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In This Issue

- 1 *Address of the President- Elect
Words of Thanks and Farewell
of the Outgoing EAAS President*
- 4 *EAAS Board Members
Reports on Prague Conference
Workshops and Shoptalks*
- 15 *Constituent Associations of
EAAS*
- 20 *Call for Papers*
- 22 *Upcoming Conferences
Recipients of EAAS/Fulbright
Travel Grants 2004*
- 23 *EAAS Travel Grantee Reports*
- 26 *American Studies Network
American Studies Network
Members*
- 27 *Recent Publications by Members*



Dear Colleagues,

A most enjoyable, impeccably organized and fruitful conference, for which the organizers should be heartily thanked, our Prague reunion was also for me a moment of ...well, *moment*..., as the Board members of EAAS there and then saw fit to elect me as President to succeed Josef Jarab.

As I thank them for their friendly trust, my first thoughts go to my prestigious predecessors: Harry Allen, without whom EAAS could not have found its new configuration, Maurice Gonnaud (under whose luminous guidance I was lucky enough to organize the 1982 Paris Conference), Sergio Perosa, Hans Bungert, Rob Kroes, Heinz Ickstadt -accomplices, all, in many a European Community research project-, Josef Jarab himself, whose courage and dedication remain for me an example. Not only because of the considerable tasks they assumed, but also because I was fortunate enough to work with them in some capacity or other since the inception of the « new » EAAS at the Heidelberg Conference. Not only because of their human and intellectual qualities, but because they in turn represented the European impetus that brought so many of us to



Dear Colleagues and Friends,

Four more years have been added to the history of the European Association for American Studies since the Board elected me, during its Graz meeting, to be successor to Heinz Ickstadt and the equally lustrous line of his predecessors. It was an undeserved personal honor and, of course, a mere historical coincidence, that by the end of my term the EAAS reached the 15th anniversary of its establishment, half a century of its existence. The Salzburg Seminar in American Studies, which was the place of its birth in the spring of 1954, will commemorate the fact at a special event in early September 2004, as it rightfully should; but at our biennial conference in Prague in April this year we already had a chance to ponder over the decades of efforts that hundreds and, indeed, thousands of scholars have performed in their studies of American history, culture and social and political reality.

More importantly still, the anniversary, and the current state of the field of research, the present state of affairs in the United States and in the world has faced us, European Americanists, with new challenges as how to responsibly carry out our scholarly mission, how to usefully reflect on

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together when the European Community was in a rather early stage of its development. Not that we are anywhere near the goal yet, but we've come a long way. Some things change: the EAAS that turned 50 in Prague is no longer the pre-Heidelberg EAAS, having mutated from a small group of colleagues into a thousands-strong federation of 20 national or regional associations. Some things change less: back in the 70s, Chris Bigsby and I presented to the Board of EAAS a report on the necessity to translate and make available European scholarship in American Studies written in European languages other than English; the problem, to this day, has not been fully solved, even though the «European Contributions to American Studies» edited by R. Kroes in Amsterdam, and the European issues of national journals have gone some way towards that goal: in Prague, ASA President-elect Shelley Fisher Fishkin remarked that the work done in Europe over the last decades should receive larger recognition in the United States than linguistic and publishing difficulties have so far afforded it.

The European Association for American Studies has long been a source of energy and enthusiasm to me, among other reasons because it largely precedes political evolutions: several countries that are not part of the European Union contribute to the work of EAAS. I write these lines on the eve of May 1st 2004; ten «new» countries will have joined the EU by the time you read this. Attendant challenges are quite obvious. They should motivate rather than daunt us. The geographic area covered by our Association is distinct from that of political structures. So are our concerns and duties. Perhaps less than in the political sphere, the Western European mental and intellectual map of Europe, as C. Milosz once explained, is still covered with «white sectors», with what 16th-century Portuguese explorers beautifully called «sleeping beauties».

Western European Americanists still know too little about the activities and preoccupations of their Eastern and Central European colleagues. For all that, are we even sure Western European countries on the one hand and Central and Eastern European countries on the other have such a clear grasp of the preoccupations of their immediate neighbors? One of Europe's duties is to make Europeans feel European again, and anew. And it will come as no revelation to any member of EAAS that one of the perks of being a European Americanist is that it is a substantial introduction to the meaning of Europe itself, a meaning that transcends the mere addition of national identities. Having voiced the sense of pride and responsibility I feel at my new duties, I would like to seize the opportunity of this first address to the odd 4700 members of EAAS to underline two or three preoccupations.

First, there is no such thing as a living association, of any kind, without the contributions of its members. This truism is one I dare formulate only in the light of what consumer-oriented remarks once in a while manifest themselves. EAAS can only be something towards which one turns if it is first something to which everybody contributes. It follows that EAAS can only be what its members wish it to be if the latter help define it by their remarks and proposals, can only do what its members want it to do if needs and aspirations are expressed. And contributions proposed. To twist a famous phrase, «Do not ask what EAAS can do for you...» etc. Second, and therefore, I suggest communication channels between the EAAS Board and national associations should be made the most of, utilized more extensively and intensively to allow the Board to be in closer and more regular touch with the only legitimate base it has: its member national associations. Third, I believe the nature of EAAS compels it to try and formulate the specificity of European Americanist endeavors. We must learn about and discuss the variety of national intellectual and academic experiences vis-à-vis the United States, on the one hand, try and formulate, on the other, the potential, real, feared, wished for, problematic specificities of European research in the field of «American Studies», debate the relative validity of competing intellectual paradigms for teachers, academics and researchers working in our particular situation and environment. To that end, I see no reason why European Americanists should not seize every opportunity to provoke bi/multilateral local meetings alongside general European gatherings.

“America in the course of human events” - for the benefit of our knowledge and informed thought and conduct. The deliberations at the Prague conference left me, for one, with a feeling, indeed a conviction, that the Transatlantic intellectual exchange and cooperation should not be allowed to lose anything of the potential, and simultaneously I came to the conclusion that there is a great need to listen to each other within Europe. To be more specific, I think of the urgent need to listen to each other more also within our European Association for American Studies. To compare respectfully various views and ideas shaped by different historical experience in different parts of our continent can only enrich us and can, hopefully, contribute to our wisdom and mutual understanding. It should be our ambition to give space to fruitful diversity of scholarly opinions even within unifying Europe.

The four years as President of the EAAS provided me with many exciting moments – a few quite challenging, some naturally gratifying. It gave me the pleasure and privilege to cooperate with many colleagues, the officers and members of the Board, organizers of our meetings. The highlights and culminations of our collaboration were, undoubtedly, the two biennial conferences -- the one in Bordeaux in 2002 and the other in Prague two years later. It was both drudgery and fun to prepare the venues and the working conditions, to seek resources needed for the events, and it was good to see hundreds of colleagues come together and share the harvest of their scholarship, even to hear words of appreciation. I believe it is those gatherings that make EAAS a special family of friends, and it is the role of the conferences to keep communication in the community of scholars alive between the meetings. I would like to extend my gratitude to all those who have contributed in what-ever way to the life of our association – all those who took care of successful communication (and my apologies to those members who had to experience occasional failures) those who put us on the web, those who organized various activities that the EAAS is pursuing (publications of proceedings and special European

A number of new projects and plans will be discussed over the coming period. I would be happy if all members of EAAS were associated as closely as possible to these discussions and evolutions

Our next bi-annual conference, which will be organized by our colleagues of the Greek Association, will revolve around the notion of « conformism » (see below)

Received ideas are what I sincerely hope I shall not fall prey to, as I take up this challenge and accept what to me is a great honor indeed. I feel confident the work done by my predecessors will stand me in good stead. Hans Bak leaves impeccable finances to his own successor as Treasurer, Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, also our dedicated webmaster; Ole Moen, our Secretary-General, has, over the last two years, efficiently watched over us and will go on doing so. And Gülriz Büken, our Vice-President, is now completely responsible for the Newsletter which, from this issue on, which goes electronic for most members. If you read this, it must mean somebody did something right. Think of the work involved. And please, bear with possible imperfections as we forge ahead.

With officers like these, and given the convivial and collaborative atmosphere of the present Board, the task feels light and very pleasant. I embark upon it hoping very much I shall not disappoint. And call upon everyone to work together to make EAAS yet stronger, yet more useful, yet a better tool and meeting ground for all European Americanists.

Marc Chénétier, President-elect.
Paris, April 30th 2004

issues of journals, reviewing books, organizing travel grants, seeking financial support, taking care of funds, etc.). Simply, I would like to thank the EAAS wholeheartedly for the opportunity and privilege to serve it.

I believe that the Board could not have chosen better than elect as the new EAAS President our French colleague, Marc Chénétier, a dedicated European Americanist, a brilliant scholar and an EAAS member for years. Wishing him well in his presidency is wishing the European Association for American Studies well for the just newly opened second half century of its history.

Josef Jarab, President
Olomouc, May 30th 2004

2006 Biannual EAAS Conference

« Conformism, Non-conformism and Anti-conformism in the Culture of the United States »

The student of American culture cannot but be struck by the strange dialectical tension that exists between, on the one hand, the exigencies to conform that this society has exerted upon its members—from its Puritan historical bedrock to its current Moral majority or Moral Right via the desire to « keep up with the Joneses— and, on the other, the recurrent, insistent manifestations of a rebellious spirit, a fascination for the eccentric, the marginal and vocal, polymorphic protest—from Emerson's celebrated 'Whosoever would be a man should be a non-conformist' and Thoreau's dissent to a variety of rebels, with or without a cause.

The subject proposed to our study and meditation for the 2006 conference will accommodate the work of scholars in all specialties, concentrating on literature, the arts, history, religion, politics, and even linguistic divergences.

The notion of « the mainstream » once was defined by Robert Coover as « the tradition of the rebel, the transformer ». Refusals to conform have long answered an acute desire to ensure societal homogeneity by making sure conforming was a safer way to get through one's life and work, even though non-conformism could also be one of the most richly paved ways to success and fame. Philosophy, sociology, aesthetics and other realms of investigation can nourish this debate around polarized notions that may, according to the case, prove to derive from commonly shared assumptions or underline lasting cultural antagonisms, range from meekness to provocation, from revolt to individual or collective egotism, from a thirst for order to a call for imagination (Webster's Dictionary associates conformism with an « unimaginative mind »...).

If the EAAS Board thought the question useful, it trusts the membership of EAAS will be massively willing to provide tentative sets of answers, whether they conform or not with the Americanist vulgate. The Board eagerly hopes many European Americanists will deem the matter of sufficient—and potentially reflexive!—interest to gather around it, hopefully in Cyprus, thus contributing to a relativized view of oppositions that may well largely result from conformist adherence to received ideas—received ideas being what intellectuals and academics cannot bear with or leave unexamined for long without betraying their own task.



One of the highlight of the Prague Conference was the Poetry Reading held in the Cafe Viola where a thrilling poetry feast was offered by the Pulitzer Prize winner African-American poet Yusef Komunyakaa. Coincidentally, Josef Jarab's translation of the famous poet's verse was recently published and so a welcome and signing of the book could take place on the occasion. Above, Josef Jarab reads from his translations while Yusef Komunyakaa and the rest of the audience listen to how the author's exciting and jazzy verse sounds in Czech.

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**EAAS BIENNIAL CONFERENCE, PRAGUE
CHARLES UNIVERSITY, APRIL 2-5, 2004
REPORT ON WORKSHOPS AND SHOPTALKS**

WORKSHOPS

Below you will find the Workshop Reports from the Prague conference. In order to keep the reports within the 250-word limit, the titles of some papers may have been left out. Therefore it is recommended that you check the conference booklet for these data as you read the reports.

WORKSHOP 1: Ethnicity, Race and Memory: The Politics of Representation

Chairs: Maria-Antònia Oliver-Rotger, Universitat Pompeu Fabra, Spain; Celeste-Marie Bernier, University of Nottingham, England.

In session 1, Sabine Schindler discussed reenactments of slavery in Colonial Williamsburg, focusing on authenticity, history and memory and how the museum could recreate the historical past of slavery for visitors. In her treatment of Edward Said's *Out Of Place*, Iona Luca asked a fundamental question concerning politics and memory: how is personal testimony used in the service of a political agenda? How does that usage mitigate and/or pull against claims to authenticity in representations of the autobiographical self? Finally, Lene Johannessen examined Americo Paredes' George Washington Gomez to investigate the processes of undoing memory which operate in this text. The sheer diversity and range of material uncovered and explored throughout this session was both impressive and stimulating.

In session 2, papers presented engaged the relationship between the representation of identity and the recovery of cultural and historical memory in literature and painting. Looking at the textualization of historical events in Toni Morrison's latest trilogy, Isabel Salto Weis stressed Morrison's concern with the difficulty of manipulating and successfully changing history, as well as with exposing its fragile nature. Eliane Elmaleh's analysis of Jacob Lawrence's series *The Great Migration* established a connection between the painter's social commitment and the representation of black history. Tamara Denisova's work on Askold Melnyczuk's *What is Told* related the novel's positive reception in the context of American multicultural self-consciousness to its postmodern treatment of the Ukrainian diaspora. The discussion centered mainly on the use of myth as counter-historical, oppositional narrative in fiction. Observers also addressed the correlation between the use of postmodernist fragmentary techniques and inner psychological fragmentation or trauma in the

fictional rendition of minoritized experiences. Furthermore, the interaction between the text-image in Lawrence's paintings and the key role played by abstraction were also addressed.

WORKSHOP 2: Re-presentations of Masculinity in Twentieth-Century American Literature

Chairs: Àngels Carabí, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain; David Leverenz, University of Florida, USA.

WORKSHOP 3: American Gothic: Boundaries, Alternatives, Challenges

Chairs: Charles L. Crow, Bowling Green State University, Ohio, USA; Martin Procházka, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic.

The eight presenters offered broad overviews of the topic and detailed analyses of specific texts. The first group of papers attempted to define American Gothic as a cultural form. Agnieszka Soltysik discussed the aesthetic and historical aspects of the term "American Gothic" in critical discourses from the 1950s to the present. Fay Ringel explored the relations of Gothic literature and film to the past, and their impact on current political and cultural debates in the United States.

The key issue of race in America was discussed in three papers. Allan Lloyd Smith applied Lacanian analysis to Melville's "Benito Cereno." R. J. Ellis uncovered the racial subtext in Spofford's "The Amber Gods," and Susan Castillo explored the problematic term "creole" in G. W. Cable's story "Belles Demoiselles Plantation."

Remaining papers dealt with the relevance of contemporary theories for the interpretation of American Gothic. Marc Amfreville used insights from Deleuze to interpret the tensions between realism, metafiction and "the logic of sensation" in Charles Brockden Brown's novel *Arthur Mervyn*. Relations between textuality and film techniques were explored in Heather Johnson's discussion of William Gaddis's *Carpenter's Gothic*. Here, as well as in William Moss's paper on Thomas Pynchon and Walker Percy, the Gothic was studied as a structural metaphor. In summary remarks, Martin Procházka stressed the need for careful and rigorous definition of the term Gothic, which now seems in danger of becoming too loose and inclusive.

WORKSHOP 4: The Changing Image of America: The View From Europe

Chair: András Csillag, Teachers' College of the University of Szeged, Hungary.

As to the general image of the US Elke Van Cassel explained that *The Reporter* magazine was greatly concerned about anti-American sentiment overseas during the Cold War and urged US policymakers to consider this. Federico Romero emphasized that Western Europe's strategic aims have changed and there is disagreement with US foreign policy; however, transatlantic interests might converge in the future again. Pierre Guerlain argued that French leaders are at least as arrogant in Europe as American ones on the world stage. Mare Paul Friedman stressed that US scholars investigating anti-Americanism play down the political content of foreign complaint while focusing on the symbolic meanings of America or offering psychological explanations. As to attitudes in specific countries: Manuel Broncano interpreted the film "Bienvenido Mr. Marshall," as a symbol of disillusionment that beautifully conveyed the complex view of Spanish-American relations in the early 1950s. Joseph Grmela elaborated on how recent foreign policy developments have made Czech public opinion skeptical of the traditionally positive image of the US. Baris Gümüşbas argued that Turkish-American relations, basically of a military nature, have become part of the political agenda with some media serving pro-American policies in Turkey. Irina Gribovskaya drew attention to the fact that following Bill Clinton's visit and the sympathy after 9/11, the enthusiasm for everything American has passed in Belarus. András Csillag, the chair pointed out that despite America's current image problem, educators are responsible for training European students to form an objective, value-based image of US history, society and culture, free from the political overtones of the day.

WORKSHOP 5: Mapping 'America' as a Sign of Liberation or Containment

Chairs: Jude Davies, King Alfred's College Winchester, UK; Jaap Kooijman, University of Amsterdam, The Netherlands.

This workshop combined analyses of the export of US presence beyond the borders of the USA, with a focus on the local and regional cultures over which America has exerted the pull of desire and/or the push of domination. Thus, Carol Smith discussed the intertwined history of the British and the American National Portrait Galleries as a rebarbative example of Paul Gilroy's 'Black Atlantic'. Moving from official projects of nation-building to racialized performances of national identity, Lisa Merrill examined the ways in

which fugitive slave William Wells Brown and African American orator Mary Webb performed their 'foreignness' for British and European audiences around the time of the American Civil War. Jaap Kooijman and Jude Davies brought this trans-atlantic focus into the present, via, respectively, an analysis of the possibilities and the limitations of utilizing American models in pop culture in the Netherlands, and the transatlantic cultural politics of the intelligence or stupidity attributed to political figures.

A second panel examined how sex, gender and sexuality mediate and have been mediated by cross-national influences. Alan McPherson analyzed how assumptions about masculinity and femininity informed the ideas about nationhood held on both sides during the US protectorate over Panama after World War II. Raili Pöldsäär argued that the adoption of marketized economic and cultural forms in post-1989 Estonia has been accompanied by the identification of feminist resistance as "American" in a negative sense. The panel closed with two accounts, which challenged assumptions about the power of American influence. Milena Katzarska demonstrated that the "American" signs in *Playboy's* Bulgarian edition were over-determined by national and generational identifications, while Bart Eeckhout demonstrated the relative independence of Flemish Queer culture from American models.

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

Chairs: Christina Giorcelli, Terza Università di Roma, Italy; Arancha Usandizaga, University of Barcelona, Spain

Ekaterina Stetsenko's analysis of Mitchell's novel *Gone with the Wind* focused on the processes by which literature humanises the history of the American South and the connections between the period of Reconstruction and the American political world between the two World Wars. Hartwig Isenhausen argued that in Dos Passos's oeuvre his historic/historiographic interest realizes itself in realism and in forms of deconstructive experimentalism that shatters traditional historiographic narratives about World War I. Maria Anita Stefanelli commented that, in his early poetry, Patchen revisits his national history and suggests an opening to an alternate order and in his 1967 collection, he welcomes insanity as chaos entering history and creates picture poems upholding the vernacular, the calligraphic, and the personal. William Blazek's paper investigated Cummings' innovative autobiographical narrative, his defence of individualism, and the process of creative writing. Blazek's archival research demonstrated the text's relationship to the historical record of American volunteers in France. Aránzazu Usandizaga emphasized that in "Mediterranean" Rukeyser visualizes the connection

between art and history and that this awareness becomes the starting point of much of her later writing. Cristanne Miller fore-grounded that Moore criticized individual self-righteousness and prejudice rather than institutions and nations in her poetry written during the World War II and Shira Wolosky draw attention to Moore's poetry wherein the reticence about the gendered self is also a display of it, a presentation of gendered position as an historical as well as an ethical and spiritual stance. Isolda Geniusiene accentuated that Pound's Chinese Cantos assert the transhistorical nature of events and characters.

WORKSHOP 7: Law, Ethics, and America's Sphere of Influence

Chair: Matthew Guillen, Université de Paris XII, France.

Axel Schäfer's opening essay "Religion, the Cold War, and the Politics of Evangelicalism in the United States: 1942-1980" described the measures employed by America's religious right wing in suborning Cold War issues to their advantage—a practice ostensibly co-opting, by use of religious and ethical rhetoric, America's attempt at establishing a welfare state as a means of justifying and facilitating Cold War public policies. In underscoring America's use of "Soft" power—a relatively unobtrusive exercise in influence through the mediation of cultural and subtly economic rather than military means—Helle Porsdam's "From Pax Americana to Lex Americana: How Constitutionalism, American Style, is Coming our Way" set out the foundations of EU constitutionalism as the lingering presence of American values through a rather benign "packaging" of American ideas and principles in the preponderance of exported cultural artifacts veiled behind marketing stratagems and Hollywood iconography in the Post WWII era. Gerard Teboul's "International Marketing of Genetically Modified Organisms" detailed America's role in disseminating GMOs in terms of moral claims (increasing scant food supplies to Third World Nations) which tend to sidestep the debate on possible adverse consequences of such practice to health and environment. Teresa Dugan—"Narrative Strategies in Science and Politics"—described American terminological and methodological influence on AIDS-related identification and research. Finally, Matthew Guillen's "Originalism and its Discontents: Constitutional Lending, Borrowing, and Intransigence" raised questions concerning the reliability of the differing research methodologies governing Rakove's, Bork's and Dworkin's competing hypotheses on applying "originalist" or "strict constructionist" readings of US Constitutional dicta.

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

Chair: Adrienne Kallfopoulou, The University of La Verne, Athens, Greece.

This workshop, divided between backward looks at America from European locations (session one) and papers which spoke of increasing complexities of hybridity (ethnic, racial, gendered) in a contemporary 20th century American literary landscape (session two), problematized the legacies and realities of the American cultural self. First session presentations encompassed a discussion of Henry James' "bewilderment of cultural identity" in *The Ambassadors* (Agnes Kovacs), Margaret Fuller's transfigured, and translated paradigms of cultural otherness in Italy (Anne Ford), H.D.'s modernist efforts to render art the necessary vehicle for self-creation in Paris (Krystyna Mazur), and the American journalist Edith Anderson's expatriate relations in cold war Germany (Sibylle Klemm). Second session papers fore-grounded the multiplicity of subversions of dominant white, Western discursive traditions in the narratives of, among others, Chinese-American, Japanese-American and Native-American texts. Beginning with Barbara Kingsolver's *The Poisonwood Bible*, the deconstruction of whiteness and its master texts accesses subaltern worlds and linguistic possibilities (Justine Tally). In Amy Tan's *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, essentialist concepts of "ethnic authenticity" are interrogated as narrative strategies of storytelling become their own openended cultural sites (Helena Maragou). "Environmental Criticism and the Concept of Power" is examined in Linda Hogan's *Power* to demonstrate the redemptive significance of Native-American rituals necessarily bound to community and the natural world. Finally, in "Cynthia Kadohata and the Diasporic Asian-American Subject" America as a space of hybridity is defined through the subjectivity of the immigrant defined and transformed by a "liminal in-betweenness" that resists fixity (Jopi Nyman).

WORKSHOP 9: The Forging of Southern Exceptionalism

Chairs: Jacques Pothier, Université de Versailles St Quentin, France; Stuart Kidd, University of Reading, UK.

The morning session considered aspects of Southern distinctiveness in twentieth century literature, beginning with Gene M. Moore's overview of Faulkner's strategic defense of the Southern difference as a set of positive values, while identifying its indefensible features, such as lynching, as American traits. Looking at the typically Southern types in *Father and Son* (1997) by another writer from Oxford,

Larry Brown, Thomas Aervold Bjerre showed how it was suffused with the themes and motifs of the western aesthetic. Ineke Bockting rounded off the session with a study of song-lyrics, which have consistently presented the Southern issue as nostalgia for a lost place. The afternoon session featured three presentations focusing on very different aspects of southern exceptionalism. David Brown and David Waller considered the critical comments about southern distinctiveness from British consuls in the United States during the 1850s. Berndt Ostendorf related cartoon figures - Pogo, Churchy La Femme, and Molester Mole - to domestic politics during the Cold War era, and Stuart Kidd considered regional influences in the career of Muhammad Ali.

WORKSHOP 10: "America: Love It or Leave It": Discourses of Crisis in the Sixties

Chairs: Yonka Krasteva, University of Veliko Turnovo, Bulgaria; Alexander Bloom, Wheaton College, Illinois, USA.

Yonka Krasteva opened the morning session with some introductory remarks on the general background of the 1960s and the specific aspects that the workshop papers address. Paul Lauter's opening paper set the tone by considering how we assess this decade in the world of contemporary scholarship. The three remaining morning papers dealt with particular political and social issues of the time--civil rights (Gretchen Eick), student activism (Jacek Romaniuk), and ethnic identity and political consciousness (Tom Kuipers). The afternoon session dealt with the works of Norman Mailer (Sonia Basic), Diane Arbus (Pascale Antonin), and an assessment of black women's activism (Ewa Antoszek). Beyond the individual strengths of the papers, the weaving of themes in and out of the essays provided interesting continuity and comparisons.

Alexander Bloom, offered some remarks on what the morning papers demonstrated, when taken together, including a sense of how contemporary scholarship reflects many 60s issues. He would have done the same in the afternoon sessions, but the question period ran beyond the time for the session.

WORKSHOP 11: Violence and Tragedy: A Comparative Study of Commemorative Sites and their Symbolic Meaning

Chairs: Jerzy Kutnik, Marii Curie-Sklodowska University, Poland; Maureen Montgomery, University of Canterbury, New Zealand.

This workshop included papers that examined literary, material and architectural forms of commemoration of acts of violence and tragedy in the twentieth century, acts that have been stains on the

past of both the United States and Europe. The commemorative sites covered ranged from interpretative sites such as World War Two death camps and relocation camps to mass graves in Bosnia to museums and memorials on both sides of the Atlantic. What emerged from the eight papers was the way in which the Holocaust stood out as the major reference point for discussion of this topic, how it shaped the way in which writers, architects and museum curators interpreted events and dealt with the trauma of both terrorist attacks and wartime massacres. As was demonstrated by each case study and the discussion that followed, commemoration has been the site of struggle between competing groups in their search for a form that will always fall short of the real. The struggle may involve the articulation of competing political ideologies or moral values, or reveal a rift between official history and collective memory but, at the heart of the enterprise is the mediation of the unspeakable.

WORKSHOP 12: The Relevance of the American Revolution in an Atlantic and Global World

Chair: Simon P. Newman, University of Glasgow, Scotland.

The participants in this panel demonstrated that scholars at work in Europe add a new dimension to work on the American Revolution produced in the United States. The American Revolution, the Founding Fathers, and the Declaration, Constitution and Bill of Rights enjoy iconic status in the United States, and few people in the United States realize the ways in which the American Revolution worked or failed to work as a model in 18th, 19th and 20th century Europe. Thomas Clark, Marie-Jeanne Rossignol and Csaba Levai presented papers on the American Revolution in Germany, France and Hungary. Ari Helo and Joseph Mullin explored American political thought in both a historical and a contemporary political context. Zoe Detsi-Diamanti explored the patriotic plays of the revolutionary period, Andrew Pepper discussed Hollywood representations of the American Revolution, and Simon Newman dealt with European and American reactions to contemporary attacks on the civil liberties protected by the Constitution. Those who attended and participated in this workshop enjoyed a full and spirited exchange, which demonstrated how different the American Revolution looks from outside, and it is hoped that a collection of essays will be published as a result of this stimulating exchange of ideas.

WORKSHOP 13: European Reception of American Transcendentalism: Problems of Interpretation

Chairs: Elvira Osipova, St. Petersburg University, Russia; Monika Mueller, University of Cologne, Germany.

Seven papers presented by speakers from Poland, Romania, Italy, Germany, the Czech Republic and Denmark covered both aspects of the proposed theme: "European Reception of American Transcendentalism: problems of interpretation". Bohuslav Manek, in his well-documented paper, spoke about the Czech response to the ideas of Emerson, Thoreau and Whitman. Franzichok. Lyra discussed the richness and variety of Polish response to the American ideas. Iulian Cananau presented his research in Romanian reception and reasons why the impact of American ideas was comparatively limited. Rosella Mamoli Zorzi devoted her paper to Margaret Fuller, but her emphasis was on Fuller's American rather than European reception.

The problems of interpretation were discussed in the second session, which was devoted to Emerson. Joseph Schoepp spoke about the impact of Emerson's first trip to Europe on shaping his ideas; Pavlina Hacova compared the books of Carlyle and Emerson on heroes and representative men. She dwelt on the composition rather than on Emerson's polemics with Carlyle on the role of great men in history. Jan Nordby Gretlund focused on epistemological aspects of Transcendentalism. His presentation, the journey of ideas from Kant to Coleridge and Emerson, however, missed a significant element, that of the role of Schelling's ideas in shaping English and American Transcendentalism. The lively discussion was mostly devoted to the problems of interpretation and the impact of "the living thoughts" of Emerson, Thoreau and Fuller "on the course of human events".

WORKSHOP 14: Discourse of Conflict in Intercultural Dialogue: us/US

Chairs: Tatiana Venediktova, Moscow University, Russia; Michel Peprnik, Palacký University, the Czech Republic.

The workshop embraced a wide range of subjects and "cases": Polish-American immigrant writing of the early 20th century (Danuta Romaniuk); the German-American mid-century writers and music composer in exile, caught up in the Cold War discourse (Frank Mehring); American cold war propaganda in Turkey (Irem Balkir); violence-as-communication in the fiction of the American South (Marcel Arbeit); a variety of contemporary urban class and ethnic conflicts (Wojciech Kallas) and globalization discourses (Alena Smieskova); the textual hybridization as a formal projection of cultural interaction (Cristina Garrigos), or the recent expatriate experience in Tangiers (I.C.Fernández). All contributors focused on the rhetoric and the forms of representation of conflict in and by the various cultural media.

The papers gave clear evidence that it is the intercultural conflict that receives greatest attention.

It can take form of the conflict between the old and the new, the pre-modern and the modern). It can be intra-personal (a clash between a subject's affiliations due to "belonging" to one culture while "fitting" another) or inter-personal.

Popular culture and urban environment – as both defy cultural hierarchies and sovereignties through offering all cultural groups means of easy self-refashioning – proved to be of particular interest in this connection. These are the realms where cultural conflicts get played out, negotiated, occasionally dissolved (rather than solved). The papers confirmed the general suspicion that the strength of contemporary literature and criticism is not in its ability to design new strategies of solving the conflict but in registering and articulating the existing ones and perhaps fulfill a therapeutic function through exercising an aesthetic distance. If aesthetic distance gives way to raw authenticity, the conflicts may result in antagonism and guilt complexes that obstruct any positive development towards a solution, synthesis or reconciliation.

WORKSHOP 15: Reimagining the American West

Chairs: David Rio, Universidad del Pais Vasco, Paseo de la Universidad, Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain.

The papers presented explored the continuing fascination with the American West in contemporary writing, films, and visual arts. Teresa Cid discussed how the western desert lands have evolved as cultural and fantastic landscapes, looking at George Herriman's cartoons and W.J.T. Mitchell's dinosaurs. Susan Swetnam traced the history of cowboy poetry as a commodified genre and noted its conventions, discussing also the debate among Idaho's cowboy poets in the light of issues of perceived authenticity, marketing of culture, and regional/personal identity. David Rio addressed the new prominence of the city landscape in contemporary western writing, focusing on the atmosphere of chaos and excess associated with Las Vegas in Hunter S. Thompson's *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas* (1971). Martin Padgett examined the multiple ways in which some contemporary writers (Gloria Anzaldúa, Jimmy Santiago Baca, Simon Ortiz, Leslie Marmon Silko...) have dramatized ideas about ethnicity, place and cultural memory in southwestern literature. Bent Sorensen analyzed Cormac McCarthy's *Blood Meridian* (1985) as an instance of *katabasis*, i.e., a mythographical descent into Hell, for the protagonist, noting that this novel has the dual function of de-mythologizing and re-mythologizing the West. Finally, K. Prajznerová argued that in *Song of the Hummingbird* (1996) Graciela Limón exposes the continuing legacy of colonization in the Southwest, indicating that the principles of the cultural politics involved continue to be played out in the present.

WORKSHOP 16: Jewish American Writing and Jewish Identity

Chairs: Kristiaan Versluys, Ghent University, Belgium; Susanne Rohr, Kennedy Institute, Free University Berlin, Germany.

This well-attended workshop started with a keynote address by Lillian Kremer, the dean of Holocaust studies in the US. Her overview of the achievement of Jewish American fiction set the stage for probing contributions which ranged from a discussion of the figure Mordecai M. Noah in the first half of the nineteenth century to a consideration of a contemporary art installation by Arie A. Galles and Jerome Rothenberg. The papers were centered around the various (mostly textual) strategies that have been applied by Jewish American writers in order to save the historical past from stasis. In particular, the workshop explored how contemporary Jewish American writers and artists struggle to formulate a Jewish American identity *after* (yet always in relation to) the Holocaust. In negotiating delayed trauma through the exercise of "post-memory", second-generation Holocaust survivors develop meta-fictional and stylistic methods to create an "unreality effect," that differs from the sacral tone of the first generation yet bears witness to the illegibility of the event. By tracing the permutations Jewish American writing has undergone over time, the participants in the workshop sessions – Lillian Kremer, Stanislav Kolár, Annette Jael Lehmann, Roy Goldblatt, Markus Heide, Kate Delaney, Pirjo Ahokas and Geneviève Cohen-Cheminet – proved the continued relevance of ethnicity and tradition as markers of Jewish identity.

WORKSHOP 17: Cinema and the American Experience

Chairs: Gilles Ménégaldo, University of Poitiers, France; Melvyn Stokes, University College London, UK.

Each of the three speakers in the first session of the workshop focussed on a particular auteur (Alan Bilton on Buster Keaton, Christof Decker on Robert Altman, and Bernd Herzogenrath on F. W. Murnau) linking his work with a different experience of Hollywood cinema and the wider American culture. In a stimulating paper, Bilton illuminated the connection between Keaton's life and the creativity of his art. In a wide-ranging analysis of Altman's films, Decker emphasized the originality of his narrative approach. Herzogenrath provided a thoughtful analysis of Murnau's *Sunrise* and *Taboo*. Taken together, these papers articulated some clearly-defined themes: country versus city, the romanticization of the past, consumerism and culture, the discontents of modern civilization, and the processes of changing reality into cinematic art.

In the second session of the workshop, Thomas Inge examined the collaboration between French director Jean Renoir and William Faulkner. Renoir's *The Southerner*, his only American film set in the South, was positioned in relation to debates over Southern developments and an evolving myth of the South. Claudia Schwarz examined the science-fiction genre. She emphasized the ways in which films from ground-breaking classics such as Kubrick's *2001* to *The Matrix* and *Armageddon* reflected the fascinations and anxieties of the (post)modern spectator. Giuliana Muscio focused on the image of Italy in independently produced late silent and early sound films, developing the interactions between films of this kind and staged melodramas and comedies. Giuliana emphasized the traumatic nature of the American experience for many Italian expatriates. Raphaëlle Costa de Beauregard linked together the war films of William Wellman and propaganda films (e.g. *The Way Ahead*) in order to foreground the originality of Wellman's aesthetics. She emphasised the cross-cultural basis of Wellman's treatment of the American experience. Both sessions were well-attended and provoked lively discussions.

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

Chair: Lina Unali, University of Rome Tor Vergata, Italy.

Klara Szmanko read a paper entitled "Beyond Black and White: Striving for Visibility in Maxine Hong Kingston's *Tripmaster Monkey* and Chang-Rae Lee's *Native Speaker*" which she defined as an attempt to undermine the black and white binary logic. She argued that the two authors are not concerned with the celebration of a difference but with critical multiculturalism. Begoña Simal Gonzalez's paper entitled "Reading Asian American Literature as Socio Historical Document: the History and the Polemics" traced the history of Asian American literary criticism, from Kim's *Asian American Literature* (1982) until recently. Heather Gardner emphasized in her paper entitled "The Music of America in S. Rushdi's *The Ground Beneath Her Feet*", that it is a pop version of Orpheus and Eurydice where rock music is celebrated as a global phenomenon.

In session two, Mariko Iijima's paper entitled "The Japanese Independent Farmers in Hawaii from 1900 to the 1930s" demonstrated the diversification of Japanese communities in Hawaii after the Annexation to the United States. In her "Children's Literature in Asian America" Elisabetta Marino focused on picture books concerning and/or written by Chinese-Americans. She pointed out three phases, from 1938 to the present. Jinzhao Li's paper entitled "Rethinking Diaspora through Chinese American Tour to China" offered an original contribution to Diaspora studies

by combining ethnic tourism, gender analysis, and US colonial and imperial history. Dale Carter, in his paper entitled "Rising Songs: The Japanese-American Relationship in Van Dyke Parks' *Tokyo Rose*" introduced an aspect of Asian-American Studies that has received little attention so far.

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

Chairs: Catherine Collomp, Université Paris VII Denis-Diderot, France; Marizio Vaudagna, University of Eastern Piedmont, Torino, Italy.

Our format, two papers and one commentator at each two-hour session, allowed ample time for discussion and comparisons. Elisabeth Thevenard presented a study of "European Influence on Progressive Era Social Reformers: The Case of Workmen's Compensation" and Anja Schuler "How Advanced America is! The German Women's Movement and American Social Reform". These papers pointed out that a considerable degree of exchange between Europe and America shaped the drafting of early welfare measures. Transatlantic influence was not simply one way. If many American reformers traveled to Germany, England or France to learn about patterns of workmen's compensation, German women reformers clearly saw Jane Addams' settlement house movement as the most inspiring model. Especially the Commentator, Alexander Sedlmaier, underlined the methodological challenge in doing international comparisons: the influence of one national model upon another and the competitive character of international relations.

"The Ambiguous Mirror: Europe and Economic Citizenship in Progressive America" by Alice Kessler-Harris focused on how European models of economic security were transformed by its American application by the New Deal Administration: European notion of fairness versus American emphasis on wage-work to create entitlements. "Maternity Leave in the United States and Italy: Exchanging Glances" by Elisabetta Vezzosi accentuated that Fascist Italy was more advanced than the United States in the protection of working mothers and pregnant women. The "maternalist" philosophy of American reformers continued for a long time (until the Clinton administration) to be dominated by the notion of the "male-breadwinner" ideology.

Commentator Marianne Debouzy insisted on the necessity to decode underlying national assumptions when doing transnational comparisons. The US and Italy were different—e.g. the nature of the state and notions of fairness and equity—which transformed models when they were traveled. Because of the complementary character of the papers

and commentaries in this panel, organizers and participants would like to publish them together as a group.

WORKSHOP 20: Trauma, Memory, History

Chair: Maria Cristina Iuli, UPO (University of Eastern Piedmont) Vercelli, Italy.

The workshop addressed the relation between traumatic events in the history of the United States and their inscriptions in literary and historical narratives, focusing on the trope of trauma and its relation to both representation and witnessing. Papers addressed, among others: Nora Okja Keller's novel *Comfort Woman* and its problematic re-inscription of the sexual servitude of Korean women under the Japanese military occupation within a set of contemporary North American cultural scripts which tend to recontain the significance of the historical trauma (Deborah Madsen); Toni Morrison's *Beloved* as a breakthrough moment for postcolonial and post middle-passage cultural recuperation (Sabine Broeck); the historico-critical engagement of historians and African American writers with the "white folk culture of lynching" memorialized by lynching postcards that circulated among white communities in the wake of such crimes (Andrew Warnes); the conditions of production and censorship of John Huston's film *The Battle of San Pietro*, shot in Italy during WWII, and its later recuperation within a cathartic process of reconciliation with the past by those who survived that battle (Daria Frezza); the implications of appropriating a camp survivor identity and the public exhibition of the forgery for the project of remembering the events of the Nazi concentration camps, in Cato Jaramillo's 1995 "fake" memoir *Too Stubborn to Die* (Bruno Arich-Gertz); Charles Reiznikoff's long poem *Holocaust* and its positioning within the debate about the viability of aesthetic discourse in relation to the experience of the *Shoah* (Agatha Preis-Smith); The patterns and strategies enlisted by 9-11 literature to remember, "frame the void", and integrate memory and remembrance in the forging of what has been called post-calamity *imaginative restoration* (Aili McCannon).

WORKSHOP 21: North American Native Voices in Conversation: Dualities and Unities

Chairs: Brigitte Georgi-Findlay, University of Dresden, Germany; Klara Kolinska, Masaryk University, Brno, Czech Republic

The workshop explored past and current discourses on Native American politics, literatures and cultures from an interdisciplinary perspective. Among the topics discussed were the politics of contemporary Native American and Canadian Native novels (connections between cosmopolitanism, cosmology,

and transnationalism, gender politics, representation of cultural conflict and healing, contradictions between environmentalism and the cultural survival of Native American tribes), the textual hybridity of Indian autobiographies, and the threads connecting early 20th-century and contemporary Native literatures.

Recurring issues for debate were the problematic definitions of Indian authenticity and authority, the role of humor in complicating the story of the "tragic Indian," and the way cultural difference (including perspectives on gender difference) is produced in Native American discourse. In addition, the often noted difference between American and Canadian Native policies was put in question. The most hotly debated issue was certainly the possible contradiction between the needs of environmental protection (protection of endangered species) and the cultural needs of Native American tribes (hunting practices such as whale hunting that may help in the revival of dying cultures but ultimately may contribute to the extinction of endangered species), issues that are raised in both contemporary Native novels and contemporary tribal politics.

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

Chair: Arne Neset, Stavanger University College, Norway.

The workshop explored European and American contributions to modernism in painting, photography, industrial design and advertising, and ways in which they influenced and modified each other across the Atlantic between the two World Wars. In the first session of the workshop Fredrik Brøgger surveyed the way modernism and cubism had influenced the design of American car advertising in the 1920s and *Ralph Willett* (University of Hull) explored the relationships between the Art Deco vogue and the consumerist revolution it inaugurated.

In the second session, Gwendolyn Owens explained how the invention of Maurice Prendergast, Arthur B. Davies, and Robert Henri as "American" modernists made modern art safe for American collectors. Annie Cohen-Solal explored the role of Alfred H. Barr Jr., the first director of MOMA, as a guide and mediator of modernism for the American people. Jean Kempf discussed the relationships between European and American Photography in the 20s and 30. Finally Fernando González Moreno and Beatriz González Moreno outlined the origin and role of the Hispanic Society of America, founded in New York in 1904, as a meeting point between America and Spain. All papers were well presented and

sometimes generated considerable comments and discussion in the audience.

WORKSHOP 23: The Evocation of Pain in American Culture

Chair: Nieves Pascual, Universidad de Jaén, Spain.

The Workshop was divided into two sessions developed on Saturday, April 3rd, from 10.30 to 12.30 a.m. and 15.30-17.30 pm. The first session was devoted to the representation of pain in painting and film. Only two speakers were able to attend the Conference, but discussion was fruitful because of the number of participants (around 18). Iren E. Annus explored the representation of pain in American paintings through an analysis of canonized pictures in the history of American art. Asbjorn Gronstad examined the theoretical ramifications which the aesthetization of pain engenders in David Fincher's movie *Fight Club*. The second session was devoted to narratives. Patrycja Kurjatto focused on the pain as suffered by Eva Walvogel in Luise Erdrich's *The Master Burchers' Singing Club*; Gudrum Grabher centered on silence as the way to communicate pain in Susan Dood's *The Mourner's Bench*, and Erik Kielland-Kund examined masculine pain in Chuck Pañahniuk's *Fight Club*. Many issues and paradoxes were brought up and discussed. We reached several conclusions. First, that pain liquidates the individual, but, within the same movement, it confers identity. Second, its enactment gives you agency, but deprives you of agency in a culture that demands a work of art when you are in pain and instructs you on the sensation terms to use. And, third, even though the art of pain is said to be therapeutic, it could also void the self of self and become re-traumatizing.

WORKSHOP 24: American Studies and the Sciences

Chairs: Ruth Oldenziel, University of Amsterdam, TU Eindhoven; Sabine Sielke, University of Bonn, Germany.

In the two panels of this workshop eight papers were devoted to the question how studies of science can contribute to the study of North America and visa versa. In their introduction Sielke and Oldenziel mapped the scope of the discussion, underlining how the life sciences challenge established notions of gender, body, and subjectivity and how science, technology, and medicine become part of the American studies agenda once understood as social and cultural practices situated in time and place. Manuela Rossini offered methodological suggestions to answer these questions. Gregory Tomso challenged the post-911 critical, yet national turn of American Studies, offering imaginative possibilities for non-aligned scientific

inquiries by recuperating the psychology tradition of Perkins Gilman and Marshall. Focusing on science fiction film, Ingrid Thaler explored the impact of the sciences on recent popular culture while Richard Profozich pointed out the ambivalence towards science and technology deployed in American cinematic discourse. Two contributions focused on the interface between science and literature. Melissa Fabros situated the scientific discourse employed in the poetry of A. R. Ammons in the context of Cold War containment policies and the emergence of the military-industrial complex. Christina Makris's contribution showed how Madeline Gins goes beyond the metaphorical use of scientific knowledge by generating an experimental poetry that makes structural contributions to the growing knowledge of cognitive sciences.

The panels evolved pointed questions and generated a productive discussion which underlined that American studies is highly invested in an ongoing dialogue with the sciences.

WORKSHOP 25: Is It Lonely at the Top? The Role of the Presidency in the World's only Superpower

Chair: George Edwards, Texas A&M University, USA

Organizer: Philip John Davies, Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library, London, De Montfort Univ., Leicester, UK.

John Owens contended that foreign policy dominance of the agenda had increased the president's authority in the executive/legislative tussle, and this might be 'a permanent shift of power ... legitimated by the president's 'war' on terrorism metaphor'. George Edwards argued persuasively that Bush is a revolutionary, and has been an effective strategist, successful in bringing about change in a closely divided and highly partisan political context. Jon Roper discussed the central role of opportunities and constraints in executive authority. Stephen Wayne argued that September 11 gave Bush 'the opportunity to show whether he was up to the task, and most importantly, to finish his father's work'. And he is following his father's re-election model, 'denigrate his opponent, shroud himself in the flag as a war leader, and put forth a record which he believed merited a positive judgment by the American people.'

Edward Ashbee pointed out that the White House's approach towards the issues raised by gay and lesbian campaigners has been more ambiguous than might have been expected, perhaps in the light of American public attitudes becoming more tolerant. Frank Austermuhl focused on the presentation of the presidential self in the rhetoric of the Executive, aimed at creating an I-friendly context of fear and insecurity. Robert McGeehan also mentioned fear - feeling that 'fear and loathing of the United States in

general and President George W. Bush in particular reach levels far exceeding those of recent decades'. Both sessions were well-supported, and the responsive audiences of 40+ kept both Chairman and Organizer very busy!

WORKSHOP 26: The Political Role of the US Supreme Court in Recent Decades

Chair: Erik Åsard, The Swedish Institute for North American Studies, Uppsala University, Sweden.

Six papers were presented in this workshop. Birgit Wetzel-Sahm focused on some of the main Supreme Court rulings guaranteeing the right to privacy in the area of familial and sexual relationships. Jacques Portes talked about the political itinerary of former Chief Justice Earl Warren. Ole O. Moen's paper detailed the shift to the right of the Supreme Court under its current Chief Justice, William H. Rehnquist. Moen argued that the Rehnquist Court has imposed limitations on the federal power to protect the rights of women, minorities, and other underprivileged groups in US society.

Manfred Berg discussed the Court's rulings on black voting rights from the 1965 Voting Rights Act to the present. Starting with the famous *Brown* decision of 1954, Ingrid Kalkhoven gave a presentation of the role of the Supreme Court in school desegregation through compulsory school bussing. Lastly, Vincent Michelot argued that the Bush White House has designed a judicial strategy aimed at furthering a Republican political realignment. There was wide agreement among workshop participants that the next appointment to the Supreme Court could have a major impact on the future balance of power between the three branches of government.

SHOPTALKS

THE AMERICAN STUDIES SHOPTALK

Is There Already or Should There Be a Different Direction for American Studies in Europe?

Chairs: Mark Luccarelli, University of Oslo, Norway;

Miloš Calda, Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic

Panelists: Rodica Mihaila, Wiesław Oleksy, Wayne Svoboda (paper read in absentia)

The shoptalk in American Studies consisted of two quite distinct conversations running parallel to one another. One was concerned with the direction of American Studies as a field in Europe; the other focused on what Rodica Mihaila called the "teaching and institutionalization" of the subject. Despite Dr. Mihaila's excellent synthesis of institutional and theoretical issues, ensuing discussion tended to polarize into practical concerns, on the one hand, and theoretical issues, on the other. The large demand for

sharing of practical information and possible solutions to problems demonstrates the wisdom of focusing future shoptalks on these issues. At the same time, the discussion indicated a strong interest in American Studies theory. While EAAS President Josef Jarab's cautionary statement against turning EAAS into a theoretical laboratory was generally well received, a number of important issues emerged that might be profitably taken up in a workshop at the next conference:

**How does European American Studies stack up to its American counterpart?*

**Is it possible/desirable/necessary to move beyond the particular national discourses of American Studies toward European-wide discourses?*

**Do processes such as globalization and transnationalization of culture make the study of the United States as a nation obsolete?*

**Should the name "American Studies" be changed to reflect other political, cultural or geographic criteria?*

Regarding practical matters, it was suggested that EAAS set up a web page to provide a venue for sharing practical information such as programs—syllabi, etc. Wieslaw Oelesky drew attention to the fact that historical and social science perspectives were and still are generally under-represented in European programs of American Studies and suggested how this weakness might be corrected institutionally.

THE HISTORIANS' SHOPTALK

Chair: Tiziano Bonazzi, Department of Politics and History, University of Bologna, Italy. **Co-Chair** Jenos Bards was unable to attend the conference.

The Prague Historians' Shoptalk was attended by about twenty persons from European Countries and the United States. The main theme that was discussed was the internationalization of US history. Following an introduction by the Chair, several historians intervened pointing to the necessity of internationalizing research opportunities as well as

research themes. It was noted that a European perspective on US History doesn't exist due to the fact that, in Europe, the discipline is mainly organized on a national basis and according to local traditions. It was also noted that the affiliation of European Americanist historians varies from country to country; some being in American Studies Departments, others in History or in Politics Departments. It was underlined that the relevance of the Atlantic connection to the European Union and the various European nations makes it imperative to look for research themes illustrating how the connection developed and worked and what continuities/discontinuities between the two sides of the Atlantic it gave life to. Local initiatives were illustrated by the Italian initiators of the "Centro interuniversitario di storia e politica euro-americana" (Inter-University Center for Euro-American History and Politics) and by other historians.

THE LITERATURE SHOPTALK

"The very Best of Contemporary Fiction": Literary Prizes and American Literary Identity

Chair: Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, Greece.

This shoptalk attempted to expand cultural theory of literary awards beyond issues of literary merit into an analysis of the market forces that determine and place limitations on new fictions. Taking as examples the Nobel and the Man Booker awards, the lecturer first acknowledged the tendency of both prestigious awards to give way to a more balanced literary scene by taking notice of the fringe, that is the literature created outside the Western mainstream. At the same time, however, attention was paid to the politics as well as economics that determine the inclusion or exclusion of good writing from being accepted and lauded in the West. Special reference was made to the discourse of "exoticism" which can be regarded as a celebration of multiculturalism but also as a means of commodifying both the author and the by-product (i.e. the book).

Ford 1903-2003: The European History

The two-volumes 1200 pages-book presents the proceedings of the Bordeaux conference dedicated to the commemoration in Europe of the centennial of Ford. It examines the history of Ford Motor Company in the major European countries (United Kingdom, Germany, France, Spain), as well as in smaller ones (such as Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, Denmark, Sweden etc.) and in peripheral countries (such as Russia and Turkey) drawing on research projects already completed and new historical research currently in progress; it studies the changing organization and management of Ford in Europe.

The scientific co-ordinators and managers of the project and the editors of the book are **Hubert Bonin**, professor in economic history at the Bordeaux Political Sciences Institute and researcher at the Centre Montesquieu in economic history (IFReDE), **Yannick Lung**, professor of economics, director of the IFReDE (Montesquieu University, Bordeaux) and managing co-director of the GERPISA international network, **Steven Tolliday**, professor of economic and social history, University of Leeds (United Kingdom), co-editor of the journal *Enterprise & Society*.

The book (ISBN 2-914369-06-9) can be ordered from P.L.A.G.E. 29 rue Jean-Jacques Rousseau, 75001 Paris, Fax 33 (0)1 40 41 94 56 – e-mail plage2@wanadoo.fr Subscription price 95 euros until December 15, 2003; future price: 150 euros

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Vice Presidents: Christine Raguet-Bouvard,

DGFA German Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.dgfa.de>

President: Alfred Hornung, Seminar für Englische
Philologie, Amerikanistische Abteilung, Johannes
Gutenberg Universität, Jakob-Welder-Weg 18, 55099
Mainz, Germany.
Phone: +49 6131 392 2146 *Fax:* +49 6131 392 5577
E-Mail: hornung@fb14.uni-mainz.de.
Vice-President: Christa Buschendorf
Executive Director: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe

BAAS British Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.baas.ac.uk/>

Chairs: Simon Newman, Modern History 2, University
Gardens, Glasgow University, Glasgow G12 8QQ, United
Kingdom
E-Mail: s.newman@history.arts.gla.ac.uk
Secretary: Heidi McPherson
Treasurer: Nick Selby

Activities:

The annual BAAS Conference was held in Manchester at
Manchester Metropolitan University from 15-18 April
2004. With over 200 papers by participants from all over
the globe, it was one of the largest BAAS Conferences on
record.

BAAS is gearing up for its 50th anniversary conference to
be held at Cambridge University in April 2005. We hope
to include several 50th anniversary celebrations within the
conference as well as host the EAAS Executive Board
Meeting. For further details about the conference itself
and a call for papers (see p. 20) or the BAAS website.

HELAAS Hellenic Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.enl.auth.gr/helaas>

President: Savas Patsalidis, Aristotle University,
Department of American Studies, School of Philosophy,
Thessaloniki, GR 54124.
Fax: +30 2310 94 74 32
E-Mail: spats@enl.auth.gr
Vice President: Elena Maragou
Secretary: Tatiani Rapatzikou
Treasurer: Zoe Detsi-Diamandi
Member: Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni

HAAS Hungarian Association for American Studies

Website: <http://dragon.klte.hu/~haas/>

Co-Chairpersons: Jenő Bárdos,, University of Veszprém,
Dept. of English and American Lit. and Lang., Egyetem
u. 3, 8201 Veszprem, Hungary
Phone: +36 88423 242 *Fax:* +36 88422 845
E-Mail: bardos@almos.vein.hu

Eniko Bollobas, Dept. of American Studies, Eötvös Loránd University, Ajtósi Dürer sor 19-22, 1146 Budapest, Hungary
Tel/Fax: +361 -343-8760.
E-Mail: bollobas@freemail.hu
Secretary General: Simon Zoltán
Treasurer: András Tarnóc

IAAS Irish Association for American Studies
Website: <http://www.ucd.ie/~ire-amer/>

Chairs: Ron Callan, Dept of English, University College, Belfield, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland
Phone: +353 1 706 8323 Fax: +353 1 706 1174
E-Mail: ron.callan@ucd.ie
Vice Chairs: Lee Jenkins
Secretary: Tony Emmerson
Treasurer: Susan Norton

AISNA Italian Association for North American Studies
Website: <http://www.aisna.org/>

President: Massimo Bacigalupo, Facoltà di Lingue e Letterature Straniere, Università di Genova, Piazza S. Sabina, 2, 16124 Genova, Italy
Phone: +39 010 2099555 Fax: +39 010 2095855
E-Mail: 37237@unige.it
Vice-Presidents: Raffaella Baritono, Caterina Ricciardi
Secretary: Stefano Rosso, Anglistica
Treasurer: Gabriella Ferruggia

Publications:

AISNA Newsletter/American Studies in Italy; recent issues can be downloaded from www.aisna.org.
RSA/AISNA Journal: Issue #13, on "American Culture and the Theme of Destruction," is published by Otto of Turin, see www.otto.to.it. The following issue on "Poetry and History" will be published within 2004. Every issue includes an unpublished text by an established American writer with an introduction

Activities

The 17th International AISNA Conference on "Ambassadors: American Studies in a Changing World," took place in Rome, at Centro Studi Americani, 6-8 November 2003. Plenary speakers were Tiziano Bonazzi (Bologna), Amy Kaplan (Penn), Bart Eeckhout (Ghent). Workshops and panel discussions addressed the development of American Studies in Italy and other topics. The proceedings are to be published by Otto of Turin. Otto is also the publisher of the proceedings of the 16th AISNA Conference, *America and the Mediterranean*, see www.otto.to.it.

AISNA Meeting held in Rome at Centro Studi Americani, 26 November. There will be an academic program, with lectures by Guido Fink, of the University of Florence, former head of Italian Culture Institute Los Angeles, and others, and a business meeting to elect the

new AISNA Board. Check www.aisna.org for updated program

The Annual American Studies Seminar was offered to students from Italian universities at Centro Studi Americani on May 17-21. The theme was *New York: Icon of Modernity* and the speakers were Italian and US Fulbright scholars.

Stephen Torrey Whitman of Mt. St. Mary's College, Md., was the Fulbright Senior Lecturer at the University of Genoa, during the semester February-May 2004. He is the author of *The Price of Freedom: Free People of Color in the Mid-Atlantic, 1750-1860* (1997). AISNA has supported EJAC, an interdisciplinary journal, and has distributed copies of the 2004 volume to its members free of charge.

NASA Netherlands American Studies Association
Website: <http://www.let.uu.nl/nasa/>

President: Jaap Verheul, History Department, Utrecht University, Kromme Nieuwegracht 66, 3512 HL Utrecht, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 30 253 6034 Fax: +31 30 253 6391
E-Mail: jaap.verheul@let.uu.nl
Secretary: Wil Verhoeven
Treasurer: Joke Kardux

Activities:

On Saturday May 22, 2004 the Utrecht American Studies Alumni Association hosted a one-day symposium on "The Dutch Media and the American Presidential Elections" at Utrecht University. The symposium was co-organized by the Netherlands American Studies Association, the Roosevelt Study Center in Middelburg, and the American Embassy in The Hague. Featured speakers were Tim Overdiek, Maarten van Rossem, Ruth Oldenziel, and Willem Post. Topics discussed included: "The relation between media and politics", "The (alleged) Americanization of Dutch politics", and "The image and representation of presidential candidates". Special attention was given to the coverage of the elections by the Dutch media in 1992, 2000 and 2004.

PAAS Polish Association for American Studies
Website: <http://klio.umcs.lublin.pl/~ptsazlka/>

President: Marek Wilczynski, Institute of English Studies, Adam Mickiewicz University Al. Niepodleglosci 4, 61-874 Poznan, Poland
Phone: +48 61 852 8820 Fax: +48 61 535 103
E-Mail: marek@hum.amu.edu.pl
Vice-President: Jadwiga Maszewska
Secretary: Agnieszka Graff
Treasurer: Marek Paryz

APEAA Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies

Website: <http://www.malhatlantica.pt/apaaa/>

President: Rui Carvalho Homem
Departamento de Estudos Anglo-Americanos, Faculdade
de Letras - Universidade do Porto, Via Panorâmica, s/n,
4150-564 Porto, Portugal
Phone & Fax: + 351 22 6077183
E-Mail: rchomem@letras.up.pt :
Secretary: Maria de Fátima Vieira
Treasurer: Maria Teresa Castilho

RAAS Romanian Association for American Studies

President: Rodica Mihaila, Faculty of Foreign Languages,
Dept. of English, University of Bucharest. 7-13 Pitar Mos
Street, 70151 Bucharest, Romania
E-Mail: mrodica@fx.ro
Vice President: Ecaterina Popa
Secretary: Irina Grigorescu Pana
Treasurer: Ioana Luca

RSAS Russian Society for American Studies

President: Yassen Zassoursky, Moscow, Mokhovaya ul.
20, Moscow University; Dept. of Journalism
E-Mail: dean@journ.msu.ru
Vice Presidents: Tatyana Venediktova
Eugene Yazkov
Secretary: Larissa Mikhailova

NAAS Nordic Association for American Studies

President: Dag Blanck, University Lecturer and Deputy
Director Centre for Multiethnic Research, Uppsala
University, P.O. Box 514, SE-751 20 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone: +46 18 47 71 99 *Fax:* +46 18 471 71 99
E-Mail: dag.blanck@multietn.uu.se

DAAS Danish Association for American Studies

Member of NAAS Board from Denmark: Jody
Pennington, President DAAS, Associate Professor, Media
and Culture Studies Department of English, University of
Aarhus, Room 428, Bldg. 465, Nobel Park, Jens Chr.
Skous Vej 7, 8000 Aarhus C, Denmark
Phone: +45 8942 6537 *Fax:* +45 8942 6540
E-Mail: engjwp@hum.au.dk

FASA Finnish American Studies Association *Website:* www.helsinki.fi/hum/renvall/pam/fasa/

President of FASA and Member of NAAS Board from
Finland: Jopi Nyman, Associate Professor of American
Literature, Dept. of Foreign Languages, University of
Joensuu, P.O. Box 111, FIN-80101 Joensuu
Phone: +358 13 251 4331 *Fax:* +358 13 251 4211
E-Mail: jopi.nyman@joensuu.fi

IAAS Icelandic Association for American Studies

President of IAAS and Member of NAAS Board from
Iceland : Julian Meldon d'Arcy, Associate Professor in
English Literature, Department of English, University of
Iceland, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland
Phone: +354 525 4450 *Fax:* +354 525 4410
E-Mail: jaydarcy@hi.is

ASANOR American Studies Association of Norway *Website :* www.asanor.com

Member of NAAS Board from Norway: Per Winther,
Professor of American Studies Dept. of British and
American Studies, University of Oslo, P-O- Box 1002
Blindern, NO-0315 Oslo, Norway
Phone: +47 22 85 69 73 *Fax:* +47 22 85 68 04
E-Mail: per.winther@iba.uio.no

SAAS Swedish Association for American Studies *Website:* www.engelska.uu.se/saas.html

President of SAAS and Member of NAAS Board from
Sweden: Gunlög Fur, Associate Professor of English,
School of Humanities, Växjö University, 351 95 Växjö,
Sweden
Phone: +46 0470 70 84 99 *Fax:* +46 0470 75 18 88
E-Mail: gunlog.fur@hum.vxu.se

AEDEAN Spanish Association for English and American Studies *Website:* <http://www.aedean.org>

President: Maria Teresa Turell, Dept. de Filología
Inglesa, Universidad Pompeu Fabra, Rambla, 30-32
08002 Barcelona
E-Mail: teresa.turell@trad.upf.es
Secretary: Javier Pérez Guerra
Treasurer: Pedro Santana-Martinez

Activities:

The conference on the theme of *Interdisciplinary Approaches to Short Fiction Theory and Criticism* held at Universidad de Salamanca, March 24 - 27, 2004, brought together noted scholars in the field of short fiction studies as well as writers, film media researchers, linguists, and translators who are interested in this literary genre. Keynote speakers include Donna Campbell (Gonzaga University), Juani Guerra (Universidad de Las Palmas de Gran Canaria), Gerald Kennedy (Louisiana State University), Susan Lohafer (The University of Iowa), John Lowe (Louisiana State University), Robert Luscher (University of Nebraska at Kearney), Gerald Lynch (University of Ottawa), Charles May (Univ. of California at Long Beach), Fernando Valls (Universidad Autónoma de Barcelona), and Lauro Zavala (Universidad Autónoma Metropolitana de México). The conference provided a forum for discussion among theorists, researchers and practitioners of the short story using multiple perspectives across disciplines or research methods. Papers presented

focused on such topics as Short Fiction Poetics; Short Story Subgenres and Neighbouring Forms; Discourse Analysis and the Short Story; Short Fiction into Film; Hypertext Fiction; the Harlem/Irish Renaissances; the Fantastic within the European, American and Spanish American Traditions; Theorizations of the Self in Short Fiction; Oral Traditions and Gender; the Construction of Female Identity in the Short Story; the Architecture of Masculinity in Modern and Contemporary Short Fiction; Images and Concepts of Hybridity in Postmodern Short Fiction; the Pictorial in Modernist and Postmodernist Short Fiction; Ethnicity and the Modern Short Story Sequence; Regionalism: the Politics of Gender and Genre; Contemporary Representations of Race, Gender, and Sexuality in the Short Story; Teaching the Short Story through Computer-Mediated Pedagogy.

SANAS Swiss Association for North-American Studies

Website:

<http://www.sagw.ch/dt/mitglieder/outer.asp?id=16>

President: Martin Heusser, Englisches Seminar, University of Zürich, Plattenstrasse 47, CH-8032 Zürich

Phone: +41 1 634 35 51 *Fax:* +41 163 44908

E-Mail: heusser@es.unizh.ch

Secretary: Samuel Ludwig

Treasurer: Christina Ljungberg

ASAT American Studies Association of Turkey Website: <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~asat>

President: Gülriz Büken, Bilkent University, FEASS

Department of History, 06800, Bilkent Ankara, Turkey

Phone: 90 312 2902341(office) 90 312 2664378 (home)

Fax: 90 312 2662820

E-Mail: buken@bilkent.edu.tr

Vice President: Engin Sezer

Secretary: Gülben Ulupinar

Treasurer: Filiz Altin

Members: Ahmet Bese, Dilek Direnç, Sirma Soran.

Publications:

ASAT Newsletter: Published twice a year and distributed electronically to the members. Recent issues can be downloaded from the website.

JAST (Journal Of American Studies Of Turkey): Editor-in-chief: Ayse Lahur Kirtunç; editor: Baris Gümüşbas. Articles related to all fields in American Studies can be submitted to the editors. For further information and correspondence please contact jast@bilkent.edu.tr. It is published twice a year in English and all issues are available on-line on the website: <http://www.bilkent.edu.tr/~Jast>

Activities:

28th American Studies Conference was held in Bodrum at Samara Hotel on November 13-16, 2003. The keynote speaker, Prof. John Donaldson from University Of Washington gave a paper titled “*Visual Syncretism: The Hybridization Of American Indian and Roman Catholic Iconography in The Religious Art Subgenre, The Native American ‘Holy Picture’*”. Around fifty papers have been presented by academicians both from national and international universities. The theme of the 29th American Studies Conference is ‘*Continuous Present, Future Perfect: American Temporalities*’. Please see Call For Papers for further information. Among other academic activities organized by the Association are the lectures addressing to the themes of ‘The American Image: Foreign Perception Versus Reality’ and ‘Beyond Knowing: The Move To Performance Assessment’ and two panels on ‘American Indian Women’ and ‘American Popular Culture’

REMINDER TO EAAS MEMBERS: DEADLINES

August 15, 2004

Updated Membership lists with e-mail addresses and changes in the Board Members of the Constituent Associations are to be sent to Secretary General Ole O. Moen at o.o.moen@iba.uio.no

***- August 15, 2004**

Submissions for the October 2004 ASE to be sent to the editor, Gülriz Büken, both at ase_newsletter@uk2.net and buken@bilkent.edu.tr

Editorial Note

According to the decision taken by the Board of EAAS at the Prague meeting, with this issue onwards, the Newsletter will go electronic and the board members as well as the presidents of national associations will be informed when the new issue is put on the web site.

As the detailed information about the officers of the Constituent Associations also appears on the web site of EAAS, to reduce duplication to a minimum, they are listed by name and e-mail addresses only with the exception of the Presidents or Chairs. The contact information, if need arises, can be obtained from the web site. In the upcoming issues it is expected that the activities of affiliated national associations, will be submitted, preferably in a short essay format. Moreover, informative articles about the Programs, Departments and Centers of American Studies in the respective countries of constituent associations are intended to be published in the Newsletter to facilitate networking possibilities.

CALL FOR PAPERS

October 27-30, 2004 29th Annual American Studies Conference

Continuous Present, Future Perfect: American Temporalities

What does it mean to live in a present that is so steeped in the future and seemingly so unaffected by the past? Perhaps one can further specify the ramifications of these questions in various cultural, historical, and social contexts. Some suggested areas of inquiry include (but are not limited to):

**Resisting temporality: eternal youth, cryogenics, cloning*
**Ambivalent temporalities, memorization, commemoration vs. cultural amnesia*

** Embracing temporality: Manifest Destiny, messianism, City Upon A Hill, the Promised Land, covenants/contracts as future promises: rhetoric of renewal*

** Erasing temporality: cult of the present, popular culture, postmodernism, performance, the avant-garde*

** Theorizing temporality in the American context: theoretical approaches to temporality from different disciplines.*

Proposals for either presentations or workshops are invited from a variety of disciplines, including American literature, history, sociology, cultural studies, journalism and communication, film studies, economics, international relations and political science. Proposals for comparative papers are welcome, as are proposals for multidisciplinary panels and presentations.

Paper abstracts for 20-minute presentations are due by **August 23, 2004**. Please send a brief abstract of 200-300 word and a one paragraph Curriculum Vitae to asat@bilkent.edu.tr. The registration fees are: \$30 (Grad. Students), \$80 and \$90 on-site registration. For updated information including the venue please visit ASAT web site:

www.bilkent.edu.tr/~asat.

14-17 April, 2005 BAAS Annual Conference Robinson College, Cambridge

BAAS is calling for papers for the 2005 BAAS conference. Papers can be presented on any subject relating to the study of the United States of America. Poster sessions will also be held and proposals for these are positively encouraged and welcomed.

Cambridge University hosted the first BAAS conference in 1955. The Association returned there for its 40th anniversary conference in 1995. The

will have the opportunity to explore the historic university town, the conference will be held in the centrally located, but modern, Robinson College (situated just behind the University Library) which was purpose-built with conferences in mind.

Proposals for 20-minute papers should be a maximum of 250 words with a provisional title. These will be arranged into panel groups. Panel proposals by two or more people, sharing a common theme, are also invited. Postgraduates, as well as senior scholars, are encouraged to submit proposals. Proposals should be submitted by **31st October 2004** to Mrs Ann Holton, Secretary to the Mellon Professor, Cambridge University, History Faculty, West Road, Email agh21@cam.ac.uk Cambridge, CB3 9EF, Fax +44 01223 335968 Enquiries, suggestions and comments about the conference should be made to Dr. Sarah Meer, Selwyn College, Cambridge CB3 9DQ Tel +44 01223 335828 Email sm10003@cam.ac.uk

4-7 July, 2005 "Ezra Pound, Language and Persona" Rapallo, Italy.

The 21st Ezra Pound International Conference will be held in Rapallo, Pound's home during most of his Italian years. Sessions will take place at the Villa Tigullio on the waterfront, near the Giardino Ezra Pound, a small memorial pond and garden which Rapallo dedicated to Pound. Lodging will be in various Rapallo hotels, with meals there or in other places at the discretion of participants, who will have the opportunity to relax in the seafront Caffé Rapallo, under the balcony of Ezra and Dorothy Pound's apartment in Via Marsala, once the headquarters of the "Ezuversity." The registration and opening session will be held in the Salone Consigliare of the Town Hall, where Pound arranged concerts of music, and where the fiddle score which is now *Canto 75* was first performed by Olga Rudge. There will be visits to Sant' Ambrogio, where Pound lived with Olga, which forms the background of some of his most haunting lines. Excursions to nearby Pound places such as Portofino, Portovenere, and Zoagli will be arranged. Among the highlights of this conference will be the possibility of seeing, on the night of July 3 in the Gulf of Tigullio, "the long boats set the lights in the water" as celebrated in *Canto 47*. Proposals are invited for papers on or related to the topic: "*Ezra Pound, Language and Persona*." Language and

Persona (or Mask) are at the centre of Ezra Pound's work, from his first commercial volume, *Personae* (1909) to his last *Drafts and Fragments of Cantos CX-CXVII* (1968). The Anglo-Saxon Seafarer, the Chinese Exile, Propertius, and Confucius, are only a few of his major masks. ("Give a man a mask and he will tell you the truth," as Oscar Wilde famously put it.) Pound also gave voice to many goddesses and women, ancient and modern, introducing aspects of language and gender. Other masks are his parodies of style, from the vernacular to the Biblical, and his tireless exploration of languages, Western and Eastern. His heroes could be called "men made out of words." Committee: Massimo Bacigalupo, University of Genova, Italy; Walter Baumann, University of Ulster, Ireland; David Moody, University of York, England; William Pratt, Miami University of Ohio. Papers should be timed for 30 minutes delivery and 15 minutes discussion. Proposals should be no more than a page in length, and should be sent by **Oct. 1, 2004**, via regular mail, air mail (outside the USA) or email, to the Conference Secretary: William Pratt, Department of English, Miami University, Oxford OH 45056 USA. Email address: prattwc@muohio.edu.

16-18 March 2005 VII S.A.A.S. Conference, Jaén "Masculinities, Femininities And Hybridities In US Culture," Jaén, Spain

The 2005 SAAS is organized by Dr. Nieves Pascual and Dr. Laura P. Alonso Gallo. Department of English Philology, University of Madrid. E-mail: npascual@ujaen.es. The Program Committee invites colleagues to submit proposals for individual papers, on diverse aspects of this topic, within the panels proposed below. Please, send your proposed abstract directly to the Chair of each panel by **15 October, 2004** (full papers by **15 February, 2005**). Should your paper not fit into any of the panels, you can send it to Prof. Francisco Collado for P19: Miscellaneous Panel. See the SAAS Web page for further details and updated information.

Panel 1: Title: Drawing Masculinities in Latino Caribbean Literature .

Chair: Laura P. Alonso Gallo; laura@aduanavieja.com

Panel 2: Title: North American Avant-Garde Poetry Challenging masculinities and femininities

Chair: Manuel Brito; mbrito@ull.es

Panel 3: Title: Masculinities and Gender Relations in Contemporary US Women's Literature

Chair: Àngels Carabí; carabi@fil.ub.es

Panel 4: Title: Gender Issues in American Life-writing

Chair: Isabel Durán; idurangi@filol.ucm.es

Panel 5: Title: Gender and/in Colonial America: Visions and Constructions of Gender in the Early Days of the Nation

Chair: Ramón Espejo; respejo@us.es

Panel 6: Title: Discursive and Physical Limits of Identity Cyborgs and Gender Construction in US Culture

Chair: Fernández Santiago alonso.gallo@dfing.uhu.es

Panel 7: Title: Out of the Closet: Black Lesbians and Gays in African American Literature

Chair: María Frías; mariaf@udc.es

Panel 8: Title: Lesbian Representation and Cultural Tropes

Chair: Inmaculada Lara Bonilla ibonilla@syrr.edu

Panel 9: Title: Women, men, and two-spirit peoples: the construction and re/vision of Native American gendered ethnicity

Chair: Silvia Martínez Falquina smfalqui@unizar.es

Panel 10: Title: Hybrid Gender in Science Fiction

Chair: Ángel Mateos; Angel.Mateos@uclm.es

Panel 11: Title: Strategies of Identity in US Theater

Chair: Bárbara Ozieblo; ozieblo@uma.es

Panel 12: Title: The I and the Other in the North American Short Story

Chair: Viorica Patea; vioricap@usal.es

Panel 13: Title: Gendering America

Chair: Michael Rockland; rockland@rci.rutgers.edu

Panel 14: Title: Male, Female and Hybrid Bodies

Chair: Santiago Rodríguez Guerrero; guerrero@fyl.uva.es

Panel 15: Title: Outstanding Protagonists in the History of the United States of America

Chair: Arroyo Vázquez; arroyolu@hotmail.com

Panel 16: Title: Ethnic and Gender Hybridities in Contemporary US Literatures

Chair: Begoña González; ibarrola@fil.deusto.es

Panel 17: Title: "The Dialectics of Diasporic Identification": Hybridity, Gender and Affiliation

Chair: Isabel Soto; isoto@flog.uned.es

Panel 18: Title: Alternative Femininities in Nineteenth-Century American Theatre

Chair: Miriam López; miriamlopez1967@terra.es

Panel 19: Miscellaneous Panel; Send proposals for this panel to: Francisco Collado; fcollado@posta.unizar.es

Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos.

Contributions are invited for its 2004 volume. Published annually in English by the Univ. of Sevilla in collaboration with SAAS (Spanish Association for American Studies), this publication caters for an academic readership and is devoted to the study of North American Literature. It includes a wide range of chronological and methodological approaches covering from traditional, historical and scholarly research to the latest trends in criticism. This journal publishes critical essays, book reviews, and current bibliography.

Please submit your original essays of 15 to 25 pages (4,000-7,000 words) to Dr. Pilar Marín Madrazo, Director of Revista de Estudios Norteamericanos, Universidad de Sevilla, Dpto. Literatura Inglesa y Norteamericana, Facultad de Filología, c/Palos de la Frontera, s/n, 41004 Sevilla (Spain). Deadline for submissions: **July 30, 2004** E-mail queries and questions are welcome: pilarmarin@hotmial.com.

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

Due to the postponement of the publication of the Newsletter to May, since the deadlines for submission will be over, the information about such upcoming conferences are briefly noted here as reminders. The Call for Papers have already been posted on the web page of EAAS.

23-27 June 2004. *Poetries of the 1940s, American and International.*

The Conference is organized by The National Poetry Foundation will explore historical, cultural, and literary movements of the period. Featured presenters will include Margaret Avison, Robert Creeley, Theodore Enslin, Alan Filreis, Lyn Hejinian, Jackson Mac Low, Cristanne Miller, J. Hillis Miller, Harryette Mullen, Marjorie Perloff, Harvey Shapiro, Ruth Stone, Alan Trachtenberg, and Thomas Travisano. Registration will be \$100, or \$60 for graduate students. Housing will be available at approximately \$40 per day in university residence halls. Additional information concerning registration fees, lodging, and travel will be available on the NPF website www.ume.maine.edu/~npf/

29 August- 3 September 2004. *American: Home of the Brave, Olomouc, Czech Republic* The 11th Annual International Colloquium in American Studies will be held in Placký University. For further information contact Robert Hysek at colloquium@centrum.cz or consult the website: <http://colloquium.upol.cz>

7-9 October 2004. *The City and the Sea, from Liguria to the World. Imperia.* Speakers: Chris Benfy, Christoph Irmscher, Andrew Taylor, David Myers, C.K. Stead, and others. Information: Giorgetta.Revelli@unige.it

17-19 October, 2004. *American Freedoms, American (Dis)orders. Warsaw, Poland.* For further information about the conference, fees and accommodation please contact American Studies Center at asc@uw.edu.pl or Dr. Mazur at krystynamazur@poczta.onet.pl

28-30 October 2004. *Public Sphere in Contemporary America.* Krakow, Poland.– The international conference on Media, Power and Political Communication. Conference is organized by American Politics Forum. Please direct all inquiries to Dr. Bohdan Szklarski at Szklarscy@poczta.onet.pl Organizers expect the conference fee to be around \$130 which will include two nights accommodation

5-7 November 2004. *Transitions: Race, Culture, and the Dynamics of Change.* The 31st AAAS Conference organized by the Austrian Association of American Studies will be held in Salzburg in Schloss Leopoldskron situated in idyllic surroundings. For room reservation, those who wish to attend the AAAS Conference, can e-mail to reception@salzburgseminar.org For updated information please visit the web site of AAAS.

11-13 November 2004. *Florence Networking Women: Subjects, Places, Links Europe-America. Towards a re-writing of Cultural History, 1890-1950.* For further information: please contact Marina Camboni marina.camboni@fastwebnet.it

1-2 April 2005. *Mapping American Space / Espaces et terres 'Amérique. Le Mirail, France.*

This Interdisciplinary conference to be held at the University of Toulouse, aims to bring together specialists from different disciplines--history, art history, linguistics, and literature--to explore the notion of space and its importance in American history and culture. For further information contact Nathalie Dessens at dessens@univ-tlse2.fr or Wendy Harding at harding@univ-tlse2.fr

Recipients of EAAS/Fulbright Grants 2004

Out of 16 applications the following have been awarded one of six grants, jointly sponsored by EAAS and the Fulbright Program:

Four Transatlantic Travel Grants go to:

Andrzej Antoszek (Univ. of Lublin, Poland): \$2500 for a 4-6 week stay at UCLA for research on his project "**Contemporary Black Identity and Its Influence on European Culture, or: Trans-nating the Black: African-American Culture in the Global Village**"

Eleftheria Arapoglou (Univ. of Thessaloniki, Greece): \$2500 for a 4-6 week stay at the University of Pennsylvania, Univ. of Texas at San Antonio, and Columbia University, for her research project on "**The travel writings of Mark Twain, Henry James and Demetra Vaka Brown**"

Gábor Berczeli (Eotvos Lorand University, Budapest, Hungary): \$2000 for a five-week stay at the Library of Congress in Washington DC, for his research project on "**American-British Discourse on the Reorganization of Austria-Hungary during World War I: The Military Elite and Hungary**"

Jessica Tang (Univ. of Zürich, Switzerland): \$2500 for a 4-6 week stay at the Institute of Fine Arts, New York University, for her research project "**Between Spolia and Simulacrum: Historical Evocation in American Art Museums, 1903-1974**"

Two Intra-European Travel Grants go to:

Justyna Wierchowska (Univ. of Warsaw, Poland): \$1250 for a four-week stay at Univ. College London for her research project on "**Discourses of Abstract Expressionism**"

Jelena Sesnic (University of Zagreb, Croatia): \$1250 for a four-week stay at Johannes Gutenberg Universität, Mainz, for her research project "**Identity Politics and the Construction of Ethnicity in Contemporary American Prose**"

EAAS Travel Grantee Reports

The following applications have received funds from EAAS for their PhD projects in 2003 and 2004

Urszula Niewiadomska Flis, English Department/
American Studies, Catholic University of Lublin,
Poland

Research Project: *"Human relations in the South in the novels of Ellen Glasgow and Walker Percy."*

Grant: Transatlantic Grant \$3500

Institutions: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill; University of Virginia, Charlottesville

In June and July, I conducted six-week research at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill and University of Virginia, Charlottesville, leading centers for Southern studies; so the opportunities for enrichment were many. I had the chance to have discussions with professors Prof. Joseph Flora, Atlanta Professor of Southern Culture, who supervised my research in Chapel Hill, and Prof. Julius Raper, a distinguished Ellen Glasgow scholar.

I could not possibly achieve my academic goals if I did not receive the invaluable help from librarians who offered to introduce me to the libraries and to provide assistance to access the necessary resource materials which provided an excellent basis for my research project. Michael Van Fossen opened the realm of Walter Davis Library, UNC, to me: The Rare Book Collection and North Carolina Collection, both housed in Wilson Library, are unique resources for Walker Percy and southern literature in general. Antoinette Satterfield, apart from assistance in the library, helped me to solve such a 'prosaic' issue as accommodation and portable computer access in Chapel Hill. The staff in the Manuscripts Department, Wilson Library, UNC patiently supplied me with dozens of boxes of Walker Percy Papers. While in Charlottesville, Virginia, I could always count on Mr. Gregory Johnson's help in Albert and Shirley Small Special Collections which include Ellen Glasgow manuscripts and resources at Alderman Library, UVA. Furthermore, I cannot underestimate the contribution of the families of Mr. Van Fossen and Mr. Johnson in gaining first hand experience of the southern way of life and culture.

I believe that I have met the goals I set for the completion of my PhD dissertation, with the generous award from EAAS, the support of professors in the United States and the friendly help from librarians.

Renata Morresi, Università di Macerata (Italy),
Dipartimento di Lingue – Facoltà di Lettere e
Filosofia

Research project: *"Nancy Cunard as Networking Woman: Subjects, Places, Links Europe-America. Towards a Rewriting of Cultural History"*

Grant: Transatlantic grant of \$3000

Institutions: Harry Ransom Humanities Research Center, University of Texas in Austin (July 14th – August 10th); Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, New York and New York Public Library (August 10th – August 17th)

"Networking Women: Subjects, Places, Links Europe-America, 1890-1939. Towards a Rewriting of Cultural History" is an on-line database and a research project of cultural geography involving 6 Italian universities (Bari, Pisa, Roma 3, Trento, Firenze and Macerata). I explore the networks created by Nancy Cunard (1896-1965), poet, publisher, editor, journalist and activist, who worked between Europe and America and was often marginalized by official historiography. The results of my research are included in my dissertation, in the Networking Women database and in the related forthcoming volume. Working in the HRHRC archive, I examined Cunard's previously unknown, uncollected or unpublished writings: 1) articles written for the American Associated Negro Press, the Caribbean newspapers, West Indian and Jamaican Gleaner, the British journals *Life and Letters To-Day* and *Left Review*, *The American Crisis* and *The Afro-American*; 2) the unpublished film-script "How Long?"; 3) personal correspondences with Claude McKay, Arthur Schomburg, Alain Locke, Langston Hughes and others contributors to *Negro: an anthology*, edited by Cunard in 1934; 4) poems, reviews, results of surveys, etc.

In the first phase of my research I explored Cunard's political experimentalism with the personal: the dialectics between stereotypes and attempts at self-fashioning, the idea of mask as identity come to life, and the function of "woman as sign" in modernist writers and artists who chose her as a muse (among others: Costantin Brancusi, T. S. Eliot, Man Ray, Richard Aldington, Aldous Huxley, René Crevel, Louis Aragon).

Cunard's pamphlet *Black Man and White Ladyship* (1931) marks the beginning of her work in recovering African and African-American cultures. I analyze the pamphlet as a modernist political

manifesto; and examined the answers to the questionnaire on the Scottsboro Boys attached to it and its reception among writers and intellectuals.

In the final phase of my research I explored the controversial Negro anthology, (the whole, not just the mutilated version currently available), an encyclopedic pamphlet that intended to promote Black Internationalism and what Cunard termed a "New Abolitionism". *Negro* is a sort of jazz opera and Surrealist pastiche, com-parable to the Surrealist Counter-Exhibition of 1931 organized in response to the Exposition Coloniale de Paris. Though the anthology suffered the contradictions of Primitivism and Communism it was a complex combination of art, politics and anthropology and a precursor of cultural studies. Among the most interesting aspects of my research journey is the re-discovery of the 'hidden' article "Jesse Owens: The Fastest Human of the Twentieth Century". Not included either in any of the abridged versions of the anthology currently available, or in Maureen Moynagh's recent edition of Cunard's writings, the article was apparently written by Cunard herself, and it was added to the number of copies of *Negro* still available to Cunard after 1936 as pages number 342-a, 342-b, 342-c and 342-d. I compare the copy of the *Negro* anthology, or its microfilm, at the Schomburg Center, which includes the article, and the copy of *Negro* held by the New York Public Library, which does not.

Grant recipient: Dan Popescu, Lecturer in Literary Theory, University of Oradea, Romania

Research Project: "*Parable and Allegory in Postmodernist Fiction*"

Grant: Intra-European Grant 2000 Euros.

Institutions: Institute of United States Studies, London

As recipient, in the year 2003, of the Intra-European Grant awarded by the European Association for American Studies, I had the opportunity to extend my research on the American dimension of my PhD project, "*Parable and Allegory in Postmodernist Fiction*". Aimed at highlighting textual strategies developed within certain social and historical contexts, my project seeks to identify similarities in the ways of addressing the political referent by American and Romanian writers starting in the 1960s.

It was only in the 1960s that Romanian writers could express themselves in a true literary way, yet the entire era of the Cold War with its political and

cultural connotations was to be dealt with in a rather peculiar manner in order to avoid censorship. In the 1960s we also witness the beginning of postmodernist literature and the emergence of so-called historiographical meta-fiction, the most challenging way of writing the past and re-writing history, often in an allegorical mode. A parallel can be drawn between the ways in which Romanian and American writers gave meaning to the real within their own, distinct, signifying systems, in order to acknowledge the extent representation is avoided, while simultaneously legitimizing certain kinds of power and discourse.

By the time I submitted my proposal, I had already conducted research in some Romanian libraries, and specifically at the University of Sibiu, where I had benefited from Professor Dr. Victor V. Grecu's guidance and expertise in the field of Poetics and Stylistics. I had also written some papers on Thomas Pynchon, yet my access to some of the most important theoretical works dealing with the genre of allegory in the last decades had been limited.

Thus the travel grant awarded by EAAS, enabled me to work for three weeks and a half, from the end of July up to the last week of August 2003, with the specialists in the Institute of United States Studies, who provided me access to the books in the library of the University of London. The intensive study of the texts found in the sectors of United States Studies, Media & Criticism, Languages & Literatures and Latin American Studies, helped me to explore the relationship between allegory as metaphor and allegory as metonymy. The works of Angus Fletcher, Paul de Man, J. Hillis Miller, Maureen Quilligan, Deborah Madsen, and others, provided me with the psycho-analytical, structuralist and deconstructionist insights I needed to enrich my vision.

My students have also benefited from my London experience; with the books and materials gathered, I was able to put together readers on topics such as allegory or the American Dream, as well as on writers like Pynchon, Vonnegut, Barth, Barthelme, Burroughs, etc. My research resulted in a number of papers, one of which, "Peeping Through the Iron Curtain; From Kafka to Vonnegut" is going to be presented at the East Meets West Conference, hosted by the University of Frankfurt at the end of June 2004. It focuses on the influence of Kafka on some American and East-European writers, and the way his and Vonnegut's works were turned into an object of cultural negotiation.

Grant recipient: Ingrid Thaler, Philipps-University Marburg, Germany

Research project: "*Black Genres and White Traditions: Re-Workings of Time in Speculative Fictions by Octavia E. Butler, Jewelle Gomez, and Nalo Hopkinson.*"

Grant: Transatlantic grant of \$3500

Institution: Center for Black Studies, University of California, Santa Barbara, USA

My PhD project analyzes and interrogates the interplay of speculative-futuristic as well as historiographic writing. Combining and appropriating various, racialized literary traditions, such as science and gothic fiction as well as the slave narrative, the texts by these black women writers substantially re-work the past and speculate about time as alternatives in the past, present, and future. Thus, I am interested in a reconsideration of historiography as chronography in the African American literary continuum.

The EAAS Transatlantic Grant made it possible for me to do research for this project as well as enabling me to discuss and present its substantial ideas at the Center for Black Studies and the English Department at UCSB. As a Dissertation Fellow at the Center for Black Studies, I was generously supplied with office space, computer support, library privileges, and access to departmental resources. Because of the excellent support, I was able to obtain not only unpublished dissertations but also books and particularly journals that are not available in Germany. Besides participating in and contributing to the illuminating discussions in the Center's colloquium and Lunch Talks led by the Directors of the Center, Prof. Anna Everett and Prof. Claudine Michel, I also took part in an interdisciplinary colloquium held by Prof. Paul Spickard that was concerned with various racially-inflected topics. Since the Center co-organized with the University of Southern California, Los Angeles, a conference on Race in Digital Space, I chaired a workshop on Digital Art there and was able to establish contacts with American scholars working in the closely related field of Afrofuturism.

During my stay at the University of California, Santa Barbara, I was able to complete substantial research and write early drafts of the first two

preliminary results in a lecture entitled "Ambiguous Discourses: Time, Race, and Genre in Octavia E. Butler's Wild Seed (1980)" at the Colloquium for Dissertation Scholars and Fellows. The affiliation with the Center provided me with the opportunity of networking with scholars with whom I have exchanged and revised my ideas for this project as well as enabling me to get my research done. The ideal situation at the Center for Black Studies and its close contacts with the English department have allowed me to develop a culturally oriented as well as aesthetically informed approach to the texts of this project. I am very grateful to have been granted the opportunity to spend research time there and to be able to re-think concepts and ideas. This stay has significantly helped me to further develop my PhD project and to continue to write the subsequent chapters while being involved with the everyday business of teaching and administrative responsibilities at the Institute for English and American Studies at Philipps-University Marburg, Germany.

I did not have any bureaucratic problems. The atmosphere at the library, where I spent most of my time was appreciative. Communication and professional competence of my supervisor as well as supervision and professional help have been remarkable.

I could establish contacts with professors at the university and with other PhD students. My contacts with the professors have been particularly supportive. They helped me to track down most of the changes that were necessary for my project. My command of English and my writing skills have improved qualitatively. I have not had any information deficits about the local registration, health insurance, payment modalities and study-achievement. My experience at the university-town at the beginning of my stay was quite satisfactory, so I did not have any deficits in terms of libraries, cultural and leisure-programme, dining facilities (university cafeteria etc.) and reduction of costs for students. Payment modalities of the scholarship, amount and communication have been satisfactory.

It was a privilege for me to receive the travel grant awarded by EAAS and I believe I took full advantage of this opportunity to pursue my studies.



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 Alcalá, 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 MEMBERS

Salzburg Seminar American Studies Center, Salzburg
www.salzburgseminar.org

Center for American Studies, Brussels
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American Studies Center, Mons-Hainaut
www.umh.ac.be/ASC/

Roosevelt Study Center, Middelburg
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Amerika-Institut, Munich
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The David Bruce Centre for AS, Keele;
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Eccles Center for American Studies, London
Institute of United States Studies, London
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RECENT PUBLICATIONS BY MEMBERS

Hélène Aji, ed. *Ezra Pound and Referentiality*. Paris: Presses de l'Université de Paris-Sorbonne, 2003. The volume is entirely in English with an introduction by Jean-Michel Rabaté; articles by Daniel Albright, Rebecca Beasley, Mark Byron, Helen M. Dennis, Andrew Eastman, Stephen Fender, Christine Froula, Philip Grover, Burton Hatlen, Jennifer Kilgore, James Kraus, Fiona McMahon, Peter Nicholls, Bob Perelman, Marjorie Perloff, Richard Read, Christine Savinel, Richard Sieburth, Leon Surette, David Ten Eyck; and a poem Tony Lopez.

Raffaella Baccolini and Tom Moylan, eds. *Dark Horizons: Science Fiction and the Dystopian Imagination*. New York: Routledge, 2003.

Massimo Bacigalupo, ed. *Poesie by Emily Dickinson*. Milan: Mondadori, 2004. The volume is an annotated bilingual edition of 581 Dickinson poems.

Klaus Benesch, Jon-K Adams, and Kerstin Schmidt, eds., *The Sea and the American Imagination. Essays in Honor of Manfred Pütz*. (Transatlantic Perspectives 16.) Tübingen: Stauffenburg, 2003. *The Sea and the American Imagination* brings together a group of renowned scholars and writers whose contributions attest to the ubiquity of the sea in American literature and culture. Writing from a decidedly transatlantic perspective, the 16 authors take a fresh look at both the historical conditions and aesthetic modes by which the sea is wed to the American imagination. The topics of the essays collected here range from Cotton Mather's biblically encoded narratives of "Wonderful Sea Deliverances" to the more profane yet no less symbolic shipwrecks in the works of Norris, London, and Crane; from Anne Bradstreet's contemplations of the sea to seaward visions in American women's writing of the nineteenth and twentieth century; from Sarah Josepha Hale's utopian rewriting of the crossing to the New World in her 1853 novel *Liberia* to the re-imagining of the first encounter for the 1992 Columbiad; from Hawthorne's and Melville's critical assessment of modern naval warfare to a reassessment—one hundred years later—of Slocum's low-tech, single-handed voyage around the world; and from Thoreau's meditations by the sea to the use of sea metaphors in postmodern fiction. The collection includes essays by Klaus Benesch, Udo J. Hebel, Kerri L. Thomsen, Joseph C. Schöpp, Hilke Kuhlmann, Wolfgang Hochbruck, Sabine Sielke, John R. Nelson, Jr., Berndt Ostendorf, Paul Goetsch,

Jon-K Adams, Kurt Müller, Susanne M. Maier, Hanjo Berressem, Paul Neubauer, and Stanley Koehler.

William Boelhower and Anna Scacchi, eds. *Public Space, Private Lives: Race, Gender, Class and Citizenship in New York, 1890-1929*. Amsterdam: VU University Press, 2004.

Michele Bottalico et al., eds. *Culture a contatto nelle Americhe*. Salerno: Oédipus, 2003.

Contributors to American section are Paola Boi, Marie-Hélène Laforest, Alejandro Morales, John Paul Russo, Luigi Sampietro.

Alide Cagidemetro and Rosella Mamoli Zorzi, eds. *A Goodly Garlande: In onore di Sergio Perosa*. Venezia: Editoriale Programma, 2003. (Annali di Ca' Foscari 42.4, 2003.) A Festschrift in honor of past EAAS and AISNA president Sergio Perosa.

Marina Camboni, ed. *H.D.'s Poetry: The Meanings that Words Hide*. New York: AMS Press, 2003.

Catherine Collomp and Mario Menendez, eds., *Exilés et réfugiés politiques aux Etats-Unis, 1789-2000*, Paris: CNRS Editions, 2003. 302 pp. This collection of essays by French and American scholars brings together studies on a specific aspect of international migrations. It focuses on the displacement of people forced to emigrate for political reasons who chose the United States as a land of refuge. Spanning two centuries from the foundation of the nation to the end of the XXth century, it comprises key historical moments and events that produced refugees from the end of the XVIIIth century to late XXth century political upheavals and political changes. It presents the history of individuals as well as that of groups collectively forced to exile: French emigres from the Revolution, Jews and exiles from the Russian Empire and Nazi dominated countries, World War II and Cold War refugees, Cubans and Vietnamese. It also analyses the evolution of American and international legislation, networks of migration as well as US private and public sources of adaptation and solidarity.

Nathalie Dessens. *Myths of the Plantation Society: Slavery in the American South and the West Indies*. Gainesville: University of Florida Press, 2003. 213pp.

Gregory Dowling. *Someone's Road Home: Questions of Home and Exile in American Narrative Poetry.* Udine: Campanotto Editore, 2003.

Mira Duric. *The Strategic Defence Initiative: US Policy and the Soviet Union,* Aldershot: Ashgate Publishing Limited, 2003. It offers a thorough analysis of the role of SDI in the Reagan administration and the Soviet reaction to it. It draws on official government reports, interviews with politicians.

Geneviève Fabre and Klaus Benesch, eds., *African Diasporas in the New and Old Worlds: Consciousness and Imagination (Cross/Cultures 69),* Amsterdam and New York: Rodopi, 2004. In the humanities, the term 'diaspora' recently emerged as a promising and powerful heuristic concept. It challenged traditional ways of thinking and invited reconsiderations of theoretical assumptions about the unfolding of cross-cultural and multi-ethnic societies, about power relations, frontiers and boundaries, about cultural transmission, communication and translation. The present collection of essays by renowned writers and scholars addresses these issues and helps to ground the ongoing debate about the African diaspora in a more solid theoretical framework. Part I is dedicated to a general discussion of the concept of African diaspora, its origins and historical development; Part II examines the complex cultural dimensions of African diasporas in relation to significant sites and figures, including the modes and modalities of creative expression from the perspective of both artists/writers and their audiences; finally, Part III focusses on the resources (collections and archives) and iconographies that are available today. As most authors argue, the African diaspora should not be considered merely as a historical phenomenon, but also as an idea or ideology and an object of representation. By exploring this new ground, the essays assembled here provide important new insights for scholars in American and African-American Studies, Cultural Studies, Ethnic Studies, and African Studies. The collection is rounded off by an annotated listing of black autobiographies.

Antonella Francini, ed. *Antologia della poesia americana.* Rome, Biblioteca di Repubblica, 2004. With introduction by Massimo Bacigalupo, it is a major new bilingual anthology of US poetry, with extensive headnotes and bibliography.

Mar Gallego, *Passing Novels in the Harlem Renaissance.* Hamburg, London and New Brunswick: 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.

Cristina Giorcelli, ed. *Donne d'America. Studi in onore di B. Tedeschini Lalli.* Palermo: ila palma, 2003. A Festschrift in honor of past AISNA president Bianca Maria Tedeschini Lalli.

Paul Grainge. *Monochrome Memories: Nostalgia and Style in Retro America.* Westport and London: Praeger, 2002.

Paul Grainge, ed. *Memory and Popular Film.* Manchester: Manchester University Press, 2003.

Matilde Martín González. *Discursividad sexual y poder disciplinario: una visión foucaultiana en la obra de tres poetisas norteamericanas,* Servicio de Publicaciones de la Universidad de La Laguna, 2003. 216 pp.

Ana Manzanás and Jesús Benito. *Intercultural Mediations: Hybridity and Mimesis in American Literatures,* Berlin: Lit. Verlag, 2003. *Intercultural Mediations* proposes a study of the multiple crossings between and among the different literary traditions of the United States. The volume draws upon two main theoretical sources, namely American Border Studies, and postcolonial theory, and aims to articulate a model of the hybrid, postcolonial and liminal nature of writing in the US. Ana M^a Manzanás and Jesús Benito explore the nature of the ethnic Other's appropriation, dialogization and subversion of the Euroamerican authoritative discourse embodied in what the authors call the "Book of the West," as well as the inscription of cultural difference on the "white" page. Their analysis focuses on the production of contestatory sites of enunciation in a few particular fields and texts from the literatures of the US, such as John Milton Oskison's *The Problem of Old Harjo*, Toni Morrison's *Beloved*, Helena Viramontes's *The Cariboo Café*, Carlos Fuentes's *La frontera de cristal*, Ron Arias's *The Road to Tamazunchale*, Frederick Douglass's *Narrative*, Louise Erdrich's *Tracks*, José

Barreiro's *The Indian Chronicles*, and Caryl Phillip's *Crossing the River*. The authors use a comparative approach which underscores the aesthetic and epistemic ruptures that ethnic and marginalized writing is producing on Western culture's general text, in order to open up new sites of enunciation and new spaces for the hybridization of traditional hegemonic discourses.

Rodica Mihaila and Irina Pana, eds. *America in/from Romania. Essays in Cultural Dialogue*. Bucharest: Univers Enciclopedic, 2003. It is a collection of essays generated by the 2002 RAAS Conference, which aims to address, discuss, question and eventually reshape the ways in which the subject of America--notion and reality, image and myth, literary and cultural experience--is perceived, interpreted, debated or invoked from the directions of open-ended dialogic correspondences with European/Romanian responses to the theme. The volume attempts to both mediate and reconfirm structural, experiential and conceptual differences in individual discourses marked by cultural heteroglossia in contemporary methodological orientations.

Mark Newman. *Divine Agitators: The Delta Ministry and Civil Rights in Mississippi*. Athens & London: University of Georgia Press, 2004.

Salvatore Proietti. *Hippies!: Le Culture Della Controcultura*. Roma: Cooper & Castelvechi, 2003.

Caterina Ricciardi and Valerio Massimo De Angelis, eds. *Voci dagli Stati Uniti: Prosa e poesia e teatro del secondo Novecento*. Roma: Università La Sapienza, 2004. 664 pp. Contains over fifty essays by Italian scholars on contemporary American writers from Hurston and Henry Roth to Leavitt and Ellis as well as Native, Portorican and Appalachian literature. It has an extensive bibliography.

Sirpa Salenius. *Set in Stone: 19th-century American Authors in Florence*, Padoa: Il Prato, 2003. *19th-century American Authors in Florence* is a study of American authors whose Florentine sojourns have been honored with commemorative plaques in the city of Florence as well as its immediate surroundings. The writers included in the volume are Mark Twain, James Fenimore Cooper, Nathaniel Hawthorne, Henry James, Henry Wadsworth Longfellow, and James Russell Lowell. They all resided temporarily in Florence in the 19th century and most of them found the relaxed, dolce-far-niente, atmosphere of the city ideal for creative work. The city and its long history inspired the authors, stirring their imaginations. In this volume are gathered written testimonies of the impressions Florence awoke in

these acclaimed visitors. Quotations have been taken from their writings - be they diaries, letters, biographies, novels or poems - in testimony of the importance of the Florentine sojourns in their lives and careers. Photographs and old postcards accompany the selected excerpts in order to offer the reader the possibility of comparison between the literary texts produced by the authors and the physical reality that served them as a source of inspiration.

Alexander Sedlmaier, *Deutschlandbilder und Deutschlandpolitik. Studien zur Wilson-Administration (1913-1921)*. Stuttgart: Franz Steiner Verlag, 2003. The Wilson administration's decision-makers influenced and instrumentalized the discourse on Germany underlying their foreign policy within the context of World War I diplomacy and propaganda. It includes chapters on Woodrow Wilson, Edward M. House, Robert Lansing, William C. Bullitt and Ellis Dresel.

W. B. Stephens. *Sources for US History: Nineteenth-Century Communities*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2002.

Graham Thompson, *Male Sexuality under Surveillance: The Office in American Literature*. Iowa: University of Iowa Press, 2003.

Sonia Santos Vila, trans. *Escritos desconocidos de Ambrose G. Bierce*. Valladolid: Secretariado de Publicaciones e Intercambio Editorial de la Universidad de Valladolid, 2002. The book contains several translations from English into Spanish of letters, articles, essays and short stories written by Ambrose G. Bierce.

Bernard Vincent. *Présent au monde : Paul Goodman*. Bordeaux: L'Expresserie, 2003. 474 pp.

Andrew Warnes. *Hunger Overcome? Food and Resistance in Twentieth-Century African-American Literature*. University of Georgia Press, February 2004. It concentrates on food and hunger in African-American literature, and specifically in Zora Neale Hurston's *Their Eyes Were Watching God*; Richard Wright's *Black Boy* (American Hunger); and Toni Morrison's *Tar Baby*.

Dagmar Wernitznig. *Going Native or Going Naive?: White Shamanism and the Neo-Noble Savage*. Lanham: University Press of America, 2003.