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## **The Prague Conference 2004: Some Remarks from the President**

When members of the EAAS Board were gathering during the day in the Greek capital on March 20, 2003, they could not avoid seeing and hearing large and loud crowds protesting the war which the U.S.- led coalition just opened in Iraq. A whiff of tear-gas lingering in the streets still in the evening hours - making our eyes run and provoking fits of sneezing - made everyone aware of the seriousness that the situation has signaled, and certainly not just for local Greece.

As practically everyone of the 19 individuals representing national and regional associations of European Americanists united in the EAAS gladly confirmed, the meeting of the Board was, nevertheless, a very friendly and pleasant event - thanks to the efforts of our hospitable Greek hosts and the generous sponsorship of the American College of Greece, the Athens chapters of the Indianapolis University and the University of LaVerne, and of the Onassis Foundation. Equally and even more importantly, the meeting was also a productive one, a demanding agenda was discussed and taken care of in two working days.

Despite the unfortunate delay and somewhat faulty delivery of the latest Newsletter - for which we sincerely apologize to our membership - a good number and an interesting variety of proposals for workshops and parallel lectures arrived for the Board to consider and select from. We believe that an attractive and meaningful program has been prepared for Prague in terms of themes and subjects, in terms of inter- and multi - disciplinarity, in terms of methodological and ideological approaches; what is also to be expected is a fair and interesting distribution of regional and national authorship of contributions. The eight parallel lecturers along with the three plenary speakers will certainly furnish rich food

for thought and breed lively debate among participants; the twenty-six workshops, as listed in this Newsletter, should be considered an invitation to those who would like to contribute with papers pertaining to the ideas or topics designated in the titles and further specified in the short abstracts provided by individual workshop organizers. In addition to lectures and workshops, shoptalks for historians and literary scholars should give an opportunity to discuss the state of the art in each field, and another shoptalk should seek answers to the questions concerning the current tendencies of American Studies in Europe. In the spring of 2004, from April 2 to 5, Prague and her ancient Charles University will be ready to provide the space and stage for a fruitful professional discourse, for a scholarly exchange of ideas and erudition as well as social and cultural interaction.

After factual and formal deliberations over the application for EAAS membership from the Russian constituency of colleagues working in the field of American Studies, which was first submitted about a year ago and renewed in March 2003, the Board unanimously welcomed the applicant as its twenty-first member. The decision taken certainly carries a sign of historical relevance for international relations and cooperation in Europe, above all, in the realm of education and research. For some time EAAS conferences have hosted a few Russian Americanists who have participated in biennial conferences; from now on, we may expect intensified interaction and scholarly contributions from the whole community.

There is obviously much to do be done for the task of constructing a new Europe - a continent united in

its diversity, a continent of peace, justice, security, prosperity, and cooperation. The current crisis in the process could be turned into a rewarding challenge if we can all agree to do so. I personally believe there is a role, and quite a special and important role to be played in this matter by those of us who have been exposed not only to national and continental experience but also to the American experience. At our conference in Bordeaux last year we tried to reflect on the mutual impact of the two worlds in the Transatlantic

space, unavoidably also in the shadow of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2002. In Prague we should continue our discourse on Europe and America - and it is hard to imagine that we will be able to escape a debate of the causes and consequences of the second Gulf War that is a reality of these days.

Josef Jarab, Athens, March 22, 2003.

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## THE PRAGUE CONFERENCE 2004

### “America in the Course of Human Events: Presentations and Interpretations” Workshop Themes and Chairs

Below you find the lists of workshops established for the EAAS 2004 Biennial Conference in Prague, Czech Republic, April 2-5. An abstract (max. 300 words) and a one-paragraph CV should be sent **directly** to both chairs/organizers (where e-mail address is given) **by September 1, 2003**.

#### 1. Ethnicity, Race and Memory: The Politics of Representation

Recent debates in both the U.S. and Europe concern the appropriate ways in which to represent and remember the historical, political and cultural past of ethnic and racial groups. Workshop topics might include: current debates surrounding slavery and reparation; the study of slave narratives; public history programs and their politics of representation; memory and postmodernism in literature; racial and ethnic identity politics in diverse literatures (African American, Arabic American authors, among many others); the uses of history to effect political change and modify public opinion in a contemporary context.

**Chairs:** Maria-Antònia Oliver-Rotger, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Barcelona, Spain. June 10–Dec. 10: University of California, Berkeley, CA, U.S.A, maria.oliver@humu.upf.es. Celeste-Marie Bernier, U. of Nottingham, UK, Celeste-Marie.Bernier@nottingham.ac.uk

#### 2. Re-presentations of Masculinity in Twentieth-Century American Literature

Recently, Gender Studies - which had traditionally focused on women and feminism - have incorporated the analysis of men and masculinities through the recently founded Men's Studies programs. Following a Men's Studies approach, this panel will focus on the (re-)presentation of masculinity in twentieth-century American literature. Literature, as a cultural commodity, provides a plurality of definitions and redefinitions of American masculinities. Speakers for this panel should analyze, therefore, the works of twentieth-century American writers, focusing on traditional and/or new patterns of masculinity. Due to the multicultural nature of American society, panelists are encouraged to explore representations of ethnic masculinities in literature.

**Chairs:** Àngels Carabí, Universitat de Barcelona Gran Vista de les Corts Catalanes, Spain; cdona@lingua.fil.ub.es; David Leverenz, University of Florida, USA.

#### 3. American Gothic: Boundaries, Alternatives, Challenges

American Gothic addresses the problems of modern and post-modern age, including those of continuity and transformation of European patterns and values in the U.S. culture. It explores boundaries between the conscious and unconscious, madness and sanity, and poses the question of frontiers between European and American cultures. It articulates alternative

views of U.S. society, rising the questions of racial and sexual identity, and unsettling the faith in necessary progress and self-reliance. Participants are invited to discuss these questions and the relevance of post-structuralist theories for the understanding of American Gothic.

**Chairs:** Charles L. Crow, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, USA; Martin Procházka, Charles University, Prague, CZ, martinp@ff.cuni.cz

#### 4. The Changing Image of America: The View from Europe

Presentations are invited to discuss America's Image problem abroad from the Cold War through the present, the causes and manifestations of changing American images, preferably from a historical and political perspective. Topics/questions for consideration: how American domestic affairs, foreign policy and the international situation have affected the U.S. image; how the U.S. has been seen and judged by the European nations; old stereotypes revised; the (American) media's role in shaping and reflecting pro- or anti-American sentiment; “selling” the United States abroad; efforts by the U.S. government to repair the country's image problem, etc.

**Chair:** Andras Csillag, University of Szeged, Hungary, csillag@jgytf.u-szeged.hu

#### 5. Mapping ‘America’ as a Sign of Liberation or Containment

The identification of certain forms of emancipation or containment as ‘American’ is the result of complex dynamics within and across national boundaries, such that various Americas operate as poles of attraction and repulsion. This workshop traces for whom, when, why and how this marking occurs, and we are interested in theoretical approaches which make sense of the ambivalent and complex identifications generated by it. We welcome work in any relevant fields and topics, including but not limited to the influence of US activists (in terms of race, gender, sexuality, or other) outside the USA, on the trans-Atlantic gendered and sexual resonances found in music, film, literature, etc., and on the identification of eroticized consumption as American.

**Chairs:** Jude Davies, King Alfred's College Winchester, UK; Jude.Davies@wkac.ac.uk; Jaap Kooijman, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; J.W.Kooijman@uva.nl

## 6. History and Pre-History: Literary Works Between the Two World Wars

In his Autobiography, in the paragraph preceding the text of the "Declaration of Independence", Thomas Jefferson wrote that he would print not only what Congress accepted but also what they rejected. In so doing, the whole history of the text would be preserved. The intent of this workshop is thus twofold: 1) to analyze literary texts that deal with historical events; 2) to investigate the various stages a historical literary work went through--namely its pre-history--in the process of becoming a "final product." Papers are invited from across all literary genres.

**Chairs:** Christina Giorelli, Terza Univ. di Roma, Italy c.giorelli@uniroma3.it; Arancha Usandizaga, U. of Barcelona, Spain; aranzazu.usandizaga@uab.es

## 7. Law, Ethics & America's Sphere of Influence

This workshop raises issues questioning the putative "imposition" of American standards as opposed to freely-selected global borrowings: whether cinema violence, sexual prudishness, happy endings touch on questions of mimesis or imposition; whether it matters if the Soviet system failed, or the American system won; whether or not the so-called free market actually works without America maintaining military hegemony over the planet. This takes in collateral problems of American representative government as equivalent of majoritarian rule, and the (im)possibility of transmitting legal, business and technical vocabulary without giving form to the underlying ethical assumptions as well.

**Chairs:** Matthew Guillen, Université de Paris XII (Val-de-Marne), France; Mattguillen@aol.com

## 8. Interpretations of American Identity in the Course of Bicultural, Expatriate and Post-Colonized Experiences

This panel will address cultural hybridity in representations of American identity shaped by expatriate or post-colonized experiences: Papers on what defines "America" from the perspective of "human events" that contest dominant cultural paradigms are invited. Authors to consider include Margaret Fuller, Gertrude Stein, Henry James. More recently, the legacy of colonized psychologies in the bicultural writings of Bharati Mukherjee, Jhumpa Lahiri, Edwidge Danticat and Louise Erdrich express reinterpretations of cultural belonging. Papers will deal with the theoretical underpinnings of cultural (re)representations; the contributions of Gayatri Spivak, the work of Amy Kaplan and Donald E. Pease are among the discourses which address redefinitions of "America" through "a course of human events" that have challenged originating theories of cultural cohesion.

**Chair:** Adrianne Kalfopoulou, University of LaVerne, Athens, Greece; akalf@hol.gr

## 9. The Forging of Southern Exceptionalism

The proposal stems from the Southern Studies Forum. It will explore the forging of southern exceptionalism in the writing of history, fiction, art and other genres. In particular, it will

examine the ways in which notions of a distinctive South have been developed and reformulated in conjunction with national and international events. Presentations may focus on southerners' evaluations of their own region or on non-Southerners' characterizations of it. Panelists may consider the dynamics of continuity and change in the South's experience of the twentieth century, or relate 'southern exceptionalism' to trends in scholarship, and their underlying contexts.

**Chairs:** Stuart Kidd, U. of Reading, UK; ss.kidd@reading.ac.uk; Jacques Pothier, Université de Versailles St Quentin, France; Jacques.Pothier@sudam.uvsq.fr

## 10. 'America – Love It or Leave It': Discourses of Crisis in the Sixties

The Sixties was a unique decade in 20th century American culture with its striking combination of political militancy and cultural bohemianism, of a new Freudian radicalism and Marxian admonition to change the world. The unique culture of the age created and explored the ruptures along ethnic, class and gender divisions and the discourse of crisis or of creative destruction became its hallmark. We welcome papers that will address these issues as they relate to foreign policy, history, literature and film seeking to position the 60s within the perspective of the current debates about human rights and democracy in national and international context.

**Chairs:** Yonka Krasteva, University of Veliko, Bulgaria; archer@mbox.digsys.bg; Mary Ann Wyncoop, UMKS, USA; WynkoopM@umkc.edu

## 11. Violence and Tragedy: A Comparative Study of Commemorative Sites and their Sympolic Meaning

This workshop will explore sites commemorating violent and tragic events in order to compare American and European cultural values. Commemorative sites and the way in which they are sanctified or reconstructed offer an opportunity to compare how Europeans and Americans view the past, interpret events retrospectively, shape their history and constitute their national identity. For the purposes of comparison, scholars are invited to focus on a site of commemoration in either the U.S. or Europe which has significance for both Americans and Europeans. Alternatively, scholars may compare two sites, one in the U.S. and the other in Europe, commemorating similar events such as revolutions, civil wars, massacres, strikes, protests, and natural disasters. The sanctification or reconstruction of sites of commemoration may take literary, visual, musical or material form.

**Chairs:** Jerzy Kutnik, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, PL, kutnikjr@kllo.umcs.lublin.pl; Maureen Montgomery, U. of Canterbury, Christchurch, New Zealand; amst008@it.canterbury.ac.nz

## 12. The Relevance of the American Revolution in an Atlantic and Global World

We propose to re-examine the American Revolution in the broadest possible context. We take our cue from the renewed interest in the history of the early modern Atlantic world, and from the creation of the European Union and the increasing

globalization of national economies which have renewed interest in the study of politics and economics in more contemporary fields of history. We propose a panel that asks: is the American Revolution still relevant? What does it have to teach us? We welcome papers that explore the relevance of the American Revolution either in terms of the history of early America and/or the early modern Atlantic World, or for contemporary society.

**Chairs:** Michael McDonnell, U. of Wales, Swansea, UK, m.mcdonnell@swan.ac.uk; Marjoleine Kars, U. of Maryland, Baltimore Co., kars@umbc.edu

### 13. European Reception of American Transcendentalism: Problems of Interpretation

Scholarship on American Transcendentalism in the U.S. is impressive. Discussing the topic from the European perspective may be conducive to establishing a more comprehensive vision of this cultural phenomenon. The following issues may be addressed: Reception of American Transcendentalism in Europe; European issues as seen by American Transcendentalists; The meaning of their works for European writers; European writers' impact on Transcendentalists; Interpretations of works of minor Transcendentalists; Transcendentalism and Modernity; The interplay of ideas: Transcendentalists and Romantics. Contributions dealing with reflections of Transcendentalist ideas in national cultures of Europe will be particularly welcome.

**Chairs:** Elvira Osipova, St.Petersburg University, Russia; elvira@overlink.ru; Monika Mueller, Dept. of English, University of Cologne, Albertus Magnus Platz, 50923 Cologne, Germany; monika.mueller@uni-koeln.de

### 14. Discourse of Conflict in Intercultural Dialogue: us/US

We want to consider intercultural conflict - in which value systems clash, implicitly or explicitly, each asserting its validity, and testing/challenging another's - as a discursive formation, offering the participating subjects a range of "roles", ways to forward and legitimate their claims (make their speech sound authoritative) and possessing historicity of its own (there have always been conflicts, what can change are only the ways of understanding/interpreting them). Cultural conflict, unlike a social or a political one, may not have direct and immediate consequences but tends to run deeper and is more difficult to rationalize. Compromise and consensus are notoriously difficult to come by (it being hard to tell a tactical concession from a sacrifice fatal for the cultural individuality).

**Chairs:** Tatiana Venediktova, Moscow University, Russia; vtatiana@mtu-net.ru; Michel Peprník, Palacký University, the Czech Republic; mpeprnik@hotmail.com

### 15. Reimagining the American West

This workshop aims to explore the continuing fascination with the American West in contemporary writing, films and visual arts. It intends to examine the different ways in which contemporary interpreters of the American West have reshaped

traditional western imagery and themes. Papers may engage a variety of critical issues in cultural studies of the American West: the interaction of cultures and languages in a basically hybrid context, the role of race and ethnicity, gender politics and power, regional identity, environmental awareness, the popular West, the impact of urbanization and technology.

**Chair:** David Rio, University of Pais Vasco, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain; fipirad@vc.ehu.es

### 16. Jewish American Writing and Jewish Identity

This workshop wants to explore various phases of Jewish American writing, from literature of the first immigrant generation to the most recent literary texts. The discussion will focus on questions of identity formation and, more specifically, on the problem whether we can speak of a Jewish identity expressing itself in literary texts. In the aftermath of the Holocaust the question of Jewish identity becomes particularly complex and the workshop wants to inquire into the various ways in which writers have embraced or refuted a concept of Jewish identity that is built around the nazi genocide.

**Chairs:** Kristiaan Versluys, Ghent University, Belgium. kries.versluys@rug.ac.be. Susanne Rohr, John F. Kennedy Institute, Free U. Berlin, Germany. rohrjfk@zedat.fu-berlin.de

### 17. Cinema and the American Experience

This workshop will focus on filmic responses to the nature of the American experience. Since the earliest days of cinema, film has presented American trends and movements to a wider audience. Some genres (i.e. the western, the gangster film) were inspired by aspects of the American experience. Other genres (e.g. horror, science fiction) have indirectly reflected such experience. Papers are invited on the treatment of American themes by American or non-American filmmakers (proposals are particularly welcome on European filmmakers - such as Jean Renoir, Fritz Lang, and Jacques Tourneur - dealing with American subjects). Further information on this workshop is available from either of the co-chairs. Paper proposals should be sent by e-mail to BOTH chairs no later than 4 July 2003.

**Chairs:** Gilles Ménégald, University of Poitiers; Gilles.Menegaldo@mshs.univ-poitiers.fr; Melvyn Stokes, University College London; M.Stokes@ucl.ac.uk

### 18. Historical, Social and Literary Asian American Perspectives at the Turn of the Century

The papers should consider the historical, social and literary situations which have transformed the Asian American condition in recent decades. They should focus on the implementation of new laws aiming at the regulation of immigration and other events in recent US history in which the Asian communities were involved. A special attention should be devoted to recent developments of the American Chinatowns. The papers should emphasize socio-historical events which have occurred in the Asian American communities or analyze literary texts reflecting their impact.

All the presentations should adopt a global perspective.

**Chairs:** Lina Unali, 2<sup>nd</sup> University of Rome, “Tor Vergata”, Italy; d.unali@agora.it; unali@lettere.uniroma2.it; Aiping Zhang, U. of California, USA; azhang@suchico.edu

### 19. Work and Welfare across the Atlantic: Influences and Comparisons in Europe and in the United States

Work and welfare have been fundamental notions in the development of the industrial societies of the twentieth century: welfare was long considered a surrogate source of income when the legitimate gainful activity of working was impracticable. Work was a central source of political, social and moral attitudes in both Europe and America. The exchange of ideas between Europe and the United States on work and welfare was more diverse than has been suggested so far. In this context what were the most noticeable influences in the shaping of the world of work and welfare that may be traced to Transatlantic influences on the two continents? We are interested in the shaping of industrial, labor and welfare policies from the onset of the twentieth century to the eve of World War Two. International comparisons are invited as well as the tracing of mutual influences. The notion is that the theme of work and welfare affords a field of scholarship where the potential of European American comparisons is very promising.

**Chairs:** Catherine Collomp, Université Paris VII; collomp@paris7.jussieu.fr; Marizio Vaudagna, Università Torino, Italy; vaudagna@lett.unipmn.it

### 20. Trauma, Memory, History

This session welcomes papers addressing the problem of the limits of representation and the necessity of witnessing in cultural narratives confronting trauma and its returns. While historiography may be one of the means that help coming to terms with the unrepresentable in Public Memory, narrative and fictional renditions might experiment ways of conveying some of the sensory value of trauma, a practice that seems to be crucial in processes of cultural reconciliations. Possible topics may include representations of: African American slavery, ethnic relocations and internments, genocides, the *Shoah*, Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the Vietnam War, 9-11.

**Chair:** Maria Cristina Iuli, UPO Vercelli; cristina.iuli@lett.unipmn.it

### 21. North American Native Voices in Conversation: Dualities and Unities

This workshop examines the socio-historical developments of North American native cultures towards their present forms. We welcome contributions from fields including cultural studies, history, sociology, literature, and film. The topics for discussion can include the following: 1. the in/exclusion of the native in the shaping of histories and traditions; 2. the mutual otherness in native and non-native representations; 3. global concerns and common (play)grounds in the native context; 4. challenging the boundaries of space, time, and discourse. We

especially encourage contributions addressing such issues from inter-disciplinary and comparative perspectives.

**Chair:** Hartmut Lutz, University of Greifswald, Germany, lutz@uni-greifswald.de

**Organizers:** Klára Kolinská; kolinska@phil.muni.cz and Kateřina Prajznerová prajzner@phil.muni.cz, Masaryk University, Brno, CZ.

### 22. The Years of Our Ford: Transatlantic Dialogues in Technology and the Arts from 1900 to the 1930s.

This workshop will explore European and American contributions to modernism in painting, photography, industrial design, advertising, architecture or urban planning and ways in which they influenced and modified each other across the Atlantic between the two World Wars. We also encourage papers on the way modernism defined itself in relation to both American and European traditionalism, and the way European immigration to the US in the same period affected American modernism. Interdisciplinary approaches and perspectives are encouraged, but monographs on people and events are also welcome.

**Chair:** Arne Neset, Stavanger University College, Norway. arne.neset@hum.his.no

### 23. The Evocation of Pain in American Culture

Pain poses a threat to identity by making the body alien. However, it also confers identity to the individual because nobody can suffer for you. Physical suffering is thus one of the most private experiences. Precisely because of its privacy it is difficult to communicate. To Gadamer, all we can do is evoke the experience, never reproduce it. Through readings of a range of American “texts,” this workshop aims at exploring the strategies most used to evoke pain, the presumed therapeutic power of art, the commodification of pain, mimicry, contagion, and race and gender variations in its evocation.

**Chair:** Nieves Pascual, Universidad de Jaén, Spain; npascual@ujaen.es

### 24. American Studies and the Sciences

New developments in science and technology are affecting our lives in fundamental ways while also raising novel questions for the social sciences, humanities, and cultural studies. Moreover, key issues on the life science agenda get debated along transatlantic lines. Given the status assigned to the US and the American way in the political and ethical debate of the ongoing technological revolution, we will explore what this turn from social to natural sciences holds for American studies. What has American Studies to do with the sciences? How do new scientific insights affect the centrality of the body in gender and cultural studies? How do American technological developments cross the Atlantic and affect transatlantic relations? Aiming to put the sciences on the American Studies agenda and to show that topoi and histories of science get reified as national while being part of a global exchange, we encourage contributions from the sciences and all fields within the disciplinary canon of American studies.

**Chairs:** Ruth Oldenziel, U. of Amsterdam, The Netherlands; Sabine Sielke, Bonn University, Germany; ssielke@uni-bonn.de

### **25. Is It Lonely at the Top? The Role of the Presidency in the World's only Superpower**

When the USA emerged from the Cold War as the only superpower on the eve of the 21st century, few can have imagined the extent of the crisis that would shortly present itself. For the first time the USA faces major problems while simultaneously being the only superpower on the planet. Contributors might wish to examine the route that executive-inspired policy has taken - has the US become a more unilateral, pre-emptive force, and would the absence of crisis have made any difference to this? Has the international image of the USA become more defined by the presidential image over this period? Do those who wish to be future presidents have to present a new version of themselves to the American public, or, when it comes to elections, is it true that all politics is still local? Has visual and popular culture in America and in other parts of the world reacted as much to the president as to the polity in their analysis of the only superpower in action?

**Chairs:** Philip John Davies, The British Library, London, De Montfort University, Leicester, UK; philip.davies@bl.uk, pjd@dmu.ac.uk; George Edwards, Texas A&M University, USA

### **26. The Political Role of the U.S. Supreme Court in Recent Decades**

In recent years the U.S. Supreme Court has veered decisively to the right. This workshop invites papers which analyze the role of the Supreme Court in areas such as minority rights; abortion, capital punishment, and other civil liberties; federalism, separation of powers, states rights, presidential elections, etc. We welcome a diversity of approaches and interdisciplinary analyses. We also invite papers that address related broader political questions: the war on terrorism, President Bush's efforts to appoint conservatives to the federal courts, and the role of Congress in such matters.

**Chair:** Erik Åsard, The Swedish Institute for North American Studies (SINAS), Uppsala University, Box 514, SE-751 20 Uppsala, Sweden; erik.asard@sinas.uu.se, erik.asard@engelska.uu.se

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## **SHOPTALKS**

### **The American Studies Shoptalk**

**Theme:** "Is There Already or Should There Be a Different Direction for American Studies in Europe?" **Chairs:** Mark Luccarelli, U. of Oslo, Norway; mark.luccarelli@iba.uio.no; Miloš Calda, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic; calda@mbox.fsv.cuni.cz.

### **The Historians' Shoptalk**

**Chairs:** Tiziano Bonazzi, U. of Bologna, Italy, bonazzit@spbo.unibo.it; Jenő Bárdos, U. of Veszprem, Hungary, bardos@almos.vein.hu.

### **The Literature Shoptalk**

**Chairs:** Theodora Tsimpouki, U. of Athens, Greece, tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr; Martin Heusser, Universität Zürich, Switzerland, heusser@es.unizh.c

## **PRAGUE PARALLEL LECTURES**

1. **Teresa Ferreira de Almeida Alves, University of Lisbon, Portugal:**  
"Autobiographical Inscriptions by American Women in the Course of Twentieth-Century Events"
2. **Mick Gidley, University of Leeds, UK:**  
"Photographing Others, Photographing Ourselves: Episodes in American Portraiture"
3. **Mario Maffi, Università degli Studi di Genova, Italy:**  
"The Confidence River: the Mississippi and 'Its Inimitable Gothic Script'"
4. **Walter W. Hölbling, University of Graz, Austria:**  
"America - The Free City Upon a Hill Forever Under Siege. A European Perspective"
5. **Robert Lewis, University of Birmingham, UK:**  
"The Amusement Business: The American Way and the European Heritage"
6. **Stephen Matterson, University of Dublin, Ireland:**  
"The 'Non-American' 'American' Writer"
7. **David Mauk, The Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway:**  
"Who are these people? – The Norwegian-American Example of International Migration's Effects on Relations between Europe and the United States"
8. **Christopher Mulvey, King Alfred's Winchester, UK:**

## THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK

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 20 members in West, East and Central 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. Another goal is that of promoting the exchange of scholars and students of the different centers. One of the specific projects that the ASN has already begun 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. Another specific project of the ASN is the establishment of a database and directory of all those European scholars working on American Studies.

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.

**President:** Saturnino Aguado Institute for North American Studies, University of Alcala, Spain. E-mail: saturnino.aguado@uah.es

**Honorary President:** Chris Bigsby, Arthur Miller Center for American Studies, UK. E-mail: C.Bigsby@uea.ac.uk

### THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK BOOK PRIZE

At the EAAS Conference in Prague in 2004, the ASN will again award its **biennial prize** for a remarkable book (monograph) published in English in the field of American Studies.

**The criteria are as follows:** The monograph (not an edited volume) should have been published in 2002 or 2003; the author must be a European scholar who through membership of her/his national American Studies organization is a member of EAAS; **three** review copies of the book should be submitted **before 15 December 2003** to Prof. Saturnino Aguado, Institute for North American Studies, Universidad de Alcala, Colegio de Trinitarios, C/. Trinidad, 1, 28801 Alcala de Henares (Madrid), Spain.



## THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK MEMBERS

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mgecek@salzburgseminar.org;  
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### Center for American Studies, Brussels

a.piette.infon@infonie.be or cas@duke.kbr.be;  
[http://www.kbr.be/gst/instit/cas\\_fr.htm](http://www.kbr.be/gst/instit/cas_fr.htm) (in French);  
[http://www.kbr.be/gst/instit/cas\\_nl.html](http://www.kbr.be/gst/instit/cas_nl.html) (in Dutch).

### American Studies Center, Mons-Hainaut

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### Amerika-Institut, Munich

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## A REMINDER TO ALL EAAS MEMBERS: DEADLINES

- August 15, 2003:** Updated membership lists of national associations to be sent to Secretary General Ole O. Moen at o.o.moen@iba.uio.no
- August 15:** Deadline for information to be included in the October issue of the *ASE Newsletter*. Please e-mail to Ingrid Thaler at thaler@staff.uni-marburg.de
- September 1:** Proposals for papers to be sent to workshop chairs
- September 15:** Tentative list of speakers and titles for workshop papers to be sent to Secretary General for inclusion in the October *ASE Newsletter*
- December 1:** FINAL list of titles of workshop papers and names and addresses of speakers to Secretary General
- January 10, 2004:** Deadline for information to be included in the Prague conference program

Please be aware of these dates to make sure your contribution is included in the next issue.

Thank you! – The Editors

## CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS OF EAAS

### AUSTRIA

#### Austrian Association of American Studies - AAAS

**Homepage:** <http://angam.ang.univie.ac.at/aaas/>

**President:** Klaus Rieser; Institut für Amerikanistik; Karl-Franzens-Universität Graz; Attemsgasse 25/II; A-8010 Graz; Tel. 0316/380-8201; e-mail: Klaus.Rieser@uni-graz.at.

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### BELARUS

#### Belarusan Association for American Studies - BELAAS

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#### Activities

“Breaking Boundaries: Literatures in English in the Epoch of the Post Modern,” October 23-25, 2003. European Humanities University and Minsk State Linguistics University.

Until quite recently the world had been divided into opposing blocs with clearly defined agendas and sets of ideas that influenced the development of culture and literature in every country. The collapse of the Berlin Wall brought about

a qualitatively different situation involving millions of people on all the continents in the never-ending dialogue of cultures. The dramatic changes of the early 1990s have determined the course of history, culture, and politics for all social groups and communities on both sides of the Atlantic. The development of modern information technologies and the process of globalization have greatly contributed to the unique interaction of cultures and people and had a tremendous effect on national literatures. The amazing accomplishments in the development of literary and anthropological theory have brought about the eradication of boundaries in literary and cultural studies.

The conference will address the changes in the interpretative paradigms, the transformation of the literary canon under the influence of postmodernism and multiculturalism, the relationship between center and periphery, majority and minority, the question of the commodification of culture. It is aimed at provoking an awareness of the role of borders/boundaries in people's daily attitudes and its reflection in national literatures. Images, stereotypes, and narratives of borders are to be explored and interrogated.

### BELGIUM &

### LUXEMBOURG

#### Belgium and Luxembourg American Studies Association – BELAAS

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### CZECH AND SLOVAK REPUBLIC

#### Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies - CSAA

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## FRANCE

**French Association for American Studies – AFEA**

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## Activities

Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines – RFEA

**Editors:** Françoise Sammarcelli (literature). E-mail: frasamm@club-internet.fr

Divina Frau-Meigs ("civilization" - history, sociology, political science, other fields and cross-disciplines related to Northern America). E-mail: meigs@wanadoo.fr

Transatlantica

Editor: Jean Kempf. Email: Jean.Kempf@univ-lyon2.fr

The AFEA 2003 Annual Conference will be held in Rouen (May 30-June 1) on the theme "Territoires / Territories". Information and program available on the website of the AFEA (<http://etudes.americaines.free.dr>)

The 2004 Annual Conference will be hosted by the University of Pau (21-24 May 2004) on "Couleurs d'Amérique". For information, contact Géraldine Chouard ([chouard@imagnet.fr](mailto:chouard@imagnet.fr)) or Hélène Christol ([christol@up.univ-mrs.fr](mailto:christol@up.univ-mrs.fr)).

## GERMANY

**German Association for American Studies - DGfA**

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## Activities

**Amerikastudien/ American Studies**

(Journal edited for the German Association for American Studies):

**Editorial Office:** Udo Hebel, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Regensburg, 93040 Regensburg. Phone +49 941 943 3478/77; Fax 0049 0941 943 3590; e-mail: udo.hebel@sprachlit.uni-regensburg.de

**Annual Convention :** "American Studies in Germany -- The First 50 Years". Munich, June 10-13, 2003.

**Special Conventions in 2003 (upcoming):**

"Science, Technology, and the Humanities in Recent American Fiction," University of Paderborn, 12-15 May 2003 (Organizer: PeterFreese).

"Narrating Frontiers: Confrontations, Transgressions and Exchanges along North American Borders." John-F.-Kennedy-Institute, Berlin, 3-6 July 2003 (Organizer: Heinz Ickstadt).

"The Body as Interface: Dialogues between the Disciplines," University of Bonn, 26-28 June 2003 (Organizer: Sabine Sielke).

"Gender Reconsidered," Humboldt University, June 2003 (Organizers: Gabriele Dietze, Günter Lenz).

## GREAT BRITAIN

**British Association for American Studies – BAAS**

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## GREECE

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## HUNGARY

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## IRELAND

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**Treasurer:** Sharon Baris, Bar-Ilan University

## ITALY

### Italian Association for North American Studies - AISNA

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### RSA/Journal

Publishes yearly. Editorial office: Rosella Mamoli Zorzi, Dipto di Studi Anglo-Americani e Ibero-Americani, San Marco 3417, Università Ca' Foscari, 30124 Venezia, Italy. Available online at [www.aisna.org](http://www.aisna.org).

### RSA

Collects proceedings of Biennial AISNA Conferences. For titles and contents see [www.aisna.org](http://www.aisna.org). For copies of previous issues write to AISNA secretary.

### AISNA Newsletter

Published online twice a year and available at [www.aisna.org](http://www.aisna.org), includes announcements, calls for papers, discussions, and bibliographies of members.

## THE NETHERLANDS

### Netherlands American Studies Association - NASA

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### Activities

The Annual PAAS Conference in 2002 took place in Wrocław (10-13 November). Its theme was: *Travelling Subjects: American Journeys in Space and Time*.

## PORTUGAL

### Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies - APEAA

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#### Activities:

##### 1. Joint ASANOR-SAAS Conference

The two national associations of NAAS located on the Scandinavian Peninsula—ASANOR and SAAS—had their first joint conference at Fredrikstad/Halden, Norway, Sept. 20-22, 2003, under the theme “America at Home and Abroad.” (NAAS is a federation of five national associations.) It was a very successful venture with a great variety of sub-themes and a number of participants from outside the two countries as well. Key-Note Address, “The

United States and the World: Historical Reflections One Year After September 11,” was delivered by Professor Anders Stephanson, Columbia University. The rich academic schedule was adorned by a full social program to boot, the banquet dinner at the old border fortress—Fredriksten Festning, built in times of less amicable relations between the two nations—undoubtedly being the social highlight of the conference. The bi-national experiment was favorably received on both sides, and rumors have it that enthusiastic cries of “encore” were heard echoing into the wee hours....

##### 2. The Finnish American Studies Association

FASA helped organize and invited its members to two events in the fall term: (1) “The Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference” at the Renvall Institute, the University of Helsinki, Sept. 3-6, titled “Reconfigurations of Native North America,” and (2) a joint project of the Graduate School of the Americas and the Academy of Finland, “Fictional Constructions and Cultural Identity,” at the University of Turku, Oct. 4, featuring guest speakers Jay Watson, U. of Mississippi, and Joan Anim-Addo, Goldsmith College, University of London.

##### 3. Coming events:

**The 2003 NAAS Biennial Conference** will take place at the Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Trondheim, Norway, August 6-9: “America in the World: Exploring Transnational Dimensions of Life and Culture in the United States.”

#### SPAIN

##### Spanish Association for English and American Studies – AEDEAN

**Homepage:** <http://info.uned.es/aedean/>

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## SWITZERLAND

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## TURKEY

### American Studies Association of Turkey – ASAT

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**President:** Gülriş Büken, Bilkent Üniv., İktisadi, İdari ve Sosyal Bilimler Fakültesi, Tarih Bölümü, 06533 Bilkent

## EAAS ON THE INTERNET

EAAS makes use of two electronic web services to inform you about EAAS matters:

- 1.) **PLEASE NOTE NEW EAAS homepage:** <http://www.eaas.info>. Here you may find information on American Studies in Europe, including upcoming conferences and activities of member organizations. There is also a book review section and an electronic (PDF) version of this Newsletter.
- 2.) The other service is **our free EAAS-L distribution list** that distributes topical information to its subscribers. Members are encouraged to use this list to provide and access other information that might be useful to Americanists in Europe, such as research news, teaching projects, announcements of conferences, grants, fellowships, inquiries, etc. EAAS-L also functions as a discussion list. To *subscribe* to EAAS-L, send the message “subscribe eaas-l” to <[majordomo@let.uu.nl](mailto:majordomo@let.uu.nl)>. To *contribute* to the list, send your messages to <[eaas-l@let.uu.nl](mailto:eaas-l@let.uu.nl)> or to the list moderator, Jaap Verheul at <[Jaap.Verheul@let.uu.nl](mailto:Jaap.Verheul@let.uu.nl)>. You can also submit information on disk to Jaap Verheul, History Department, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, NL-3512 HL Utrecht, he Netherlands.

## EAAS Grants Allocations

The following applicants have received funds from EAAS for their PhD projects in 2002 and 2003:

2002:

1. Ludimilla Martanovschi (Romania): Tran-Aatlantic Grant
2. Ingrid Thaler (Germany): Trans-Atlantic Grant
3. Urszula Niewiadomska (Poland): Trans-Atlantic Grant

2003:

1. Dan Horatio Popescu (Romania): Intra-European Grant to conduct research in England.
2. Eusebio de Lorenzo Gomes (Spain): Trans-Atlantic Grant to conduct research in the USA.
3. Renata Morresi (Italy): Trans-Atlantic Grant
4. Flutur Troshani (Italy): Trans-Atlantic Grant

## CALLS FOR PAPERS

### **Ethnics and Ethnicity in the Literatures of the United States** **16-18 October, 2003** **University of Coruña, Spain**

The English Department at the University of Coruña invites you to participate in a conference that will focus on the ethics of ethnicity in US literatures, to be held in October 2003. Please send your complete papers, accompanied by 150-words abstracts by April 25 2003.

We expect papers to

- question the ethics of American literature and/or ethnicity
- examine how literary and critical writings engage with the ethics of American identity (from the Melting Pot paradigm to Consent/Descent theories)
- analyze how otherness/ethnicity affects literary form and/or genre address how otherness vectors interact (How other is ethnicity in US literature? How are gender, class and race/ethnicity interrelated?)
- explore the ethical issues which arise from migrancy, borderlands experience and diasporic identities

Plenary lecturers:

Geoffrey Galt Harpham (University of Tulane, New Orleans)

Sau-ling C. Wong (University of California at Berkeley)

Trudier Harris (J. Carlyle Sitterson Professor on English, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill)

For updated conference information, contact the organizing committee:

María Frías Rudolphi at [mariaf@ucd.es](mailto:mariaf@ucd.es); José Liste Noya at [liste@ucd.es](mailto:liste@ucd.es); Begoña Simal González at [bsimal@ucd.es](mailto:bsimal@ucd.es)

For more information, please consult <http://www.udc.es/dep/finc/congresoam.htm>

EDITOR'S NOTE: The deadline for this CfP has already expired. Interested members please contact the organizing committee. We apologize for the inconvenience. -The Editors

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### **America: The Natural and the Artificial** **Annual Conference of Polish Association for American Studies** **19-21 October 2003** **Poznań, Poland**

The conference topic is intended to open up broad vistas for scholars working in various fields related to American history, civilization and culture: cultural and literary studies, history of law and legal theory, political science, sociology, art history, gender studies, media analysis, etc. The list of suggested problems, possibly to be expanded by other proposals taking into account the key opposition, includes:

- the cultural and literary heritage of "Nature's nation";
- the rise of the American Republic and its legal aspects;

- the present changes in American law and their cultural corollaries;
- the evolution of American society and its processual metaphors;
- the constructions of race, class and gender throughout American history;
- the significance of the media and their impact on social reality;
- visual representations of American nature from "Hudson River School" through hyperrealism
- trends in American architecture;
- American utopianism - the United States as a fulfilled (or failed) utopia;
- cultural aspects of American technology;
- environmental issues.

Depending on the interest of specialists in various specific fields of research, the conference may be divided into sections. Conference proceedings will be published.

Deadline for two hundred word paper proposals is **June 30, 2003**. Presentations are not expected to exceed 25 min. The conference fee, covering room and board, is 480 PLN. For further details, please contact Marek Wilczyński from School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodległości 4, 61-874 Poznań, Poland. tel. (48)-(61)-829-35-06; 829-35-21; fax (48)-(61)-852-31-03; e-mail: [marek@main.amu.edu.pl](mailto:marek@main.amu.edu.pl)

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### **US Icons and Iconicity** **Austrian Association of American Studies** **Conference** **7-9 November 2003** **University of Graz, Austria**

Aids Ribbons. Barbie. Cape Canaveral. Ellis Island. FDR. Ground Zero. Harvey Milk. JFK. Moby Dick...

US cultural icons fall into three main groups: a) fictional as well as historical characters (Daisy Duck to Harvey Milk); b) sites, monuments, natural elements (Ground Zero, Vietnam War Memorial, Buffalos); and c) logos, isotopes, and computer icons (pink triangle, dot-com, Windows, trash bin, etc.).

How do these icons come into being? Who controls their shaping? What aspects of an emotionally, socially and historically complex phenomenon do they cover? What aspects are left out? What denotations and connotations do they carry? What are cultural or political consequences of these icons? What is their relation to the mass media? How do they or their reception change historically? How are they challenged or toppled? Can we do without iconicity? How are these icons appropriated by those on the margins? Icons being symbols of the ruling ideas, what do they tell us about the relations between classes, ethnic groups and genders? And, above all, are they rather manifestations of hegemonic rule (Gramsci, Foucault, Laclau & Mouffe) or manifestations of a shared body of norms and values and therefore democratic elements (Durkheim, Parsons)?



Most social theories today would accept that icons constitute an attempt to focus and anchor the sliding of signification, to freeze the social indetermination into hegemonic forms, and to foster social cohesion by placing consensus over conflict. They are, in short, a central element in the manufacturing of consent. Through their employment, the underlying relationships of historical processes are hidden from our perception; instead, we build our understanding of the world on (mass mediated) appearances.

On the other hand, icons are perhaps best understood as over-determined, as having multiple causations. They are, moreover, like any sign, readable in different ways, carrying endlessly different connotations, betraying in precisely their structure and structural omissions the intangibility of meaning. And, finally, they depend on being accepted by a large number of people and therefore have to win the consent also of the marginalized and the subordinated.

It may be particularly interesting to analyze cultural icons which are contested, ridiculed, appropriated, attacked, supplemented by counter-icons or simply still in the making.

Conference homepage: <http://angam.ang.univie.ac.at/aaas/>  
Please send proposals for papers, including an abstract **before June 1, 2003** to: [amerikanistik@uni-graz.at](mailto:amerikanistik@uni-graz.at)  
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## **Challenging America: Similitude and Difference**

### **28th Annual American Studies Seminar**

**12-15 November, 2003**

**Hotel Samara, Bodrum, Turkey**

"I celebrate myself and sing myself,  
And what I assume you shall assume,  
For every atom belonging to me as good belongs to you,"  
said the good g(r)ay bard of America. What Whitman means remains highly problematic. Does the "self" in the poem pose a threat of devouring the "other," or does the "self" merely express an earnest love and compassion for the "other" based on a presumptive similitude? Similitude and difference are two extremes on a continuum and exist in a dialectic relationship to each other. The former suggests integration, homogeneity, and convergence while the latter calls to mind individuation, heterogeneity, and divergence. These two tendencies in human nature and modes of cultural production have become the hub of today's scholarly discussions. Some suggested areas of inquiry include (but are not limited to):

- \* similitude and globalization
- \* difference and identity
- \* localization and/versus globalization
- \* hybridity
- \* monologue versus dialogue
- \* ethnocentrism, assimilation, nationalism
- \* race, gender, class
- \* discourse, power, representation
- \* center versus periphery
- \* politics of similitude and difference
- \* aesthetics of similitude and difference
- \* cultural instruments of similitude and difference

Paper abstracts for 20-minute presentations are due by August 20, 2003. Please send your one or two paragraph abstract and a one paragraph CV-- containing your affiliation, area of specialization, research interests and recent publications--both to Kadir Turgay, fax: (312) 468-6145, or e-mail [kturgay@pd.state.gov](mailto:kturgay@pd.state.gov), and Meldan Tanrısal, fax: (312)2992085, or e-mail [meldant@hacettepe.edu.tr](mailto:meldant@hacettepe.edu.tr) For further information and the registration form please check the web site: <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~asat>

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## **IV International Conference on Chicano Literature**

**12-14 May 2004**

**University of Seville, Spain**

The fourth venue in Spain is the University of Seville, where scholars and artists will be able to meet and discuss the multiple manifestations of Chicano studies. As areas of study we offer the following options: border theory, drama and performance, popular culture, gender theory, mitos, history, sociology, folklore, poetry, fiction, film, television, immigration, ethnic stereotyping and/or works of specific authors.

Those wishing to make a proposal (in English or Spanish), please send the text of the complete paper **before 15 January 2004** to: Jesús Lerate de Castro o Juan Ignacio Guijarro, Facultad de Filología, Departamento de Literatura Inglesa y Norteamericana, c/Palos de la Frontera, s/n, 410004 Seville [jlerate@siff.us.es](mailto:jlerate@siff.us.es); [jguijarro@siff.us.es](mailto:jguijarro@siff.us.es).

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## **Ethnic Communities in Democratic Societies**

### **Fourth MESEA Conference**

**MESEA - The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies:  
Europe and the Americas**

**20 – 23 May 2004**

**Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece**

Proposals for workshops and papers may engage the following topics, among others:

Negotiation of culture, language, religion within (non-) territorial communities / Parochialism and globalization / Community and fragmentation in global cities / Communitarianism vs. rights / Literary and artistic productions within transnational democracies / Aesthetic concerns of ethnic subjects in democratic societies / How literature reflects democratic concerns / Negotiating ethnic exceptionalism and participation in a larger collectivity / Nation states and imagined communities / Nationalism and transnational loyalties / Nativism and racism in democratic contexts / Ethnic Press and transnationalism / Ethnic community vs. local law / (Il)legal immigration / Transnational identities / Fragmented identities / Political agency, political choices / Balkanization of mentality / Bastions of ethnic tolerance / Citizenship and ethno-politics / Civis and civility / Ethnic anxieties / Ethnic discrimination and affirmative actions / Ethnogenesis and ethnostasis / From Confrontation to cooperation / Internal colonialisms / Mythologized nationalisms / Xenophobia/xenophilia.

**Deadline for proposals: December 20, 2003.** Send a one-page proposal and a one-paragraph bio on the same page as e-mail submission to: Heike Raphael-Hernandez, University of Maryland in Europe, Heidelberg, Germany; raphael-hernandez@mesea.org  
Only members of MESEA or MELUS may present papers at this conference. For membership information please check: www.mesea.org

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### **Polish Journal for American Studies Yearbook of Polish Association for American Studies**

Managing Editor: Marek Wilczyński  
Editorial Secretary: Magdalena Zapędowska  
Editorial Board: Jerzy Durczak, Paweł Frelik, Jadwiga Maszewska, Marek Paryż

Thanks to the generous support of the Polish-American Fulbright Committee, Polish Association for American Studies is pleased to announce that starting with the year 2003 *The Polish Journal for American Studies* will be published as an annual academic periodical devoted to various aspects of American civilization and culture. Each issue will include articles and reviews of publications in the fields of American Studies and American literature.

Contributions are welcome. Articles should not exceed 5,000 words, and reviews of current publications 3,000 words. Please follow the MLA bibliographical convention.

Please submit printouts and texts on diskettes in Word for Windows to Marek Wilczyński, School of English, Adam Mickiewicz University, Al. Niepodległości 4, 61-874 Poznań, Poland. Deadline for this year's submissions is **September 15, 2003.**

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## **ANNOUNCEMENTS**

### **The European Issue of the Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines**

**The European issue of the Revue Française d'Etudes Américaines** will be available this coming September. Based on the "STEMMING THE MISSISSIPPI" international colloquium that took place in March 2003 in Paris in celebration of the bicentennial of the Louisiana Purchase, it will include 125 pages of text and a photographic supplement illustrating the various papers included. It will deal with the Mississippi as frontier, views of and on Louisiana, echoes of the river in the arts (movies, music, maps, photography), include historical and literary studies. Contributions by American, Austrian, British, French, Italian, Serbian colleagues et al are expected.

Orders can be sent individually or copies obtained from what national associations choose to get them in bulk at the price of 9 euros a copy. Payment for copies of the RFEA European number should be made to the account of the ASSOCIATION FRANCAISE D'ETUDES AMERICAINES (INSTITUT du MONDE ANGLOPHONE 5 RUE de l'ECOLE de MEDECINE 75006 PARIS) NUMBER 30041 /00001 / 0054024C020/ 43 In case of difficulty, one should get in touch with the treasurer of the French association : Malie Montagutelli Trésorière de l'AFEA 3 rue Danville 75014 Paris malie.montagutelli@worldonline.fr

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### **"Does the United States Subsume the Idea of America ?" A Panel EAAS Board Meeting, Athens, 20-23 March 2003**

On the occasion of the Athens EAAS Board Meeting (March 20-23, 2003), our Greek colleagues and gracious hosts Theodora Tsimpouki and Adrienne Kalfopoulou organized a panel discussion on the theme "Does the United States Subsume the Idea of America ?"

Held at the American College of Greece and moderated by Marc Chénétier, it brought together the views of Robert Crist (University of Athens): "United We Stand: A Phenomenological and Ontological View of America", Antonis Balasopoulos (University of Cyprus): "Nationalizing the Continent, Americanizing the World", Geoffrey Mills (American College: "America and the definition of globalization"), Martin Heusser (University of Zurich): "Post-Modernism and America's Identity Crisis" and Marc Chénétier, (University of Paris 7): "Maimed for survival: America as 'a place in the mind'").

"United states of mind" (Crist), "a world rather than a nation" in the words of Melville as commented by Balasopoulos, globalization as "the generalized values of modernity" (Mills), the need for some screen to project "an identity undergoing a crisis" (Heusser), the incompatibility of wonder and hermeneutic obsession (Chénétier): diverse as the approaches were, there was no lack of convergent analyses. As would-be reasonable arguments led to somewhat passionate demonstrations in Athens, a shared passion for American studies allowed reasonable exchanges and confrontations of plural viewpoints to prevail.

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### **Media Cultures**

**German Bavarian American Academy:  
5th Annual Conference  
Munich, Germany**

The 2003 BAA Conference, "Media Cultures" took place in Munich, Amerika Haus, 15 - 17 May 2003 and was devoted to the social, aesthetic, political and economic role of the media in North America, and in a comparative perspective in Europe and South America.

The conference presented 16 papers by leading experts from the fields of media studies, history, cultural studies and media practitioners, who discussed the broad range of topics at hand.

For additional information, see www.amerika-akademie.de or call +49-89-54 50 40 30.

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## Integrated Project: American Management Practices in Europe (AMPE)

The proposed research responds to an increased need for better understanding the role being played by American management practices within Europe in the creation of the European organizational-knowledge base. Such understanding is essential for critically assessing the likely challenges and opportunities for future management practices functioning as a public and private good, among all major stakeholders and in a manner which accords with specific European conditions and aspirations of social cohesion. Such issues are currently under debate among diverse stakeholders (see for example European Business Forum Debates).

Against this background the proposed project is formulated around three main objectives:

1. to establish a sustainable integrated transdisciplinary and transnational research network devoted to the study of American Management Practices in Europe (AMPE).
2. to contribute to the ongoing monitoring and assessment of the effects (positive and negative) of AMPE on the diversity and inclusiveness of the European management knowledge-base in relation to EU societal objectives of sustainable development, societal and territorial cohesion and improved quality of life.
3. to provide a basis for assessing future challenges and opportunities brought about by AMPE and to provide the bases for policy formulation and decision making.

The objectives would be approached via an integrated network of coordinating centres which together would provide collaborative structures, communication links, conference venues or forums as well as modes for dissemination.

Each coordinator/centre would be responsible for extending the research network around specific thematic areas dependent on interests and relevance to the stated project objectives. Coordinators would assist the principle centre in defining themes, identifying potential contributors, and in scheduling, promoting, planning, organizing and carrying out thematic

conferences (workshops, seminars, conference tracks, planning meetings) and in disseminating conference contributions as co-edited thematic AMPE proceedings. Conference venues would be collectively determined by the network centers.

Integration of the centers would be facilitated mainly through IT (web-site, e-mail), in addition to meetings during scheduled conferences, workshops, and seminars, and via planning meetings (among centre coordinators).

**Primary Coordinator/Coordinating Center:** Gary Webster, Consultant, American Studies Project at Skeria Utveckling, and Docent (Associate Professor) in Archaeology, Umeå University. Skeria Utveckling

**Secondary Coordinators/Coordinating Centers:** The following, among others, have expressed interest in participating in the project: Celeste Amorim, Centre for International Business History, University of Reading, U.K.; Olga Antsyferova, Professor of Comparative Literature Department, Ivanovo State University, Russia; Jonas Bäcklund, Stockholm Centre for Organizational Research (SCORE), Sweden; Magnus Frostensson and/or Tommy Borglund, Centre for Ethics and Economics, Stockholm School of Economics, Sweden; Janet Rose, The Rose Research Group, LLC, and Lecturer, Department of American Studies, University of Kansas, USA; Graeme Salaman Professor of Organizational Studies, Director of the Business Studies Programme, The Open University, U.K.; Krista Vogelberg, President of the Baltic Center for American Studies and Professor of English, University of Tartu, Estonia

Conference themes and schedule: The principle mechanism for integration would be a series of trans-national, trans-disciplinary conferences (meetings, seminars, workshops, tracks, presentations) organized around relevant research/conference themes within AMPE, and their published proceedings. For further information, please contact Gary Webster, Consultant, Skeria Utveckling, Docent, Umeå University, American Studies Project at Skeria, Address: Skeria Utveckling, Assistentgatan 23, SE-93177, Skellefteå, Sweden, Tel +46 910 58 54 26, Fax +46 910 58 54 99, <http://skeria.skelleftea.se/asps/>

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### In Memoriam Kurt A. Mayer

**AAAS President 2001/02 (Austria)**

"That what he valued most was Motion,  
and that what attracted his mind was Change..."  
(Henry Adams)

The Austrian Association for American Studies is mourning the death of its current President and long time member Kurt Albert Mayer, who passed away tragically and unexpectedly on July 19, 2002.

Kurt A. Mayer was Professor of American Studies at the University of Vienna, where he had taught since 1986. From 1980 to 1982 he had held a Fulbright scholarship at the English Department of SUNY/Buffalo, where he studied with Marcus Klein and received an M.A. Upon his return to Vienna he began work on his Ph.D., which he received in 1986. In 1999 he was appointed "Universitätsdozent" (Venia docendi for "Amerikanistik") after having completed his Habilitation on "Henry Adams and the German-speaking World."

Kurt Mayer was an excellent scholar and teacher, whose work will continue to inspire many young colleagues and students. His scholarship went deeper than research, for he brought to his intellectual projects a great depth of experience and thought. To his students, he was unique as he considered them partners in the project of critical inquiry. His readiness to help impressed his colleagues, just as his multi-faceted interests and knowledge of Austrian and American Culture, ranging from Henry Adams to Wolfgang Ambros, from the Reconstruction period to road movies and from Longfellow to Little Feat. He will be fondly remembered for his outstanding scholarship, his pivotal position as an organizer of scholarly groups and excursions, and his prolific production of pioneering academic websites. The "Easy Rider" web anthology remains a living presence of Kurt's Geist.

In his enthusiastic intellect, Kurt A. Mayer was a keen observer of cultures, always paying attention to the interconnectedness of American and Austrian culture. Kurt was a compassionate intellectual, and his aspirations seemed boundless. It is tragic that his many projects were cut short by his death at an early age. As President of the AAAS, he was planning the 2002 conference on the topic of (Anti-) Americanisms. The organizers hope that the conference reflected Kurt's ideas and ideals.

Our hearts and minds will remember him.

Astrid M. Fellner

Michael Draxlbauer

## RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

**BIRKLE, Carmen, Sabina MATTER-SEIBEL, and Patricia PLUMMER, eds., with the assistance of Barbara HEDDERICH.** *Frauen auf der Spur: Kriminalautorinnen aus Deutschland, Großbritannien und den USA*. Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2001. [*Female Sleuths: Female Detective Fiction in Germany, Great Britain, and the United States*]. - Internationally, women's detective fiction sporting a self-confident female protagonist solving the cases has achieved high acclaim. Women as private eyes, police officers, forensic medical examiners, and other sleuths are at the center of books by bestselling authors such as Patricia Cornwell, Minette Walters, or Doris Gercke. *Female Sleuths* discusses the increasing importance of women's detective fiction in the context of gender-oriented cultural studies.

The introduction delineates the historical development of women's detective fiction, the emergence of the female hard-boiled detective, and contemporary women's detective fiction in general. In the interview section, well-known authors discuss literary models, life styles, networks, and developments on the book market and in the media. The following ten articles investigate a number of American, British, and German authors, such as Patricia M. Carlson, Sabine Deitmer, Doris Gercke, Christine Grän, Barbara Neely, and Ingrid Noll and their crime novels in which the female protagonists signify in a variety of ways on the traditional detecting roles embodied by Sherlock Holmes, Hercule Poirot, Miss Marple & company. The contributions analyze aspects of gender construction and gender relations, ethnicity, intertextuality, media, questions of translation, and didactics.

**GALLEGO, Mar.** *Passing Novels in the Harlem Renaissance*. Hamburg: LitVerlag, 2003. (Forum for European Contributions in African American Studies). - *Passing Novels in the Harlem Renaissance* offers a study of the significance of passing novels for the literary and intellectual debate of the Harlem Renaissance. Mar Gallego uncovers the presence of a subversive component in five of these novels (by James Weldon Johnson, George Schuyler, Nella Larsen, and Jessie Fauset), turning them into useful tools to explore the passing phenomenon in all its richness and complexity. Her study intends to contribute to the ongoing revision of the parameters conventionally employed to analyze passing novels by drawing attention to a great variety of textual strategies such as double consciousness, parody, and multiple generic covers. Examining the hybrid nature of these texts, Gallego highlights their radical critique of the status quo and their celebration of a distinct African American identity.

**GRAINGE; Paul.** *Monochrome Memories: Nostalgia and Style in Retro America*. Westport CT: Praeger, 2002 – Through a series of interlinked case studies on the news magazine, Hollywood film, brand advertising, and movie colorization, this book examines the politics of visual nostalgia in the 1990s, analyzing the construction, representation and preservation of American national memory at the turn of the twentieth century.

**HÖBLING, Walter W. and Gabriele PÖTSCHER.** *Love Lust Loss*. Graz: Steirische Verlagsgesellschaft, 2003. GrazLit. - A collection of poetry, with a foreword by Paul Lauter and

Anne Fitzgerald. The verse in this volume can be read as a poetic dialogue about living and loving in a world in which "separations and returns are mediated by airline schedules, talk by the speed of light, and feelings by miles, rails, oceans, and pressurized cabins. Arrivals have already taken place and departures extend into electronic forms." In an age that markets instant gratification as the ultimate experience, maintaining a sense of individual dignity and creating meaningful personal spaces requires not only the ability to keep one's distance but also the willingness to yield to intensive intimacy, each in its turn. The texts in this volume are also "poems of movement across boundaries," transcending gender as well as culture, and show that men and women do not all come from different planets, even though they were born into different wor(l)ds. As one reader sums up her impressions: "Walter writes poems about the love every woman wants. Gabriele writes poems about the love most women get." If you want your copy airmailed to you, please order directly from the authors: [walter.hoelbling@uni-graz.at](mailto:walter.hoelbling@uni-graz.at) OR [gabriele.poetscher@uni-graz.at](mailto:gabriele.poetscher@uni-graz.at)

***The Problem of National Identity in the Literatures of the Old and the New World.*** Abstracts of the International Conference. Minsk, September 2002. Minsk, 2002.

**RAYEGO, Rosa G. and Eulalia PINERO GIL, eds.** *Voces e imágenes de mujeres en el teatro del siglo XX. Dramaturgas angloamericanas* [Voices and images of Women in Twentieth Century Theater: Anglo-American Women Playwrights]. Madrid: Editorial Complutense, 2002. - This volume is a collection of eleven essays by prominent theater scholars from Spain who explore the conflicts expressed by twentieth century women playwrights in their quest for having a scene of their own in the complex context of Anglo-American theater. Each of the essays introduces the reader to the work and biographical aspects of the author as well as the ideological and historical aspects that contributed to the contingencies of reception. Essays on Susan Glaspell, Rachel Crothers, Sophie Treadwell, Zona Gale, Gertrude Stein, Lillian Hellman, Tina Howe, María Irene Fornés, Suzan-Lori Parks, Caryl Churchill, and Sarah Kane, among others, constitute a new and challenging contribution to the area of theater studies.

**STULOV, Yuri, ed.** *Moving Beyond the Great Narrative: the Challenge of the Postmodern in American Culture*. American Studies Yearbook. 2002. Minsk: EHU Press, 2003. - A collection of papers presented at the 12-th international American Studies Conference in 2002.

**SWENEY, Matthew, and Michal PEPRNIK, eds.** *Spirituality and Religion in American Culture: Collection of Papers from the 2000 Olomouc American Studies Colloquium*. Topics include essays on Religion and Politics, Transcendentalism, Jewish-American Identity, Religion in American Cinema, etc. Authors include David Goldfield, Boris Vejvodský, Elvira Osipova, Cheryl Alexander Malcolm, Bernd Herzengorath and more. Introduction by Josef Jařab. Ordering information: [prodejna@vup.upol.cz](mailto:prodejna@vup.upol.cz). Price: 135 Kc (5 Euro)