that would faithfully follow our intentions as agreed upon at the 2005 Cambridge meeting. This proved to be more difficult than I had thought. Many of the Cambridge regulations neither complied with the German law of associations nor with European Union law. Furthermore, these articles were silent on many things that, according to the law, need to be regulated.

I then decided to hire a lawyer with expert knowledge of the law of associations. As I learned from him, German law does not allow for the transfer an association from one European country (Austria) to another



The Board in session (Photograph by MH)

2008); Vice President: Martin Heusser (7 April 2006 – 23 March 2008); Secretary: Jenel Virden (7 April 2006 – 23 March 2008); Treasurer: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (24 March 2004 – 23 March 2008). It was obvious that all functions had expired on 23 March of last year, at least according to the Austrian authorities. The reason was that the Graz articles stipulated that all officers be elected at the same time. When I called the Austrian authorities to explain that we operate in a different way, they told me that this was irrelevant and indeed it was!

From the time when I first became aware of the Graz articles I developed the idea of drawing up a document

(Germany) and neither do similar laws in other EU countries. That meant that EAAS had to be founded anew. For this purpose, the German-language articles that our lawyer and I had worked on needed to be translated into English by a sworn translator. Also, we would have to conduct a formation meeting prior to the Zurich board meeting. A chairperson had to be found for the formation meeting, and a vote needed to be taken on the new articles. Only then could the first officers be elected. In other words: All officers' positions were up for election and not just two, as we had assumed.

My first thought was to insert a changeover pro-

vision under which we would elect a president and a treasurer for three years, and a vice president and a secretary general for one year since the present officers' terms of office would expire then. However, I was advised that the court would find this problematic. According to German law, EAAS would come into a new existence and the only logical way would be to elect two of the officers for four years and the other two for two years. This is what happened during the Zurich Formation Meeting. I was elected EAAS President for a full term of four years. Martin Heusser and Jenel Virden were elected to two-year terms. We will thus once again reach our customary voting cycle in 2011 with the election of a vice president and secretary general to four year-terms. In 2013, a new president and a new treasurer will be elected. Tony Emmerson had tendered his resignation on 29 March 2009 and had decided not to stand for the post of treasurer at the Formation Meeting, because he felt that his duties at the University of Ulster were incompatible with the demands of the treasurer's post. The members of the Formation Meeting then chose Stephen Matterson of Trinity College Dublin, who had served in that capacity once before (1996–2000).

I do not intend to dwell further on these critical months. Suffice it to say that when we met in Zurich, no one had any legal authorization to act on behalf of EAAS. There was yet another problem: Although EAAS was registered as an association from 2000 to 2008, we were never registered as a non-profit association. The banks have for the most part treated us as such and have not, for instance, deducted capital gains tax from our earnings. However, individuals and corporations are under close scrutiny these days. It is high time, therefore, that our finances are examined by the internal revenue authorities of the country of registration. I have sent the German version of our new articles to the Wittenberg tax office who will soon affirm that EAAS meets the requirements for tax exemption. In closing this chapter of my introductory note, let me repeat what I said in Zurich: Without Martin Heusser's and Jenel Virden's untiring help and encouragement I would not have succeeded in carrying out these tasks. The EAAS Articles agreed on in Zurich are online at <http://www.eaas.eu/articles.htm>.

For several years now, the Board of EAAS has discussed the question of how to embrace more member organizations without compromising our financial situation and our ability to do business efficiently. As Marc Chénétier wrote in ASN 58 (May 2007): "Could not EAAS envisage fostering regional gatherings based on the model already offered by the Nordic Association or BLASA? The Dutch and BLASA representatives

have already declared themselves open to the discussion of such perspectives. Banking on already existing contacts, it might not be remiss to discuss the possibility of geographically induced collaborations between, say, South Eastern European Associations, or the development of institutional links between, say, Austria, Slovenia, Italy, or Portugal and Spain . . . ?" In Zurich, we took cognizance of a report prepared by Hans Bak, Daniele Fiorentino, and Jopi Nyman. It contained the gist of the discussions of a subcommittee that had looked at new ways of configuring Board representation. The committee recommended that EAAS institute an executive committee that would include the four officers of EAAS and four others elected from the Board who would meet every year while the full Board of currently twenty-one members would meet only during conference years. More details are available in the minutes of the Zurich meeting below. Let me only say here that such a change in the articles was not considered feasible. After more than two years of discussion it was also clear that few current member associations were likely to voluntarily merge with regard to Board membership since this might create the impression that they were being classed as less important. The Board concluded that currently there is no critical need to address this issue.

May your hands always be busy,
May your feet always be swift,
May you have a strong foundation
When the winds of changes shift.

These lines from the lyrics of Bob Dylan's song "Forever Young" (that inspired us in our choice of the 2010 conference topic) provide an apt transition from the Board's deliberations on the structure of EAAS to our decisions on the structure of the Dublin conference. With forty-two strong workshop proposals and eleven submissions for the six parallel lecture slots to choose from, there really was an 'embarras de richesses' and final choices were difficult. However, the genial atmosphere in the grand main building of the University of Zurich, the balmy weather, and the exemplary hospitality of our Swiss hosts all contributed to a swift conclusion of the selection process which gave us more time than expected to explore the city of Zurich.

As I write, the summer semester draws to a close. I have one more week of teaching and examinations before me but some of you may already be enjoying a much-deserved summer break. What would be better on a leisurely summer afternoon or evening than to visit the pages of ejas.revues.org and to see that the *European Journal of American Studies* is going from

strength to strength under the able leadership of its editorial team who all deserve mention here: Pawel Frelik, Roxana Oltean, Jean-Yves Pellegrin, Theresa Saxon, Giles Scott-Smith, Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis A. van Minnen, and Theodora Tsimpouki. Twenty-two articles published in 2008 and already five more in 2009: EJAS certainly does us proud.

After only three years, our e-journal has grown into a significant contribution to American Studies scholarship. I trust that one day I or my successor will be able to make a similar statement about our book series *European Views of the United States*. You will remember that volume 1, *Conformism, Non-Conformism and Anti-Conformism in the Culture of the United States*, edited by Antonis Balasopoulos, Gesa Mackenthun, and Theodora Tsimpouki, came out last year. Volume 2 will contain the winning monograph of the biennial Rob Kroes Prize for the best book manuscript in American Studies. Rob Kroes, who served as treasurer (1976–1988) and president (1992–1996) of EAAS is

joined on the selection committee by former EAAS president Heinz Ickstadt (1996–2000) and current officers Jenel Virden and Martin Heusser. We expect that the winner will be announced in September.

The rocky road on which I and my co-officers had to travel during the past months has delayed the publication of this issue of *American Studies in Europe*. We have therefore decided to extend the deadline for workshop paper submissions until October 15, 2009. My apologies go to all those who have had to enquire about the state of affairs. Although these enquiries should not have become necessary, they do demonstrate a keen interest in active conference participation. This augurs well for the success of our Dublin undertaking!

Warm greetings to all,
Hans-Jürgen Grabbe
President of EAAS



Main staircase, University of Zurich (Photograph by MH)

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MINUTES OF THE EAAS BOARD MEETING

3 and 4 April, Zurich, Switzerland

Friday 3 April 2009

The Board meeting began at 9:50 with the circulation of the attendees' list. All national associations were present. President Hans-Jürgen Grabbe welcomed new members: Adina Ciugureanu, Marietta Messmer, David Rio, Pawel Frelik, Stephen Matterson, Gert Buelens and substitutes Dora Tsimpouki and Jacques Pothier.

The President announced that Emory B. Elliot passed away two days ago. A moment of silence was observed.

No one had any additions to the agenda.

1. Welcome

HJG welcomed the meeting to Zurich. He declared that the meeting had been duly convened and that representatives of 21 European national and joint-national American Studies associations were present.

2. Minutes of the Oslo Board Meeting

Danielle Fiorentino noted that he was not listed as a new member in the Oslo minutes under the welcome of the President. With this one small change noted the minutes were accepted by the full Board.

3. Report of the President

This was dispensed with as HJG will report substantive items under other headings on the agenda.

4. Report of the Vice President

Martin Heusser reported to the Board about the extraordinary efforts on the part of HJG as President of EAAS over the last year with specific regard to the extreme amount of time he has devoted to the association. HJG was thanked and received the acclaim of the Board. MH also thanked Jenel Virden for her work. Regarding the Newsletter, MH reported that American Studies in Europe 62 is scheduled to come out in May and that the deadline should be met. It is important that deadlines are met by those wishing to contribute to the Newsletter to cut down on the possibility of delays. Correspondents were asked to be sure to use the proper subject line on any email submissions so that items appear in the right area of the Newsletter. HJG then thanked MH for his work on the Newsletter noting especially its high quality and the excellent photographs that MH has supplied.

5. Report of the Treasurer

The report of the Treasurer was given by HJG after he announced that Tony Emmerson had decided not to stand for the post of Treasurer at the formation meeting. Several pages of the accounts were handed around to the Board. HJG then spoke to the figures on the documents. Total income was recorded as €24,712.52. He then reported on the impact of the current economic crisis on our investment account. The result within our portfolio was a loss of €23,534.00. There is little that could have been done to prevent this. HJG reminded everyone of the decisions we made with regard to our investments and noted that there is a decrease in the current value our investments rather than a total loss. The expenses reflect the increase in per diems for the Board for last year's meeting in Oslo due to the high level of consumer prices in Norway. The largest item of expense is the Transatlantic and Intra-European Travel Grants which we hand out to scholars for their research. Stephen Matterson asked whether EAAS still takes money from the Amsterdam Trust Fund to fund some of EAAS activities. HJG responded that we have not used the interest on the Amsterdam Trust Fund for several years. Last year and currently the Trust Fund did not yield any gains. SM also asked about the paper loss on the portfolio. HJG explained the intricacies of the functioning of the portfolio in his report. Hans Bak, the steward of the MeesPierson Portfolio, has sent a more detailed account of the Amsterdam Fund and HJG will forward it after the Board meeting.

Another of the papers provided by HJG compared the accounts for EAAS in 2008 with those in 2007. Membership increased from 2007 to 2008. Daniele Fiorentino asked about the MeesPierson Portfolio and asked whether we had to remain with the investment bankers or whether we could withdraw. HJG has worked closely with Hans Bak and they agreed that the best course of action was to stay with MeesPierson. HB was advised against selling. The new treasurer may want to revisit this in his term.

The third and final paper presented by HJG was a budget plan for 2010, which is new to EAAS. This has to do with the not-for-profit association status that EAAS wishes to obtain. Membership figures were also presented to the Board which indicate a slight increase in members in our national associations (182) with some association memberships going up while others went down. EAAS expects an income of €25,000 for

2009. HJG noted that bank fees for transfer of funds should not be charged to EAAS.

Break for tea/coffee at 10:50. Meeting reconvened with all present at 11:20.

6. Report of the Secretary General

Jenel Virden reported that the bulk of her time over the last year had been devoted to preparations for this meeting where we discuss the workshop and parallel lecture proposals for the Dublin conference next year. JV noted that she had written back to all of the people making proposals. Anyone who put in a workshop proposal as a single chair was asked to consider taking on a co-chair. Some agreed to do this while others did not, as it is not a requirement of the EAAS conference terms. A couple of workshop chairs also submitted parallel lecture proposals and they have been informed that they cannot do both. With this in mind they have decided to submit both and will await the Board's decisions.

7. EAAS Travel Grants

The decision on travel grants has been delayed. Applications sent to Tony Emmerson will be forwarded to HJG with the decision by the officers to be made by mid-April.

8. Election of New Auditors

The last auditors are no longer on the Board. The candidates are Marcel Arbeit and Philip Davies. They were elected unanimously by voice vote.

9. Future EAAS Membership

Hans Bak, Daniele Fiorentino and Jopi Nyman submitted a report by email (handed out at the meeting in paper form) regarding the outcomes of a subcommittee that looked at new ways of re-configuring Board representation with a view to rationalizing representation in light of recent applications for membership by other country associations. This committee made two recommendations: to institute an executive committee that includes the 4 officers and 4 others elected from the Board who would meet every year while the full Board would meet only during conference years and inviting member associations to set up partnerships with other member associations. The subcommittee view was that few current member associations were likely to voluntarily merge with regard to Board membership. HJG made a clarification that the Board of EAAS is, actually, the general assembly of association. Legally, the assembly needs to meet at least once a year so the subcommittee suggestion is not possible.

A discussion ensued. Philip Davies suggested that subcommittees of the EAAS Board would be a possibility which would ease the burden of the elected officers. HJG noted that there were some tasks that might be possible to delegate such as organizing the travel grants. Others suggested that any changes would need to ensure that no national association felt they were being classed as less important. It was agreed there is a continued need to address the issue of expansion in order to avoid increasing costs. There was support for the idea of a sub-committee that fosters intra-European research and teaching. A suggestion was made about paying per diems of Board members on a needs basis. Julia Stefanova reported on her attempts to contact neighbor associations and suggested some encouragement from Albania, Macedonia and Montenegro. Bulgaria will be hosting a conference co-operating with scholars from these countries. The Board concluded that there currently is not a critical need to address this issue as there is only one application for membership pending (Serbia) but the issue may need to be addressed in future years. It was agreed that the officers would be happy to receive requests from anyone to take on any of the tasks noted above.

10. Tenure of EAAS Representatives

HJG noted that the articles stipulate that no Board member should be on the Board for more than two consecutive terms, noting that each national association has of right the responsibility of setting up how their EAAS representatives are selected and how long they serve. However, the President suggested that a 4 year minimum term, renewable once, should be the standard for national associations. This is a recommendation for Board members to take back to their national associations. Otherwise we would have to change our articles. It is entirely up to the national associations to decide on representation. The Board will decide in Dublin whether to delete the reference to a two term limit.

11. Future of the American Studies Network

HJG informed the Board of his correspondence with Kees von Minnen and Axel Schäfer about the current status of the ASN. It appears that the ASN has not been functioning as smoothly as it once did. Philip Davies noted that the ASN is not, technically, a sub-group of EAAS. It continues to meet although some of the information on the web is out of date and unhelpful. Daniele Fiorentino suggested making an inventory of American resources available in Europe and help them re-organize and set a new agenda, noting his willingness to help. Jacques Pothier seconded DF's idea be-

cause it could help smaller research centers. The book prize was agreed to be a very good idea. The other prize is a travel award to the outgoing ASN president which should be reconsidered.

The Board adjourned for lunch at 1:05 and reconvened at 3:00.

12. Oslo Conference Volume and Future Publications in the European Views of the United States Series.

HJG had little to report on the Oslo conference volume. David Mauk and Ole Moen will make their final selection of contributions after the Easter break. The work appears to be on schedule and the collection should come out next year. In addition, the Rob Kroes Award will be given to the best manuscript in American Studies, the publication of which will be sponsored by EAAS. The announcement of this prize has been put on the web site. Rob Kroes, Heinz Ickstadt, JV and MH will be on the selection committee for the manuscripts. The deadline for submission is 30 June 2009 with an expected announcement of the winner by 1 September 2009.

13. Dublin Conference 2010

Report on Progress:

Stephen Matterson reported that a conference team is in place for Dublin comprised of a 7 member panel, each with a specific task. The dates are March 26-29, 2010 and the conference venue will be shared between Trinity College (in the center of Dublin) and the Clinton Centre (which is about 4-5 kilometers distant from the city centre but has good transport connection). The plan is to hold the early events at Trinity; then events on Saturday will be at the Clinton Centre with the final day (Sunday) at Trinity. A selection panel has been set up and preliminary work has begun on setting up a schedule. Possible sponsors have been contacted which should make for a neutral cost conference. Organizers have not yet contacted the U.S. Embassy but the new ambassador, Daniel Rooney, has been announced and has a good record of previous contact with Trinity. Other sponsorship is also being sought. Dublin organizers are expecting 350 to 400 participants. They have explored the possibility of day trips and are working with the Arts Council for setting up a literary event and sponsored receptions. Some suggestions have been put forward for plenary lectures but Dublin organizers are aware that EAAS is in charge of suggesting these. Some things yet to be settled are the arrangements for the book stalls, venues for a banquet, and reasonably

priced hotels. Arrangements for the officers' visit will be put in place for a visit in autumn of 2009.

Feedback to the Dublin organizer from the rest of the Board included suggestions about: foregoing the Monday Board meeting on conference feedback and replacing it with a meeting 2/3rds of the way through the conference comprised of the Officers and the Dublin organizers..

Selection of Keynote speakers:

Traditionally, conference organizers select one speaker (usually a national) and EAAS selects the other two, one of whom is an American. Board members are encouraged to submit suggestions by email to HJG. Dublin organizers propose either Mary Robinson (past Irish President) or Jim Sheridan (film maker and six-time Academy Award nominee). HJG recommended having someone from Europe who is not from France or Germany as they have supplied the last two keynote speakers. Richard Ford, the Pulitzer Prize-winning novelist, is now a colleague at Trinity College Dublin and another possibility.

Parallel lecture proposals:

The first round of selection took place and will be finalized during tomorrow's meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 4:10 pm.

Saturday 4 April 2009

The meeting began at 9:00 with all delegates present.

13. Dublin Conference 2010 (cont.)

Selection of Workshops

The Board finalized the selection of six parallel lectures and then moved on to select workshops for the Dublin conference. Dublin organizers suggested that the Board could recommend up to 30 workshops, maximum, but these need to allow for two sessions only. A general discussion ensued about the relative merit of proposals that do not conform closely to the conference theme. The morning session was devoted to narrowing the workshop proposals down from 42. The Board first went through all of the proposals and divided them into categories A, B or C. As were recommended automatically to the Dublin organizers, Cs were eliminated from the process.

A coffee break was taken from 10:30-11:00.

13. Dublin Conference 2010 (cont.)

Selection of workshops continued with the full Board re-examining all workshop proposals previously labeled B. At this point the Board broke for lunch.

Lunch from 1:00-1:50.

14. Conclusion of Dublin Conference Selections

The Board re-convened and finalized the workshop selections after discussion of 5 remaining workshops graded B. There will be 24 workshops at Dublin. JV will contact those whose proposals were accepted to inform them and pass on any information or suggestions that the Board agreed. JV will also inform those workshop chairs who were unsuccessful and encourage them to submit paper proposals to the successful workshops. YS mentioned his concern that workshop proposals from his colleagues in Belarus had not made it to the short list in the last several conference programs.

15. Maintenance of EAAS Web Site

HJG reported on the history of the establishment of the web site, which he set up beginning from the Athens Board meeting in 2003. It is now firmly established but HJG no longer has time to work to maintain and continuously update the web page for EAAS. He urged all Board members to continuously check and update the information about their own national associations on the web. HJG reported that in 2008 5039 people called up the page on the Oslo conference while nearly 4982 visited the conferences & events page. Other statistics were also provided about the number of people visiting the web site over the course of 2008. Some modifications have been made to the home page of the EAAS web site and HJG will be sure that the Newsletter is prominently placed on the first page.

16. Venue of Board Meeting 2011

HJG informed the Board of a letter from Smatie Yemedzi-Malathouni about the possibility of hosting the 2011 Board meeting at Thessaloniki. We have also received an invitation to hold that Board meeting in Rome. Daniele Fiorentino reported that he contacted people in the University of Rome 3, the Centro Studi Americani and the Italian Association and reported that there are two possibilities: the Center which is in the center of Rome and the University of Rome 3 which is not far away. The problem is the Saturday meeting because the Center may be closed. DF is happy to go back, if the Board wants, to his colleagues to discuss the issue further. Martin Heusser noted the importance of not splitting the meetings over more than one venue and also finding hotels that are located near the Board

venue. As HJG noted, the Rome invitation came first but the Thessaloniki invitation was also extended in Oslo but was not recorded. It was up to the Board to decide; the Board then voted for Rome. Tatiana Venediktova said that the Russian Society for American Studies would be happy to host a Board meeting in the next non-conference year.

17. Conference Venues 2012 and 2014

Originally HJG had proposed Halle but has since withdrawn the offer for organizational reasons. Since then there has been a bid from Turkey to host the conference in 2012. Meldan Tanrisal gave a brief report noting that it would be either Ankara or Izmir to coincide with several anniversary celebrations. The currently under-construction Ankara conference center should be complete. The Board agreed that the 2012 conference will take place in Turkey. HJG then asked if there were any proposals or suggestions for 2014. Adina Ciugureanu suggested that she would go back to speak to her colleagues in Romania about hosting the 2014 conference at Constanta on the Romanian Black Sea. Lehel Vadon also suggested the possibility of Hungary.

18. Nominating Committee for the Elections of Vice President and Secretary General in 2011.

The Board members were canvassed to see who would be on the Board and available or willing to stand for one of the posts at the next election cycle, which takes place during non-conference years and will next occur in 2011 in Rome. The posts of Vice President and Secretary General will be up for election.

19. European Journal of American Studies and Report of the Editor (Pawel Frelik)

Pawel Frelik passed out a summary report on the activities of the EJAS since mid-2006. Since then the journal has received 31 submissions. The editors for history and political science have not been seeing many submissions and of these many were not of the highest quality. The previously reported problems on the literature side of the journal have been sorted out and the level of submissions is healthy. One problem that has been identified on the literature side is finding reliable reviewers. HJG asked about the advisory board that was established at the start of the EJAS venture and what role they were playing in the review process. PF reported that some of these advisory board members were helpful while others did not respond in a timely or useful manner. The President suggested that the advisory board of EJAS needed to be reviewed. PF announced the plans for two further special issues – one on the literature of the American west and another on European representations of the United States on

screen. Gert Buelens raised the issue again of the status of the publication with regard to submissions because some universities do not support the research of scholars who submit to journals who are not recognized by the ISI Web of Knowledge, maintained by Thomson Reuters. Adina Ciugureanu concurred. Philip Davies made similar comments with regard to the situation in the UK and the recognition of publications.

20. Auditors' Report

Marcel Arbeit and Philip Davies gave a verbal report about the check they performed on the records of EAAS. A motion was made to accept the auditors' report and to verify that the office of the treasurer had been faithfully discharged. A voice vote was taken and the Board agreed. The Board approved the auditors' report and the auditors will submit a signed report after the Board meeting.

21. AOB

Jopi Nyman gave a vote of thanks to the officers and to the rest of the Board as it will be his last meeting. Isabel Caldeira also said farewell as this is her last Board meeting.

Reinhold Wagnleitner gave a vote of thanks to Martin Heusser for his sterling work on organizing the meeting in Zürich and wished the Board's thanks to be expressed to the whole team who helped him.

The 2009 Zürich meeting of the Board of the EAAS adjourned at 3:30 on Saturday 4 April 2009.

Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, President
Jenel Virden, Secretary General



At the Zurich James Joyce Foundation (Photograph by MH)

2010 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE 26–29 March, Dublin, Ireland Forever Young? The Changing Images of America

“The youth of America is their oldest tradition;
it has been going on now for three hundred years”
– Oscar Wilde

Among the first explorers of America, many avowedly went looking for the fountain of youth. Whether or not this was the goal of all, America always represented the idea of a fresh start in pre-colonial and colonial days, and the history of American immigration up to our times testifies to the power of this image. But the image of America entertained by the population of the United States on the one hand and by non-Americans on the other has also been in a state of constant vacillation. Conflicting images and conceptions have in turn taken hold of imaginations, structured political arguments and determined reactions to positions or attitudes adopted by the United States. From an object of desire and yearning to one of diffidence, fear or hostility, from being seen as a benevolent power to being rejected for its unilateralism, the United States has in turn behaved and/or been perceived as liberator, oppressor, a haven or an evil empire, generous or selfish, conservative or constantly innovative. Does it still make sense to think of the United States as the ‘forever young’ country of the new, in Seymour Martin Lipset’s terms, ‘the First New Nation’? How does one account for the varying perceptions of America, temporally and spatially or culturally. How does literature affect the image of America? How do the arts? How does history? How does the desire to establish an American tradition, a permanent hunger for ‘the new thing’ and the recent recourse to permanent reinterpretation cohabit? Is it because America is or no longer feels or looks ‘young’ that disaffection has set in? Or is the loss of “that lovin’ feelin’” a temporary moment in the evolution of America’s image? Are the various images of America, within and without, a hindrance to its actual evolution? This conference invites an examination, from all angles and in all periods, of the way images of America (based on reality, prejudice or fancy) impact its self-perception and its perception abroad.

WORKSHOP THEMES

Both workshop members and chairs should consult the *Guidelines for Workshops* (below). For further specifications of workshop themes, workshop contributors should contact the respective chairs.

Deadlines:

October 15, 2009: Workshop paper proposals (with 150-200 word abstract) to be sent to Workshop Chairs by those proposing individual papers.

October 30, 2009: Deadline for sending the **tentative list of speakers and titles of workshop papers** to be included in the October 2009 issue of ASE.

December 1, 2009: Deadline for submitting **final titles of papers and names and addresses of speakers** to the conference organizers.

January 10, 2010: Deadline for information to be included in the 2010 biennial conference program.

Please send all information via e-mail to the EAAS Secretary General, Jenel Virden, at virden@eaas.eu.

Pro Memoria: Guidelines for EAAS Workshops

1. A workshop may be chaired by one person, or, preferably, by two persons from different countries. No one may (co-)chair a workshop at two consecutive EAAS conferences.
2. Workshop sessions are 2:00 hours.
3. Speakers are selected by the workshop chairs from those colleagues responding to the Call for Papers published in the ASE Newsletter of July 2009. The required number of speakers per session is four, the maximum number is eight (two sessions). Note: Of the speakers in any workshop, not more than two may come from the same country. Speakers must be members of their national Association for American Studies if there exists one in their home country. Speakers from Canada, Israel, Japan, and the USA must be members of their respective American Studies Associations. No speaker can present more than one paper at the conference.
4. Papers should be presented rather than read; chairs are encouraged to suggest this to their contributors.
5. The maximum presentation time for papers is 20 minutes; chairs must keep their speakers within that time frame. The overall structure of the workshop is the responsibility of chairs; chairs MUST comply with these rules in order to: 1) allot each paper the same amount of time; 2) allow sufficient time for discussion.
6. Proposals for workshop papers, together with abstracts (150-200 words) must reach the workshop chair(s) by October 15, 2009. Chairs are expected to send out acknowledgments of receipt of proposals and to inform proposers as early as possible whether their papers have been accepted.
7. Chairs are encouraged to send out photocopies or electronic versions of abstracts/papers to all speakers in their workshop prior to the conference.
8. Workshop chairs should briefly introduce the topic and the speakers at the beginning of the first session. At the end of the last session, chairs might want to sum up the conclusions of the presentations and discussions.
9. Speakers must present their papers in person; they are expected to be present at all sessions of their workshop.
10. Chairs are responsible for selecting and editing TWO of their workshop presentations and recommending them, in order of preference, for publication in the EAAS conference volume. Chairs are also encouraged to produce individual volumes based on their workshop papers. Please note, though, that in compliance with a unanimous decision of the EAAS Board at the 1998 Lisbon conference, EAAS subsidies for such volumes are NO longer available.
11. Chairs will be asked to present a post-conference report to be published in the ASE Newsletter; it may therefore be useful to take notes during the sessions. The report of approximately 200-250 words should give readers of the ASE an idea of the major arguments of papers and of conclusions reached in the workshop.
12. If special technical equipment (data projection devices, screens, audio equipment, computers, OHPs) is needed in a workshop, please inform the EAAS Secretary General (address below), who will consult with local organizers.
13. Please address all correspondence concerning workshop matters to the EAAS Secretary General in the first instance (address below). Please acknowledge all correspondence from the Secretary General.
14. Workshop chairs should make copies of these Guidelines available to their speakers.
15. A meeting of all workshop chairs with the EAAS Secretary General will be scheduled on the first afternoon of the conference to discuss last-minute arrangements.

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2010 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE

26-29 March, Dublin, Ireland

Forever Young? The Changing Images of America

Workshop Descriptions

Workshop 1

“The Past is Dead – Long Live the Past!” – Changing Images of the South

Chairs:

Susan Castillo, King’s College London, London, UK

E-Mail: susan.castillo@kcl.ac.uk

John Andreas Fuchs, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Eichstätt, Germany

E-Mail: andreas.fuchs@ku-eichstaett.de

“The Future becomes the present, the present becomes the past, and the past turns into everlasting regret if you don’t plan for it” (Amanda Wingfield, *The Glass Menagerie*). Next to Scarlett O’Hara, Amanda is one of the best known literary personifications of the Southern Belle. Although Southern Belles may fade, they still seem to be forever young – or at least they dream of eternal youth.

According to current stereotypes, Southerners appear to be obsessed with living in the past and with re-living the past. This is demonstrated not only in Southern literature but also in the popularity of Civil War re-enactments and lively discussions about the use of Confederate symbols. Does re-living the past and clinging to traditions imply that the Old South stays “forever young”? We invite papers that focus on:

- Literary representations of change in the South and in Southerners;
- Depictions of Southernness in visual arts, popular culture and Southern music;
- Changing images of the Southern past as represented in museums, theme parks, historiography and Civil War re-enactments.
- The changing faces of Southern cities either due to modernization (Atlanta) or catastrophes (New Orleans) and the changes in Southern demographics and social structures.

Submissions should be sent to Susan Castillo and John Andreas Fuchs.

Workshop 2

American Sport/American Athletes: Changing Images and Changing Perceptions in the 20th Century

Chair:

Olaf Stieglitz, University of Cologne, Germany

E-mail: olaf.stieglitz@uni-koeln.de

Sports affect the image and perception of the USA. Since the founding of the Union, its elites linked ideas of youth and the nation’s progress with notions of exercise, fitness and physical strength. This discourse grew increasingly powerful after 1880 and became an important element in a modern United States characterized by social hierarchies conceptualized along structural categories linked to human bodies, like race, gender, or age. Moreover, the development of modern sport was closely connected to other trends as well: At international sports events like the Olympic Games, athletes from all over the world (“the youth of the world”) met and were watched by ever growing audiences; media coverage increased with every new technology available; and athletes became part of global commercialized entertainment especially connected to ‘youthful’ life styles and fashions.

This workshop calls for contributions that examine changing and ambivalent images created by American sport and American athletes during the 20th century. It invites papers dealing with any aspect of the history of this topic, including – but not limited to – questions of how individual athletes were regarded as representing America (or rather not), how ideas of youth were articulated or contested through physical exercise, how sport served in constructing (or deconstructing) ideas about gender, race, age or health.

Workshop 3

The US as a Cultural Fountain of Youth? American and Foreign Intellectuals' Vision of US Culture in the 20th Century

Chairs:

Anne Ollivier-Mellios, University of Paris 13, France
E-mail: anne.mellios@wanadoo.fr

Marco Mariano, University of Vercelli (Eastern Piedmont), Italy
E-mail: marco.mariano@unipmn.it

From 1913, when the Armory Show opened in New York and shocked a great many visitors to the present day, intellectuals have widely shaped and commented on the image of American culture; whether the US was hailed as a nation which, unlike Europe, was free from the weight of past traditions and old culture (see Romain Rolland's editorial in the first issue of *The Seven Arts* in 1916), portrayed as a threat by Georges Duhamel or Arnaud Dandieu in the 1930s, or admired by Jean Paul Sartre, who helped convey a new (and positive) image of American films and jazz in the 1950s, foreign intellectuals have often offered a changing image of American culture and influenced public opinions both in Europe and in the US. American intellectuals, from Van Wyck Brooks to Gore Vidal (including such various figures as Walter Lippmann, John Dos Passos, Ray Bradbury, to name just a few of them) have also conveyed changing images of US culture.

This workshop will focus on the way the European and American visions sometimes overlapped, and on the way American intellectuals' vision could influence foreign intellectuals' perception of American culture and intellectual life. The chairs will also encourage presentations dealing with the impact of the two World Wars (and the Vietnam War) on the intellectuals' perception of the US and its culture, or with the interaction between politics and culture i.e. the way some artists and intellectuals' vision of culture was shaped by their political ideas and commitment, especially during the 1930s and the 1960s.

Workshop 4

Beginning America and the World: Walt Whitman

Chairs:

Sascha Pöhlmann, Ludwig-Maximilians-University Munich, Germany
E-mail: poehlmann@lmu.de

Krystyna Mazur, University of Warsaw, Poland
E-mail: kmazur@uw.edu.pl

This workshop invites papers that discuss the question of the changing images of America with regard to the poet whose work has had, and continues to have, an unparalleled literary significance for how images of America are produced and perceived: Walt Whitman. While he contributed greatly to the imaginative construction of America as a perpetual utopia, he also insistently maintained or carefully revised his imagination of America whenever the political situation differed from his vision of democracy. Contributors are encouraged to address the manifold issues arising from the complex relation of Whitman and his contemporaries to America as a paradox place of constant renewal, for example: How much did his images of America contribute to our view of it as "Still the New World" (Philip Fisher)? How significant is the effect of Whitman's literary imagination of America, regarding both its reception in the US as well as in other cultures (in translation)? How significant is his imagination of globality? Does Whitman resolve the paradox between establishing an American poetic tradition and keeping poetry in tune with the perpetually new? How does Whitman's poetic project compare to the image-making of his contemporary writers?

Workshop 5

The Undead and Forever Young: Ghosts, Zombies and the Unburied Corpse of Race

Chairs:

Justin D. Edwards, University of Wales, Bangor, UK
E-mail: els404@bangor.ac.uk

Agnieszka M. Soltysik, University of Lausanne, Switzerland
E-mail: agnieszka.soltysikmonnet@unil.ch

This panel will explore ways in which the gothic genre stays forever young in America by constantly re-inventing itself. Specifically, it will focus on the latest incarnation of the American Gothic as a political genre profoundly involved with the history and trauma of minority cultures in America (African Americans, Native Americans, Asian Americans and other victims of American domestic and foreign policies). In this guise, the gothic figures of the ghost, the undead, or the zombie function not as sensational entertainment (or at least, not only as such) but as metaphors for injustice, revenge or cultural memory. African American writers have proven particularly gifted in adapting the rhetorical figures of the gothic genre to their particular political and cultural needs. The panel organizers invite proposals for presentations that deal with this po-

litical or ethical dimension of the gothic in American (and Caribbean, anglophone) literature or film or other forms of representation. Please send proposals of no more than 300 words to agnieszka.soltysikmonnet@unil.ch and els404@bangor.ac.uk.

Workshop 6 Wars and New Beginnings in American History

Chairs:

Rob Kroes, Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht, The Netherlands

E-mail: R.Kroes@uva.nl

Jean Kempf, University of Lyon 2, France

E-mail: jean.kempf@univ-lyon2.fr

A new birth of freedom. These words spoken by Abraham Lincoln on a Civil War battlefield capture what this workshop intends to explore. Repeatedly, wars have been seen as offering new beginnings, requiring a new start, promising rejuvenation. At the time of World War I, Randolph Bourne advocated American non-intervention, seeing it as America's chance to cut the umbilical cord with its English mother culture; as a chance finally for America to come into its own as a "transnational culture." If war in this case was seen as offering a promise of American cultural emancipation from European tutelage, almost a century later leading European public intellectuals, such as Jürgen Habermas and Jacques Derrida, saw the Europe-wide protest against the American-led invasion of Iraq as the harbinger of a truly European public finding its voice; a new birth of European freedom. Clearly, in the transatlantic relationship, times of war may exacerbate the quest for a collective identity through "othering" - strategies that cast either America or Europe as oppressive and overbearing. On other occasions, as in the years following World War II, war brought the two sides of the Atlantic together in a shared sense of having to "start from scratch," as artist Bartlett Newman put it, of erasing the past and making a *tabula rasa*. From the arts to the world of politics, renewal and reconstruction were the key words in those years, with America prominently weighing in as a force for renewal.

This workshop sets out to explore the various ways in which wars have inspired moods in both Europe and the U.S. that led to a language of renewal, rejuvenation or even a fresh start. It also intends to explore the various configurations of America and Europe as adversarial parties divided by the Atlantic, or partners joined together by it.

Workshop 7 Perpetuating Youth in American Film

Chairs:

Penny Starfield, University of Paris 7 Denis Diderot, France

E-mail: starfield@univ-paris-diderot.fr

Marimar Azcona, University of Zaragoza, Spain

E-mail: marimرازcona@gmail.com

In the post-war era, the cinema sought to capitalise on the emerging teenage culture and teenage films and other films dealing with adolescence soon appeared. Filmic representations of youth have become multiple and diverse, from their first explosion in the fifties, to the "generation gap" films of the American New Wave in the late sixties, through the "gross-out" comedies and teen horror films of the late seventies, to the various generic configurations of the teenpic since the mid-1990s. This panel seeks to explore the variety in the representation of youth in US cinema. Possible issues to be tackled include the presence of youth in mainstream and independent cinema, generic configurations of adolescence, rebellion and conformism in the relationship with the status quo, contrasts and links between youth and old age, youth and innocence and/or the American Dream, youth as an agency of renewal, youth in "retro" nostalgia films, coming-of-age versus the older generation's quest for perpetual youth, the idealisation of youth through Hollywood glamour and the star system, the performance of youth, ethnic and gender differences, and the importance of teenage spectatorship. Prospective panellists are welcome to propose other approaches to the topic from formal, historical, cultural or ideological perspectives.

Workshop 8 Regeneration, Rejuvenation, Rebirth and the American West

Chair:

Dean Rader, University of San Francisco, USA

Email: rader@usfca.edu

The American West has always been more than a geographical reality, and certainly not a fixed entity, but first and foremost a historical variable. Talking about the West requires geographical, historical and psychological qualifications of a seemingly innocuous designation.

The American West is a metaphor fusing cognition with emotion, a product of the imagination rather than

empirical fact, an image expressing collective desires, a myth which transcends geography. The psychological West is as real as all the geographical and social frontiers of the “real West” have ever been.

How and to which effect do writers and artists enact tropes of youth or rebirth in their work? What about notions that the West might be ageing or even degenerating? What are the implications for the American myth of the West and its regenerative influence (F. J. Turner)? What role do topoi such as progress and individualism play in contexts of the West and youth (culture)?

This workshop continues the exploration of the American West in (recent) fiction, poetry, and visual culture and invites papers which approach the West through topics such as youth, regeneration and rebirth, race and ethnicity, and cultures and borders.

Workshop 9 The Kid: Changing Images of American Childhood

Chair:
Alex Runchman, Trinity College Dublin, Ireland
Email: runchmaa@tcd.ie

Children in American Literature have always tended to have a rough, self-sufficient edge. In early presentations of such children, epitomised by Huck Finn, such worldliness is often offset by an affecting innocence and even – as in *The Scarlet Letter* – the promise of redemption for the sins of parents. Since the early twentieth century, however, children have more commonly been presented as complex, sometimes troubled characters, and more recently outright disaffection has become a dominant characteristic. This workshop invites contributions to a discussion of how American childhood, as presented in literature, lost its innocence. Contributors might wish to consider how the fates of American children are inextricably entwined with – and often symbolic of – the fate of a nation that is still, at less than 250 years old, comparatively youthful. In order to focus a potentially overwhelming subject, papers should chiefly address literary texts in the period 1914 to 1975, dates suggested by the start of the First World War and the end of the Vietnam War, between which, to borrow lines from Ezra Pound’s ‘Hugh Selwyn Mauberley,’ ‘Young blood and high blood’ became increasingly subject to ‘disillusions as never told in the old days.’

Workshop 10 Lobbying and American Democracy: Undue Influence or Dynamic Participatory Democracy?

Chair:
Salah Oueslati, University of Poitiers, France
E-mail: salah.oueslati@univ-poitiers.fr

Throughout its history lobbying has been recognized as a legitimate activity in the United States. But, as James Madison clearly understood, there is a potential for corruption and conflict of interest inherent in protecting the rights of groups to petition the government. His classic statement in *The Federalist* (n°10) defended the need for a strong federal government to act as an effective counterbalance to the influence of what he called “faction.” However, this pessimistic vision of the role of “factions” was not shared by everyone. In contrast to Madison’s position, De Tocqueville viewed the development of groups in the young American republic as an inspiration, specifically the positive impact and public-minded spirit of many associations. Since Madison’s and De Tocqueville observations, commentators have continued to note the vitality and growth of the group system, but they have also continued to be divided on the role they play in the decision making process. The paradox inherent in the group system, at once a route for popular representation and a threat to good government, has indeed shaped the image of American democracy and the American democratic system. Whether it inspires rejection or admiration, the US group system has left few observers indifferent. On one side those who believe, like Charles Peters, editor-in-chief of *The Washington Monthly*, that “America is no longer a nation. It is a committee of lobbies”; and on the other side, those who consider the US group system with its constant change, innovation and evolution as a source of positive inspiration and a sign of renewal and rejuvenation of a young and dynamic participatory democracy.

This workshop invites an examination of the way the group system has shaped the image of American democracy and its perception in the US and abroad. We welcome papers incorporating the perspectives of different fields of social sciences: political science, sociology, civilization, history ...

Workshop 11

Remembering the New Nation: Changing Images of 19th-Century America in Literature, Culture, and the Arts

Chairs:

Maria Holmgren Troy, University of Karlstad, Sweden

E-mail: maria.holmgren.troy@kau.se

Carmen Birkle, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany

E-mail: birkle@staff.uni-marburg.de

In the wake of the nation's political independence, an interest in cultural as well as national identity developed. Throughout the 19th century, artists and writers from the US and abroad produced what could be called an American cultural memory, helping their own and later generations to remember the new nation together with its earlier colonial beginnings.

With the need for stability and the simultaneous perpetuation of a rebellious spirit, the newly independent nation had to deal with crucial issues such as slavery, Native Americans, gender roles, immigration, and diseases and health issues. In attempts at coming to terms with these issues, movements and wars subverted any stabilizing impulses and caused ruptures that would demand a rethinking of the directions into which the young nation was moving. Therefore, our workshop proposes to read calls for newness as calls for remembering the idealistic beginnings of the young nation and for using critical and affirmative voices to shape the future. This workshop welcomes contributions dealing with literature, culture, and the arts from the 19th to the 21st centuries.

Workshop 12

"Hell No, We Won't Grow!": Innocence and Responsibility in U.S. War Literature

Chairs:

Cristina Alsina Rísquez, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain

E-mail: alsina@ub.edu

Cynthia Stretch, Southern Connecticut State University, New Haven, CT, United States

E-mail: stretchc1@southernct.edu

Images abound of the United States as a country that, in its nearly compulsive youthfulness, enters successive armed conflicts buoyed by an inflated sense of its own perpetual innocence. American war litera-

ture – from William Bradford's descriptions of the Pequot War to blog-posts out of Falluja – suggests a more complicated relationship between the reveries of national innocence and the trials of experience. This panel asks participants to analyze representations of those historical moments in which the tension between the images of America as blameless youth or as criminal establishment is felt most forcefully. We will be interested in representations of American youth at war as they explore the dynamics of responsibility and denial. As a crucial component of the conversation, we also invite papers that focus on representations of war protestors who paradoxically embody the possibility and hope inherent in their youth as well as a collective rejection of innocence as a national delusion.

Please send abstracts to Dr. Cristina Alsina Rísquez (alsina@ub.edu) or Dr. Cynthia Stretch (stretchc1@southernct.edu).

Workshop 13

Representational and Literary Futures: American Writing in the New Millennium

Chairs:

Arthur Redding, York University in Toronto, Canada
E-mail: aredding@yorku.ca

Tatiani Rapatzikou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

E-mail: trapatz@enl.auth.gr

Coming close to the end of the first decade of the 21st century, it is crucial to examine the trends and socio-cultural forces that are shaping American fiction nowadays, leading to a contemporary crisis of literacy in the wake of new media and digital technologies, to the impending collapse of global capitalism in the world financial crisis as well as to the waning of American influence in the abortive project of geographical or environmental imperialism. However, the surprising recent presidential election and inauguration of Barack Obama has been met with optimism as if America had turned a page, symbolically moving into a new era.

In stressing a multiplicity of perspectives and viewing American fiction in the context of current cultural concerns and awakenings in a global scale, this workshop will seek to examine what comes next for American writing. Some of the topics that this workshop will attempt to address among others are environmental and political ethics, post-9/11 narrative realism, material production vis-à-vis digital textuality, subjectivity, the future of popular culture, consumer capitalism and cultural production in the 21st century and the like.

Workshop 14

“Oh, very young”: Music and Youth in 20th-Century America

Chairs:

Clare Hayes-Brady, Trinity College, Dublin, Ireland

E-mail: Cbrady5@tcd.ie

Johannah Duffy, University of Nottingham, England, UK

E-mail: Johannah.Duffy@nottingham.ac.uk

From the contrast between the nursery-rhyme bounce of swing and the seductive pulse of jazz, to the arch naïveté of Katy Perry, youth, maturity and the rocky passage between the two has always been a focus for American music. This panel invites papers that investigate representations of youth and age in American music. It is hoped that the panel will draw responses from musicologists and popular culture theorists, sociologists, linguists and literary theorists. Speakers could investigate, among other things, shifting attitudes to adulthood and sex, the impact of politics and social change on music and *vice versa*, poetry in music, music in poetry and other literary forms, identification with particular musical styles according to age, and the rapidly shifting locus of “cool.” How has music changed, and how has it changed its audiences? Where does the future lie for American music when America is urged to “put away childish things,” as it was by President Obama? If it is no longer enough for America to say with Tom Waits “I don’t wanna grow up,” then where next for the American Songbook? Abstracts of 250 words should be sent to either chair.

Workshop 15

Old Stories, Young Perspectives: Contemporary Chicano Voices

Chairs:

Amaia Ibarraran Bigalondo, University of the Basque Country, Spain

E-mail: amaia.ibarraran@ehu.es

Francisca Sánchez Ortiz, University of Aberdeen, UK

E-mail: spn070@abdn.ac.uk

Nearly a decade after the beginning of the 21st century, the political changes underway in the US signify, for many, the outset of a new era which is contributing to the resurgence of its perception as a free, young country on the move, where opportunities are available to all, and particularly to those who were considered

“peripheral” in the past, such as the Chicano community and others.

Looking back in time, the significance of the *Movimiento Chicano*, and the resulting literary and artistic movement that favored the process of social liberation and the redefinition of the public image of the group, is unquestionable and its achievements are still perceivable today. However, regardless of these new, “better” times, more subtle ways of discrimination are emerging which often affect the young. High rates of teen pregnancy, a lack of educational resources and an increasingly violent gang culture are some of the problems that young Chicanos are facing now.

The aim of this workshop is to analyze the way this new reality is portrayed by contemporary Chicano writers and artists. Papers that discuss the rejuvenation of Chicano artistic and literary production through new forms of literature and popular culture are also welcome.

Workshop 16

Queer Youth(s)

Chairs:

Roman Trušník, Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Czech Republic

Email: trusnik@fhs.utb.cz

Tomasz Basiuk, University of Warsaw, Poland

Email: tbasiuk@uw.edu.pl

A celebratory focus on youth seems especially pronounced in queer contexts, and while the United States is hardly exceptional in this regard, its queer culture may be a privileged site for calling such aesthetic and sexual ideals into question and for displacing them, whether through popular representations or in theoretical descriptions of LGBTQ persons and groups. As lesbian and gay liberation advanced in years, its activists and its beneficiaries were being ever more publicly confronted with the realities of reaching middle age and becoming old, prompting revisions of, or tensions within, the social and political ideals embraced by their own younger selves. Meanwhile, a very significant part of the gay male population was experiencing premature deaths and bodily deterioration due to AIDS. In another way, gay marriage and registered unions, as well as child rearing by lesbian and gay couples, have impacted individual and communal temporalities of many queer lives, re-emphasizing youth in an entirely new sense, and re-stating the terms of the familiar stand-off between assimilation and confrontation. We are seeking contributions that would illumi-

nate a range of perspectives on queer youth(s) in the American context, be they theoretical, retrospective, hopeful, or disillusioned. Contributions may be illustrated by fictional as well as non-fictional narratives, images in popular culture, and other representations of queer experience.

Workshop 17

Positioning the New: Chinese American Literature and the Changing Image of the American Literary “Canon”

Chairs:

Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome Tor Vergata
Rome, Italy

Email: marino@lettere.uniroma2.it

Tanfer Emin Tunc, Hacettepe University
Ankara, Turkey

Email: tanfer.emin@gmail.com

The reception of Chinese American literature by American critics and readers has undergone numerous changes since the marginalization of the first Chinese American writers. Today, Chinese American authors such as Ruthanne Lum McCunn and Amy Tan earn the praise of both scholars and the lay public alike and collectively, their work has played an important role in transforming the image of the United States. As a recently published collection of essays edited by Harold Bloom entitled *Amy Tan* (2009) conveys, writers of Chinese origin are reshaping the American literary arena, and in the process are conveying the power that can emerge from cultural hybridity and multiculturalism. Their works are also regenerating and rejuvenating the image of America, rendering it in a constant state of flux. This perpetual process of reinvention, however, has problematized the American literary canon, prompting scholars to ask if one can actually exist in a nation that is continually redefining itself – and remaining “forever young” – by prioritizing inventiveness and innovation over tradition and convention.

This workshop seeks to explore the past, present and future position of Chinese American authors within the framework of what Bloom identified as the “Western literary canon.” Is Chinese American literature inside or outside the “canon”? If it is included in the canon, what are the social, political and cultural implications of this inclusion? In other words, how does its inclusion impact the evolving identity of the United States? Workshop chairs encourage the submission of proposals focusing on Chinese American literature (especially

novels, poetry and plays) and literary criticism dealing with the “canon.”

Workshop 18

Rhetorical Constructions of Youth from the American Revolution to the Civil War

Chairs:

Andrew S. Gross, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany
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Marek Paryż, University of Warsaw, Poland
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This workshop will explore the rhetorical constructions of youth and their ideological functions across a range of literary and non-literary discourses from the American Revolution to the Civil War. Antebellum figurations of youth were instrumental in shaping the discourse of the nation, developing a national mythology, and ingraining nationalist sentiments in the Early Republic. The figure of the Young American became a major ideological construct in the expansionist era. Youth was considered synonymous with power, potential, ambition, energy, expansiveness. It had a touch of the divine and the innocent; therefore it strengthened the sense of exceptionalism. It harmonized with the tropes of rebirth, emergence, and new beginning; these tropes were often invoked in literature and politics, facilitating reconsiderations of the concept of history and political articulations of America’s place in history. At the same time, the trope of youth concealed America’s troubled relation to its own past, including the multiple cultural, political, and economic links to the Old World and to European colonialism and the slave trade; and the long history of indigenous habitation and warfare, erased by the very concept of the New World. Transatlantic cultural relations constitute a significant context for the analysis of American representations of youth, which often project European antecedence as old age or irrelevance to mask indebtedness and belatedness. Another important context is the continuing concern with the legacy of the American Revolution as manifested in those literary and non-literary writings that gave specific shape to notions of descent and memory. Last but not least, it is worth considering how concepts of generational conflict were used to represent class, ethnic, and regional tensions within the United States in the first half of the nineteenth century.

Workshop 19

From Bully Pulpit to Blackberry: Technological Change, Generational Change and Presidential Leadership

Chairs:

Subarno Chattarji, University of Swansea, UK

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Eric J. Sandeen, University of Wyoming, USA

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Barack Obama's campaign was marked by its use of the internet and social networking tools to create a significant pool of support and funding. This workshop examines the relationship between political leadership, generational change, and technological innovation in terms of media developments. Is it possible to trace trajectories that inform the relationship between Theodore Roosevelt and the press, John F. Kennedy and TV, and Obama and the internet? Are Franklin D. Roosevelt (mid-50s when elected) and radio and Bill Clinton (baby boomer) with no real use of new technology outside this paradigm? In what ways does Presidential preference for a particular medium – radio or YouTube – reflect on him, the messages conveyed, and larger cultural and technological contexts? How have Presidential campaigns and governance been shaped by technological determinants? How are ideas of democracy shaped and reformulated by the interface between different kinds of media and Presidents in their particular media eras? Crucially, how have Presidents employed media to reinvigorate the idea of America? Papers are invited to focus on the nexus between media technologies, political change and leadership styles that impact on the imagining of America as a nation continually rewriting the past to move to a promised future.

Workshop 20

Young Adam and Old Eve: Changing Images of American Culture

Chair:

Aagje Swinnen, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands

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The American cultural narrative of personal identity has been formative of the study of American literature. Since the mid 1970s, the female hero has supplemented the prototypical American male protagonist with his quest for self as a rebel against societal pressure. Fem-

inist literary criticism reclaimed the female hero of traditional literature and reinterpreted her in the light of feminist analysis. When Susan Koppelman Cornillon wrote in one of the first feminist contributions to academic literary scholarship – *Images of Women in Fiction* (1972) – that “people are beginning to see literature in a new perspective,” this can be also said of literary scholarship taking place at the beginning of the 21st century in the field of age and aging studies. Feminist literary scholarship in the late 1970s turned from analyzing female characters in male texts according to male experience, to female experience and perspective. In 1978, Nina Baym criticized American literary scholarship for having a bias in favor of things male: whaling ships rather than sewing circles as a symbol of the human community. Baym speaks of literary critics as “displaying an exquisite compassion for the crises of the adolescent male, but altogether impatient with the parallel crises of the female.” Whereas the second wave of feminism in the 1970s and 1980s emphasized issues associated with the earlier years in life, with “the graying of American feminism” it is no longer adolescence but old and middle age that has become of concern to feminists, and age has been introduced as a social and cultural marker. In the 1981 study of *The Female Hero in American and British Literature*, the main emphasis of the investigation is on youth. As if anticipating the shift of focus in later years, the two feminist critics of this study, Pearson and Pope, at one point in the text acknowledge the possibility of age as a decisive factor of the heroic: “In many cases, women begin new lives in old age.”

Female aging can thus be read as a paradigm of American culture in contrast to the conventional perception as young and male. Aging – in contrast to stereotypical notions – does not bring a loss of identity, but emphasizes difference instead of communality, and expresses individualism more prominently than in youth. In addition, aging as a continuum questions the definition of identity as such: What is essential and what is changeable in oneself? In American culture, identity is discussed as both the possibilities as well as the limitations of the individual within social boundaries, which leads to the necessity of narrating the search of the self within a social context as an expression of this identity. The old woman (“American Eve”) can be seen as having replaced the image of the young man (“American Adam”) as an icon of American culture. Leslie Fiedler stated that American literature was determined by the myth of a mostly young “hero” who, in order to find truth and meaning, confronts himself in the conflict with the forces of nature. In contrast, this workshop will look at old female protagonists representing the

particular intellectual disputes, departures and crises of American culture. The special perspective of women, determined by race, class, gender, and age, allows us to draw conclusions about the general connections relating to the history of ideas in American culture and offers a new approach to American Studies. Welcome contributions are those that explore the importance - for group as well as personal identity - of memory and narration in the context of gender, race, class, and age, and the way age identity is constructed in literature and society to define American culture and society.

Workshop 21

Different Images of the American Presidency Abroad

Chair:

Antonia Sagredo, National University of Distance Learning, Madrid, Spain
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This workshop aims at examining different kinds of images of the American presidency which have circulated all over the world in the last centuries. Different communities and ethnic groups and their social and cultural inheritance formed the American historical background. All these factors constitute the *melting pot* which is usually applied to describe American social plurality. This workshop invites an examination, from all angles and in all aspects, of the way images of American presidency (based on reality, prejudice or fancy) impact its self-perception and its perception abroad, especially in the different European countries. We welcome paper proposals in relation to the roles that any of the different social, political, economical and cultural aspects that pertain to the American presidency. These papers will be focusing on the development of American historical interpretations in Europe, and on publishing patterns and policies, in order to discover which themes have predominated and the images of the North American presidency that have been projected in the different European nations, and the factors that have contributed to introduce some changes in the presidential image. The workshop will create the opportunity for a dialogue among scholars in American Studies, approaching the United States' presidency from a variety of perspectives.

Workshop 22

The American Youth Culture Story in Fiction & Film

Chairs:

John Dean, University of Versailles, France

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Gigliola Nocera, University of Catania, Ragusa, Italy

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This workshop will focus on the key comparative questions: How has the story of America's young been conditioned by the way it has been told in US fiction and film? What has been the significant interface between American literature & cinema when relating the life stories and key events characteristic of American youth?

Among pertinent issues and debates could be: How and why has US literature been adapted to US film when the intention has been to bring to a point the problems confronting American youth? How important has the written word been for youth culture cinema? How have movies, in turn, effected the common understanding of America's young within US civilization?

A vast legion of US youth culture movies and literature exist as data base; notably with the case of traditional American youth culture classics from colonial times through the mid 20th Century and with contemporary best sellers adapted to the screen. Where and what is the literary component between media? How has US youth culture literature and the American bildungsroman become cinematic? Why exactly have certain US youth culture classics never been translated into cinematic form (one notable case: *Catcher in the Rye*; or told successfully)? What happens to the art of literature in a movie script, screenplay, and film dialogue? Essential to this topic are fundamental theoretical issues of form, genre, intermediality, and adaptation.

In short, we invite members of the European Association of American Studies to consider an embarrassment of riches for research and analysis.

Workshop 23

Remediating The Beats – Visual, Auditory, and Interarts Legacies

Chairs:

Bent Sørensen, Aalborg University, Denmark

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Erik Mortensen, Koc University, Turkey

E-mail: emortenson@ku.edu.tr

Interarts and intermedial approaches have been severely underrepresented in academic work on the Beat Generation. This workshop proposes to examine visual treatments of the Beats and their literature, as well as other remediations of the Beat legacy – in film, art and music. Remediations and interarts treatments of Beat material contribute vitally to ensuring that Beat literature stays “Forever Young” – as witnessed by the consistent interest in new Beat-related material across the New Media and in Beat events that feature a strong audio-visual dimension.

From the inception of Beat literature, the link between music, photography, film and art has been explicitly built into it. We invite papers that examine interarts links in Beat literature from its very genesis, and potentially thematize comparatively whether Beat literature is in fact more saturated with multimedia potential than other contemporary American literary works. Papers are equally encouraged on recent films on Beat figures, their biography, cultural environment and their literary output. Likewise we welcome work on adaptations of Beat material into audio media: songs, instrumental compositions, spoken word etc. Finally, work on remediations of Beat material into various art products (painting, installation, video etc.) will be considered.

sentations and commemorations tell us about America’s ongoing project of rebirth and renewal? How and why have such commemorations and representations changed over time? Are there parallels with other American icons and historical eras and the ways in which they have been commemorated and represented? How have perceptions of such pasts differed in the United States, in Europe and around the world? The workshop encourages inter- and multi-disciplinary papers on the subject that could encompass history to literature, politics to film, and music to memorials, among other approaches.

Workshop 24

The New Generation at 50: Commemorations and Representations of President John F. Kennedy and the American 1960s

Chairs:

John A. Kirk, Royal Holloway College, University of London, England, UK

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Andreas Etges, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

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President John F. Kennedy declared his 1960 election “a celebration of freedom – symbolizing an end, as well as a beginning – signifying renewal, as well as change.” Kennedy’s assassination one-thousand days later cemented an idea of a president who was “forever young.” Kennedy’s presidency, and the American 1960s more broadly, has become entwined with the concept of American youth and innocence in popular memory, not just in the United States, but in Europe and around the world. This workshop will address how Kennedy, his presidency, and the American 1960s, has been commemorated and represented in a domestic, transatlantic and global context. What do such repre-

EAAS TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

Nicolangelo Becce, “L’Orientale” University, Naples, Italy

Research Project: “The impact of Modern Spiritualism on US and European Ghost Stories, circa 1875-1910”

Institution: Center for Henry James Studies at Creighton University, Omaha (NE)

My PhD research project is a study of the significance of Modern Spiritualism as a religious and cultural phenomenon (in its various versions) in fin-de-siècle European and American literature. Modern Spiritualism was a religious movement, widely spread in the United States and Europe during the whole Victorian Age, that claimed to be able to provide concrete proofs of the immortality of the soul and of the existence of an afterlife through sensational phenomena such as mediumistic séances, spirit-writing, trance speaking, etcetera. During the Victorian Age, Modern Spiritualism raised not only religious, but also social, cultural, and gender issues, and many intellectuals and writers paid special attention to the phenomenon. My point is that Victorian writers of ghost stories were inspired in their works by spiritualist settings, practices, and rituals. The spiritualist movement, widespread at the time, was later removed almost completely from public awareness, and for most of the twentieth century literary critics paid very little attention to its influence on fin-de-siècle literature.

After an analysis of the rise and diffusion of Modern Spiritualism in the US and Europe, of the accompanying cultural and critical debate, and of a definition of Modern Spiritualism as a literary theme in connection with ghost stories, a crucial section of my dissertation is devoted to Henry James, who is not just an important author of ghost stories, but also personally connected (through his brother William) to research on psychic phenomena. Thanks to the Transatlantic Travel Grant received from the EAAS I was able to conduct, from October to December 2008, an eight-week archival research on Henry James’s manuscript letters and accompanying work files at the Center for Henry James Studies at the Creighton University of Omaha, Nebraska. The Center for Henry James Studies provided me with the status of visiting scholar, and it revealed to be the ideal environment for my research, thanks to its unique collection of writings by Henry James and criticism on him; I also had free access to the resources of Creighton University, the University of Nebraska, Omaha, and the University of Nebraska,

Lincoln. In addition to that, I had the invaluable opportunity to discuss my research with such a distinguished James scholar as professor Greg W. Zacharias, director of the Center for Henry James Studies, who is the co-editor of the ongoing complete collection of James’s letters. Professor Zacharias and the impressive staff of the Center for Henry James Studies guided me through the reading and consulting of the unpublished letters and of the copious criticism on Henry James, giving me continuous help and numerous hints to improve my research. From the research I did on Henry James at Creighton University I also collected material for a conference paper delivered at the first international conference of the European Society of Jamesian Studies held at the American University of Paris. The paper was focused on James’s use of Modern Spiritualism in his supernatural story “The Turn of the Screw” as a way of stimulating its prejudicial readings.

The months spent at Creighton University moved my project forward as nothing else could have done. I am delighted and honoured to have been awarded the EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant, and I wish to thank professor Grabbe and the EAAS Board for this amazing opportunity.

Anton Hieke, Martin Luther University, Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

Research Project: “The German Jewish Immigrants of Reconstruction Georgia and the Carolinas”

Institutions: The Ida Pearle and Joseph Cuba Archives and Genealogical Center at The William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum Atlanta, GA; Library at Emory University Atlanta, GA; Special Collections at College of Charleston, SC; Savannah Jewish Archives at the Georgia Historical Society, Savannah, GA; Southern Historical Collections at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill; and others

Thanks to the Transatlantic Grant of the EAAS and the Bornblum Grant of the Southern Jewish Historical Society I had the opportunity to do research in archives throughout Georgia and the Carolinas from October 30th, 2008 to January 25th, 2009. There, as the basis of my research, I was able to look at the Jewish community and congregational histories, minutes, membership lists, the citizenship and cemetery records as well as the contemporary city directories.

Since I began my research in Atlanta I had the chance to attend the 33rd Conference of the South-

ern Jewish Historical Society from November 1st to 3rd, 2008. Through talks with members of the board and participants as well as the offered lectures I profited from advice from leading scholars in the field of Southern Jewish history. The conference also helped me to establish contacts with descendents of German Jewish families and to gather information and material from them.

During the first weeks I visited the William Breman Jewish Heritage Museum and Emory University in Atlanta. Besides Jewish histories of Atlanta and smaller communities in Georgia, I gathered copies of contemporary newspapers such as the *Jewish South* (printed in Atlanta, GA, 1877-79), and city and business directories for Georgian communities. Personal memoirs, immigrant letters, and information on individual families I found at those two archives help me to trace the immigrants' roots in Germany. Having stayed in LaGrange, GA, and commuted to Atlanta, I visited archives, communities, congregations, and Jewish sections of cemeteries in Western Georgia, such as Columbus and West Point, which offered material beyond the two main archives. I also talked to local and congregational historians.

At the College of Charleston's Jewish Heritage Collection, SC, I researched the papers of older Jewish families to understand their interaction with German newcomers. Unfortunately, these letters and memoirs were not as informative as expected. Other documents, however, clearly present the experiences of immigrants to South Carolina from the time of their decision to emigrate from Germany to their first years in the US, like the Iseman [Eisenmann] Family Papers. I was also able to research the Barnett Elzas papers on South Carolina's Jewish history, and the relations between German gentile and German Jewish immigrants through the German Vereine, clubs, and societies in Charleston. The Public Library of Charleston County provided me with naturalization and death records of Charleston and its environs.

At the Savannah Jewish Archives, a part of the Georgia Historical Society, the fourth major archive I visited, I profited from the conveniently indexed newspapers of Savannah covering the Reconstruction period. Thus, I was enabled to research the role German Jewish immigrants played in the political development of the city during Reconstruction, economical activities, and activities in German societies, such as the German-Jewish *Harmonie Club*. Through members of Mickve Israel (Georgia's first synagogue) and volunteering archivists I also met with descendents of German Jewish immigrants of the Reconstruction period that I could question about their family history.

During the last weeks of my stay in the American South I traveled through North Carolina, and met with local historians I was already in contact with in Wilmington, Tarboro, and Goldsboro. There, I talked to descendents of Reconstruction period Jewish immigrants from Germany to North Carolina. I also gathered newspaper clippings and deed records concerning Jewish residents of these cities and profited from private archives of local historians.

The last major archives I visited during my research were the holdings of the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, the Jewish Heritage Foundation of North Carolina and the Special Collections, both at Duke University in Durham, and the North Carolina State Archives in Raleigh. Family papers such as the Weil's and Rosenthal's of North Carolina offered me extensive contemporary correspondence between the US and Germany as well as material on economical ties.

I returned from my research in Georgia and the Carolinas with material, ideas, and personal connections that are invaluable for the further progress of my dissertation and the understanding of German Jewish immigrants' lives in the South. This research trip was crucial for the success of my dissertation and could not have been carried out without EAAS and SJHS support. Thus provided with information my dissertation will be completed by spring 2010.

Clemens Häusler, University of Cambridge, Cambridge, England

Research Project: "Intellectual Transfer Processes between American Liberals and European Social Democrats from the Mid-1950s to the Mid-1970s"

Institution: John F. Kennedy Library, Boston; New York Public Library, New York City; Minnesota Historical Society, St. Paul; Library of Congress Manuscripts Division, Washington, DC

Between October and December 2008, I was able to complete my dissertation research in American archives with the support of a Transatlantic Grant from the EAAS. In my doctoral thesis, I chart and analyze the transatlantic contacts between leading center-left politician-intellectuals from the United States, Great Britain, and West Germany from the mid-1950s until the mid-1970s. My particular interest is how leading figures from American liberal and European social democratic backgrounds influenced each other's views of domestic developments and arrived at common understandings of what economic, social and cultural transformations their industrial societies were

undergoing. I found in the course of previous research trips that these intellectual exchange processes are best studied through the personal manuscripts of the individuals concerned. Consequently, this trip to the United States took me to the personal papers of four leading American liberals: Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., John Kenneth Galbraith, Hubert Humphrey, and Daniel P. Moynihan.

My arrival in Boston in early October coincided with an academic conference at Harvard University on the “Global 1970s,” which I was able to attend as an observer. Against the background of the current international situation, many of the conference discussions revolved around the links and parallels between the present economic crisis and the events and problems of the 1970s. What went wrong in those pivotal years, and how can our understanding of that decade inform our views of the present? These questions not only made for lively discussion among the illustrious group of presenters, but had direct relevance to my own work. The 1970s, after all, mark the end of the historical period I am researching.

In the days following the conference, I began reviewing the papers of Arthur Schlesinger, Jr., and John Kenneth Galbraith at the John F. Kennedy Library in Boston. Both men are known as leading public intellectuals and advisers to Democratic presidential candidates and presidents from Adlai Stevenson to Lyndon Johnson. Beyond their engagement in US politics, however, Schlesinger and Galbraith maintained a network of contacts to Western European socialist and social democratic leaders. Even though both of them considered the United States their primary theater of action, they were global-minded thinkers who engaged with the political causes of center-left reformers around the world, in particular in Europe.

Since the personal papers available at the Kennedy Library cover Schlesinger’s life and work only until 1965, I also reviewed his journals at the New York Public Library in Manhattan. The carefully kept diary - extending across the half century from the 1950s to the early 2000s in the course of roughly five thousand pages - allows for detailed insights into the personal relationships and social constellations among the American East Coast establishment and, more importantly for my research, Schlesinger’s close friendships with Europeans.

From New York I continued to the Minnesota Historical Society in St. Paul, where the papers of Hubert Humphrey are located. The Twin Cities provided me with an unexpected immersion into Humphrey’s life, politics, and legacy: I arrived at the Hubert Humphrey terminal of the Minneapolis airport, changed buses at

the Hubert Humphrey Metrodome (a downtown stadium) and stayed with hosts who had attended the Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs. To boot, one of the Minnesotans I befriended had been a longtime assistant to Amy Klobuchar, Humphrey’s most recent successor in office as US Senator for Minnesota. With regard to my research, I was happy to find that Humphrey had kept a careful record of his informal discussions with European friends. His notes on meetings with figures such as Willy Brandt and Harold Wilson (the towering figure of the British Labour Party in the 1960s and 1970s) will be invaluable for my dissertation.

The last destination of my research trip was Washington, DC, where I stayed with American friends for Thanksgiving. On the days before and after the holiday, I consulted the papers of Daniel P. Moynihan at the Library of Congress Manuscripts Division. Moynihan, who moved in some of the same circles as Schlesinger and Galbraith, was conversant with contemporary European social democratic thought and maintained close transatlantic friendships that began with his year abroad at the London School of Economics in the 1950s. His records shed light on the relationship between center-left politician-intellectuals from the Old and New World at the twilight of American liberalism - that is, the tumultuous years of the late Johnson presidency and Nixon’s first term. On a lighter note, I also received a behind-the-scenes tour of Capitol Hill during my stay in Washington, including an exploration of the culinary delights to be had at the House of Representatives cafeteria.

I am deeply thankful to the EAAS for having made this research journey possible. The Association’s support was essential especially with regard to the trips to St. Paul and Washington, DC, which I would probably not have undertaken otherwise. These two trips yielded some of the most surprising and valuable results of my research in the US. The Transatlantic Grant allowed me to follow my research interests freely and without undue concern for financial constraints. I would like to express my sincere thanks to the EAAS and all its members for helping me in this way.

Anamaria Schwab, Spiru Haret University, Bucharest, Romania

Research Project: “Spaces of Seclusion, Spaces of Freedom in the City in Contemporary American Literature”

Institutions: Gent University, GUST Library; the Library of the English Department, Gent University

The 2008 Intra European Grant that EAAS had the generosity to offer me proved of invaluable help to the progress of my PhD thesis.

During my October-November stay with Gent University, Belgium, I was granted unrestricted access to the library of Gent Urban Studies Team (GUST), an entire library dedicated exclusively to the domain of urban studies in America. I also had the chance to meet in person and discuss with some of the professors who are GUST members and specialists in my field of doctoral research, namely the city in contemporary American literature.

I carried out research mostly with the very pleasant library of GUST and also with the Library of the English Department as well as with a number of other libraries at Gent University. As a result, I managed to study about sixty essential books and articles dealing with my topic, especially contemporary novels and theoretical books which I had been unable to reach in my own country. I should also not forget to mention the elegant bike that Gent Urban Studies Team were so kind to rent for me and that I fully enjoyed riding for a whole month.

Novels such as Siri Hustvedt's *The Blindfold*, Jonathan Lethem's *Motherless Brooklyn*, Toni Morrison's *Jazz* or E. L. Doctorow's *Lives of the Poets* account for a variety of marginal voices and their different perceptions of the city. They helped me deepen and nuance my perspective on how literature tries to understand and assimilate the often amorphous American urban space. I had a view of the city as a fortress and a suffocating presence, but due to discussions with the GUST researchers and the books they recommended me I realized that such a space is also one that helps unleash individuals' inventiveness and freedom, often through the creation of small communities that reinstitute difference at the very heart of big cities.

In what concerns the theoretical part of my dissertation, after reading especially Edward Soja's *Imagining Cities* and *Postmetropolis* where he accounts for the constantly restructuring, incessantly growing urban spaces of today that defy comprehension, I decided to detail my analysis of the way in which literature attempts to capture a city that is in fact fragmentary and absent. In doing so, I was asking myself if contemporary literature is capable of doing what Soja in *Imagining Cities* suggests we should all do, namely '... radically rethink and perhaps deeply restructure ... our inherited forms of urban analysis to meet the practical, political and theoretical challenges presented by the post-metropolis' (56). The conclusion that I have reached is that literature has radically refashioned realism into an even darker, more poignant and impersonal

style to match the incoherent hyper-reality of the city as well as its loss of identity (as in B. E. Ellis' *American Psycho*, for example); simultaneously, the same realism is capable to dissolve reality, rendering the city's endless play of surfaces, the simulacrum it has come to represent (as in Paul Auster's *City of Glass*). But even if American cities changed radically in their transition to postmodernity (as accounted for also by Fredric Jameson), literature has more often readapted certain traditional literary forms (the detective novel for example, or the nineteenth-century type of realism) in order to make such changes palatable to the public and draw our attention to them.

A novel like Toni Morrison's *Jazz* helped me expand a chapter in my dissertation that is dedicated to inner spaces in the city and their relationship to everydayness. It was mostly after reading *Jazz* that I fully realized the intricacy and denseness of destinies that can be compressed between a flat's four walls and the extent of drama that is confined to the small, anonymous, domestic spaces in the city.

I must admit that without the access to information made possible through the grant and without the invaluable help that I received from the GUST professors, I would not have been able to discover essential primary as well as secondary sources that perfectly fit the scope of my dissertation; generally speaking, I would not have been able to make significant and substantial progress in my thesis.

I can only express again my gratitude for receiving the EAAS grant through the level of excellence that I hope my thesis will achieve in the end.

EAAS ON THE WEB

The EAAS Website provides information about the European Association for American Studies – The Articles, Officers and Board, Constituent Members. Information on American Studies and related fields in Europe can be found under different entries in the navigation menu: upcoming conferences and the activities of member organizations under Conferences and Events and the ASE Newsletter. A new category, EAAS Archive & History has recently been added. This section includes lists of EAAS conferences since 1957 and of the officers since 1954. The link to European Journals is another feature which is hoped to be both valuable and practical for widening the peripheries of intellectual exchange among European Americanists.



The EAAS Mailing List is our free EAAS-L distribution list that disseminates to its subscribers, information pertaining to American Studies in Europe. Thus, it provides a venue for member associations as well as individual subscribers to post and, at the same time, to have access to information that might be useful to Americanists in Europe, such as research news, teaching projects, information about new internet resources, announcements of conferences, grants, fellowships, job opportunities, calls for submissions for Books and Journals and inquiries concerning American Studies in Europe in general. Members are encouraged to subscribe – if they are not already subscribers – to the EAAS Mailing List to follow up with recent academic activities conducted in Europe and thus contribute to maintain a dynamic interaction among the European Americanists. Members who wish to announce new publications are requested to include in their posting: Full bibliographical information (author/editor, title, place, publisher, and year of publication), ISBN number, retail price (and possibly discounts for EAAS members) and a 100-word abstract.

EAAS-L is moderated by Jaap Verheul, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

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The American Studies Network (ASN) is a group of European centers involved in American Studies. The idea of a network of centers arose during the European Association for American Studies (EAAS) meeting in London in April, 1990. The ASN was founded in November, 1990 in Berlin at a meeting of interested directors of American Studies centers. The initial group of eight members has expanded to include almost 20 members from all over Europe.

All members take an interdisciplinary approach to American Studies; are independent organizations with some of their own sources of funding, not exclusively linked to a university; have some research facilities; and are committed to a role of public service to the community at large. ASN works in close association with the EAAS. Its goals are those of promoting the study of the United States by close cooperation of the different institutions interested in this area of study. The ASN exists to provide mutual support for all the centers involved, help channel the flow of information on resources among the members and the community, establish joint projects that will increase cooperation and productivity and thus integrate the European studies of America. The ASN is willing to act as an advisory group to encourage the development of American Studies, particularly in Eastern and Central Europe.

One of the key activities of the ASN is the networking of resources and information such as the availability of visiting scholars for lecturing at the different institutions. Through different means of communication, the

ASN hopes to make available to members the library resources of each center and establish an interlibrary loan facility. Another goal is that of promoting the exchange of scholars and students of the different centers. One of the specific ASN projects is the establishment of the American Studies Network Book Prize, a prize of €1,000 for a remarkable book published in English by a European scholar on any aspect of American Studies. The jury for that biennial prize, presented at the EAAS conferences, is comprised of representatives from the EAAS and the ASN. The deadline for submitting books for this prize is announced in the EAAS newsletter in the year preceding the EAAS conference.

The Directors of the ASN member centers meet every year to discuss the joint projects and accept new members. The presidency of the ASN rotates among the current directors. In order to become a member, an institution should write and apply to the current president. The prospective institution should include a dossier with information on itself. Any institution that wishes to become a member should comply with the following four criteria:

1. Be an independent organization with some kind of external funding, although it may be linked to another institution such as a university or library.
2. Be of an interdisciplinary nature.
3. Have research facilities and carry out research.
4. Be of public service to the community by, for example, providing a public library or research archive.

THE AMERICAN- STUDIES NETWORK MEMBERS

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Salzburg Seminar American Studies Center (Salzburg)
<http://www.salzburgseminar.org>

Belgium

American Studies Center (Mons)
<http://www.umh.ac.be/ASC/>

Denmark

Center for American Studies (Odense)
<http://www.sdu.dk/Hum/amstud/>

Center for the Study of the Americas (Copenhagen)
http://uk.cbs.dk/forskning_viden/institutter_centre/institutter/csa

Germany

John F. Kennedy Institute (Berlin)
<http://www.jfki.fu-berlin.de/>

Heidelberg Center for American Studies (Heidelberg)
<http://www.hca.uni-hd.de/en/>

Center for United States Studies (Halle-Wittenberg)
http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en_index.html

Center for North American Studies (Frankfurt am Main)
<http://web.uni-frankfurt.de/zenaf/>

Great Britain

The David Bruce Centre for American Studies (Keele)
<http://www.keele.ac.uk/depts/as/Dbruce/bruce.htm>

Eccles Center for American Studies (London)
<http://www.bl.uk/ecclescentre>

Arthur Miller Center for American Studies (Norwich)
<http://www.uea.ac.uk/eas/centres/miller/miller.intro.shtml>

Rothermere American Institute (Oxford)
<http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/index.html>

Italy

Centro Studi Americani (Rome)
<http://www.centrostudiamericani.org>

Netherlands

Roosevelt Study Center (Middelburg)
<http://www.roosevelt.nl>

Poland

American Studies Center (Warsaw)
<http://www.asc.uw.edu.pl/>

Spain

Institute for North American Studies (Alcalá)
<http://www.iuien-uah.net/>

Sweden

The Swedish Institute for North American Studies (Uppsala)
<http://www.engelska.uu.se/sinas.html>

Other useful links:

Institute for the Study of the Americas (London)
<http://americas.sas.ac.uk/>

Rothermere American Institute (Oxford)
<http://www.rai.ox.ac.uk/institute/index.html>

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- **FASA • Finnish American Studies Association**
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- **IAAS • Icelandic Association for American Studies**

- **ASANOR • American Studies Association of Norway**

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EAAS Book Reviews

Please note that reviews are now part of our electronic journal, *EJAS*, the *European Journal of American Studies* (<http://ejas.revues.org/index.html>). For more information, see http://www.eaas.eu/reviews_guidelines.htm or contact Theodora Tsimpouki:

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Deadlines:

- September 1, 2009 Deadline for the submission of updated member lists and Board members of National Associations with e-mail addresses to the Secretary General of EAAS. Please note, however, that new Board members should be reported right after their election since the website is updated continuously and the officers must know who is representing whom.
- October 15, 2009 Deadline for submission of relevant information for the fall 2009 *ASE Newsletter* to the Editor-in-chief. Make sure to add “ASE-EAAS” (without quotes) to the subject line of your e-mail(s).

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