



European Association for American Studies

◆ President: Prof. Dr. Ingrid Gessner
Hochschulprofessur Anglistik u.
Amerikanistik
Pädagogische Hochschule Vorarlberg
Liechtensteinerstraße 33-37
A 6800 Feldkirch, Austria

◆ Vice President: Prof. Dr. Aleksandra Izgarjan
English Department
University of Novi Sad
Dr Zorana Djindjica 2
21000 Novi Sad
Serbia

E-mail: ingrid.gessner@ph-vorarlberg.ac.at

E-mail: aleksandra.izgarjan@ff.uns.ac.rs

◆ Treasurer: Prof. Andrea Carosso
Università degli Studi di Torino
Dipartimento di Lingue e Letterature
Straniere e Culture Moderne
Via Verdi, fronte n. 41
10124 Torino, Italy

◆ Secretary General: Dr. Izabella Kimak
Department of British and American Studies
Maria Curie-Skłodowska University
Pl. Marii Curie-Skłodowskiej 4A
20-031 Lublin, Poland

E-mail: andrea.carosso@unito.it

E-mail: izakimak@gmail.com

EAAS Hybrid Board Meeting Minutes Karlstad, April 9, 2025

Attendees: President and Board Member for AAAS Ingrid Gessner; Vice President and Board Member for AASSEE Aleksandra Izgarjan; Treasurer and Board Member for AISNA Andrea Carosso; Secretary General and Board Member for PAAS Izabella Kimak; Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo (AEDEAN/SAAS); Christen Bryson (AFEA); Isabel Maria Fernandes Alves (APEAA); Defne Ersin Tutan (ASAT); Kate Dossett (BAAS); Yuri V. Stulov (BELAAS); Tomáš Kačer (CSAA); Karsten Fitz (DGfA); Ágnes Zsófia Kovács (HAAS); Theodora Tsimpouki / Tatiani Rapatzikou (substitute) (HELAAS); Michael Hinds (IAAS); Jørn Brøndal (NAAS); Frank Mehring (NASA); Iulia Andreea Milică (RAAS); Larisa Mikhaylova (RSAS); Suzanne Enzerink (SANAS); Artem Kosheliev (UAAS)

Unexcused Absence: Madeleine Danova (BASA)

1. Welcome

The meeting was called to order at 10:00 AM by EAAS President Ingrid Gessner (IG), who welcomed all members in the room and online. IG thanks Maria Holmgren Troy from the University of Karlstad and her team for hosting the Board meeting and for their help with the organization of the 6th Biennial EAAS Women's Network Symposium to be held on April 10-11, 2025. IG then reports on the basis of the Chair's Business Report (attached to the minutes). IG mentions the results of the elections to Officer positions held in Munich in 2024. IG thanks Vasileios Delioglani for moderating the EAAS website and mailing list, which as of today has 1025 subscribers. IG proposes switching agenda points 9 and 10 with point 14, so that travel grants are discussed closer to the discussion of the budget; this raises no objections.

2. Welcome incoming and thank outgoing Board Members

IG welcomes incoming and thanks outgoing Board Members: Christen Bryson succeeds Mathieu Duplay as AFEA representative; Iulia Andreea Milică joins the Board as the new RAAS representative, succeeding Adina Ciugureanu, who served the EAAS with great dedication for many years—most notably as treasurer from 2012 to 2020 and as lead organizer of the 2016 EAAS Biennial Conference; Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo is the new representative for AEDEAN/SAAS, replacing Silvia Martínez Falquina; and Ágnes Zsófia Kovács replaces Tibor Glant for HAAS.

IG explains that Makar Taran, the representative of the Ukrainian Association for American Studies (UAAS), is excused from attendance, and welcomes Artem Kosheliev as Makar's substitute. IG reports on the online conference that took place in Kyiv on March 7, 2025, where she delivered a keynote address and conveyed greetings on behalf of the EAAS.

3. Approval of the 2024 Munich Hybrid Board Meeting minutes

The minutes from the previous meeting were distributed prior to the meeting. The minutes were approved as presented.

4. Financial Report / EAAS Membership

EAAS Treasurer Andrea Carosso (AC) presents the EAAS 2024 Treasurer's Report, which was distributed prior to the meeting (attached to the minutes). AC reports that the EAAS assets experienced a 16% loss in the last few days due to the turmoil on the stock market, but since these are long-term investments, this is not to be treated as permanent loss. AC reminds the members that the EAAS is very well-endowed and its portfolio experienced a substantial increase in value in 2024. The association's revenue is based mostly on annual fees of 5 EUR that the national/regional associations pay per member. Most of the expenses are paid back to the association through the EAAS grant programs. In 2024 research grants amounted to 49% of all expenses. In general, over 70 percent of the money goes back to the constituent members, while less than 30 percent is spent on administering the association.

In light of inflation and the difficulty of securing funding through cooperation with the US institutions, AC proposes raising the amount spent on travel grants. This, in turn, would require higher revenues, hence AC proposes that membership dues go back to 6 EUR per member, which was the annual fee until 2022, when it was lowered to 5 EUR. AC goes through the proposed budget for 2025, suggesting increasing money for research grants and EAAS networks to offset lack of support from the US. The other items on the budget remain unchanged vis-à-vis the 2024 budget, and the IT expenses are expected to be lower than in 2024, when the EAAS website was revamped. IG seconds AC's motions. IG proposes waiving dues for Belarus and Ukraine for 2025 and 2026, which is unanimously approved by all present. Yuri Stulov (YS) appreciates the motion, explaining the difficulty inherent in running an American Studies association in Belarus.

The motion to raise membership dues to 6 EUR is followed by a discussion in which several Board members participate. Tatiani Rapatzikou (TR, replacing Theodora Tsimpouki for HELAAS during parts of the Board meeting) is reluctant to vote, as she is not an elected representative of the association. Isabel Maria Fernandes Alves (IMFA) worries that the increase will affect small associations, which may not be increasing their own membership fees. Frank Mehring (FM) seconds IMFA, mentioning the struggles in NASA with lower numbers of members. TR then suggests postponing the vote, so that representatives have a chance to consult their associations' treasurers. Jørn Brøndal (JB) supports raising membership dues, given the current developments in the USA, whereby the funding for American Studies is slashed. IG suggests postponing the vote to next year, but asks the associations to pay 6 EUR in 2026.

voluntarily. Board members are asked to consult with their respective associations in preparation for a potential increase in per-member dues.

Subsequently, the Board members vote to approve the whole 2025 budget: all are in favor. The following vote concerns raising the conference travel grants budget for 2026 to 3,000 EUR: all vote in favor.

5. Election of Auditors

Ágnes Zsófia Kovács (AZK) and Michael Hinds (MH) are elected to review the financial records.

6. EAAS 2026 Conference report

Elena Lamberti (University of Bologna) from the Bologna conference organizing team joins the meeting to deliver her report on the 2026 conference. The team comprises representatives of 3 different departments at the University of Bologna, Andrea Carosso as AISNA representative, and EAAS representative to be appointed during the Board meeting. The conference will take place at the Department of Arts and will start in the afternoon of September 1 and continue until lunch-time on September 4. This will allow the EAAS Board meeting to be scheduled for September 1. The university housing is not available, therefore the organizing team is looking into hotel options. The conference website (provided by Unibo) is ready but currently offline; possible addresses are site.unibo.it/eaas-2026 or visions-of-freedom. The conference software to be used is EasyChair/ConfTool. The organizers expect the conference fees to be as follows: Faculty: 150 EUR early bird or 170 on-site / Students: 60 EUR early bird or 80 on-site / Online participants: 80 EUR faculty/60 students. Subsequently EL discusses the Call for papers and takes suggestions from the Board members. Christen Bryson (CB) suggests adding women and gender to the Cfp, Karsten Fitz (KF) suggests replacing literature with cultural production and adding cultural memory, while Defne Ersin Tutan (DET) suggests adding visual culture, the media, film studies and adaptation studies. IG asks about online panels, to which EL responds that the organizers are prepared to accept a small number of fully online panels, but will not offer a hybrid option. A discussion follows, in which some participants raise the issue of accessibility (Larisa Mikhaylova (LM)), while others mention the high cost of the hybrid option and the technical difficulties that frequently ensue (KF, Izabella Kimak (IK), Aleksandra Izgarjan (AI), Kate Dossett (KD)). EL mentions that keynote lectures may be broadcast live. IG comments on the high online conference fee, to which EL responds that the organizers are thinking of charging a lower 1-day fee for non-presenting participants. Amaia Ibarraran-Bigalondo (AIB) proposes a reduced online fee. YS asks whether letters of invitation will be provided for Belarussian and Russian colleagues willing to attend the conference, so that they can secure visas; EL promises to help contact the Italian embassy.

IG announces that KF has been suggested by the EAAS Officers as the keynote speaker for the conference. Then EL talks about the other keynote speakers that the organizers consider inviting: Giorgio Mariani (Italy) and one of the following speakers from the US: Percival Everett, Tess Chakkalakal, Tommy Pico, or Matana Roberts.

EL proceeds to talk about the conference budget. The team has applied for 19 500 EUR from the US embassy, which it is unlikely to receive, given the policy of the current US administration. To offset this, the team is seeking other funds and sponsors among local institutions (municipality, banks, foundations). The decision to choose artists as keynote speakers is also motivated by economic considerations, as their stays may be co-financed by festivals or other cultural institutions. The final budget will be shared with the EAAS Officers in a few weeks. The conference website will be available in early May.

IG asks the Board members to share their suggestions as regards the CfP with the local organizers, so that the CfP can be released soon. IG suggest that the URL is visions-of-freedom. IG proposes that at least one keynote speaker is a woman.

EL asks the EAAS Board to nominate one member for the conference's scientific board. After EL leaves the meeting, AI nominates KD, who agrees and is unanimously supported by the Board.

7. EAAS Travel Grants

AI reports that in 2024 the Officers received 18 applications, out of which 14 applicants were chosen based on the quality of research, while 2 were rejected altogether for poor standards. The grantees were awarded various amounts. The grantees represented 7 associations, which is a significant improvement compared to the previous edition. AI urges the representatives to spread the word among their associations about the upcoming deadline for the 2025 research grants, which is April 15. Per the decision of the Officers, from this edition on the grants will be distributed equally between PhD candidates and post-docs and there will be a 3-year hold on applications introduced for both grants. AI mentions that the reports from the beneficiaries are posted on the EAAS website.

8. EAAS 2028 Conference report

CB reports that the 2028 EAAS conference will take place in Paris and will be co-organized by several universities. The organizers are considering a venue outside of the city. The organizing team does not expect any funding from the US embassy and plans to invite keynote speakers from the US who are already in Europe. The conference fee will likely be lower than in Bologna as members of AFEA are not used to high conference fees. The organizers wish to limit the hybrid option. The conference will likely be scheduled for late May to replace the annual AFEA conference.

9. EAAS Women's Network International Symposium 2025

CB as member of the EAAS Women's Network Steering Committee reports on the organization of this year's symposium. 22 papers were accepted, but 5 people pulled out afterwards. 12 countries are represented at the symposium. CB voices concerns that the locations of the Board meeting and WN Symposium affect the number of participants: the less accessible the location, the lower the number of participants. The WN Steering Committee is considering having one-day symposia in the future and is planning to re-circulate the CfP after the symposium to ensure a sufficient number of submissions to its online journal *WiN*. In 2024 the WN published a special issue because only one paper submitted after the symposium made it through the review process (out of 3 submitted). The WN is planning to participate actively in the 2026 EAAS conference, proposing two different roundtables (on Academic Mothering and Academic Well-being for early-career researchers) and a general meeting. IK suggests that the roundtable on well-being is co-organized with the newly established EAAS Postgraduate and ECR Network. CB announces that the WN is seeking new members to replace two members of the Steering Committee whose terms come to an end this year. The deadline for the applications is May 15. IG suggests sending the announcement out through the EAAS mailing list.

10. Report on European Journal of American Studies

IG reports that the EJAS continues releasing 4 issues per year, with special issues planned until vol. 3/2027.

11. Rob Kroes Publication Award

IG thanks Marek Paryż for overseeing the EAAS Book Series. 5 applications were received for the last edition of the Rob Kroes Award. IG calls the Board members to actively promote the award and serve as reviewers. FM, who sits on the award committee, adds that the minimum word count for reports is 500 words. Theodora Tsimpouki (TT), MH, and AIB volunteer to serve as reviewers.

12. Current developments in science and research policy in the USA

IG reports that several associations have already prepared their statements in response to the policies of the current US administration, and IG was approached by members asking for the EAAS statement. The EAAS Statement on Academic Freedom was shared with the Board members prior to the meeting (attached to the minutes). KF compliments the statement for striking an appropriate balance. CB adds that AFEA is working on a similar statement, which is however stronger than the EAAS's. KD suggests adding a comment voicing opposition to the US federal government's attempts to dismantle DEI. IG suggests voting on whether to put the statement on the EAAS website as is. The Board members present vote as follows: 19 in favor, 0 against, 1 abstention.

13. EAAS Board Meetings in Novi Sad 2027 and Warsaw 2029

AI reports that the EAAS Board meeting in 2027 will take place in Novi Sad, Serbia, which is easily accessible. In response to IG's question about the possible date of the symposium, AI responds that it will be mid-May. Subsequently, IK announces that the Board meeting in 2029 will take place in Warsaw, Poland and will be co-hosted by the American Studies Center and the Department of English.

14. EAAS Board Meetings in 2030, 2031

IG reminds all present that Prague and Belfast were mentioned during last year's Board meeting as possible locations for the EAAS conferences in 2030 or 2032, adding that APEAA last organized the biennial conference in 1999, and SANAS in 1972. Tomáš Kačer (TK) shares that it will be hard to organize a conference in Prague, because very few members of CSAA are based in Prague, and the services of private event-organizing companies are very expensive. MH goes on to say that IAAS will meet in a few weeks and discuss the possibility of organizing the EAAS conference, but there is not much involvement from people based in Belfast. IG suggest that Dublin may be more accessible, to which MH responds that Belfast is more affordable. IMFA says that APEAA will have its annual meeting at the end of April and promises to consult colleagues from Lisbon and Porto as the best locations for the EAAS conference. Suzanne Enzerink (SE) likewise says that the SANAS Board will meet shortly and with new professors in American Studies, it is quite likely that SANAS may be willing to host a conference. DET writes in the chat that she will bring it up with the general assembly of ASAT.

15. Resolution regarding BASA membership

IG reports that there has been no contact with BASA despite the Officers' repeated attempts, and BASA has not paid its dues to the EAAS for 2024 and 2025. IG sent the notice about the possible termination of BASA membership in EAAS to the last known BASA representative, Madeleine Danova, two weeks ago, but has received no response. AI has tried to reach BASA through Macedonian colleagues, but to no avail. IG adds that there are doubts if there is now an active American Studies association in Bulgaria. JB asks if an excluded association can re-apply for membership, to which IG replies that they can re-apply immediately. Board members unanimously vote to terminate BASA membership (in favor – 20, against – 0, abstention – 0). IG reminds Board members that in the past the Belgian and Luxembourg associations were likewise terminated and asks FM to inquire what the situation is in these countries at the moment.

16. News from Networks and Member associations in addition to distributed compilation of reports

IG reminds Board members that membership fees should be honored across associations, even if this rule is not specified in the EAAS by-laws. AIB promises to discuss the matter at the upcoming SAAS meeting and adds that SAAS has direct agreements with several European associations but not with all, and will hence need to revise its statutes.

Subsequently, Board members report on the situation in their respective associations in addition to the reports already shared prior to the meeting (attached to the minutes). LM reports that it is very difficult to do American Studies in Russia, and she expresses her gratitude to the Institute of America and Canada. YS adds that the situation in Belarus is very serious as well and the American Studies department was disbanded; YS asks other Board members to participate in the events organized by BELAAS. TK mentions economic pressures and the transformation of doctoral studies as major problems for CSAS: as fewer students are accepted into doctoral programs, TK asks for suggestions where to place promising MA students, as there is no student forum in Czechia and Slovakia. JB shares the following message in the chat: “1. The NAAS conference "Aspirations" will be taking place in Turku from June 4 to 6. 2. The US govt has terminated the final 10,000 USD of a 50,000 USD grant to the Center for American Studies at the University of Southern Denmark. Thus, we will have to host Nobel Laureate Joseph Stiglitz without US govt money. 3. I recently stepped down from the board of Fulbright Denmark to protest the Trump administration's horrifying arrest of a former Fulbright grantee from Tufts university.” CB mentions that there will be a roundtable at the next AFEA conference on how to prepare students for their future work.

17. Reporting on connections/collaborations between the postgraduate communities of the EAAS constituent member associations

IG reminds the Board of her commitment to promoting ECR and is pleased to announce the creation of the EAAS Postgraduate and ECR Network as the 10th network. IG urges the Board to help spread the work and promote the network in their respective associations. She also asks the Board to review the sub-site <https://eaas.eu/postgraduates/> to ensure their association's ECR network is listed and the information is accurate; if not, they are encouraged to contact her, the Secretary General, or use the contact form on the website. IG announces ongoing work on the creation of the teaching network and asks interested members to reach out to her or FM.

LM suggests publishing a list of ongoing projects seeking collaborators on the EAAS website, to which IK responds that such calls can be shared through the EAAS mailing list.

18. Auditors' Report

The Auditors' Report was presented to the Board. The auditors AZK and MH report that they examined the documents and found that everything is correct. Their report was accepted by the Board.

19. Closing comments / Final Remarks

IG thanks Board members for attending and Maria Holmgren Troy for hosting the meeting. IG invites all the members to participate in the EAAS Women's Network Symposium. The meeting is adjourned at 2:58 PM.

With special and warm thanks, The EAAS Officers

EAAS Chair's Business 2026

Dear EAAS Representatives,

I submit this report in advance of our hybrid Board meeting at the University of Bologna. On behalf of the Board and the EAAS more generally, I want to thank Elena Lamberti, Raffaella Baritono, Giacomo Manzoli, Mattia Arioli, Matteo Battistini, Federico Gabriele Ferretti, and Angela Santese and their entire team for all their work in putting together this year's EAAS Conference. I also want to thank Kate Dossett, who served on the scientific board as EAAS member. The conference takes place from Tuesday, September 1, until Friday, September 4, 2026. The conference theme, "1776–2026: Visions of Freedom," invites us to revisit one of the most central ideas in U.S. history and culture, especially how "freedom" has animated struggles for emancipation but has also been used to justify exclusion, domination, and empire.

I'd like to acknowledge the colleagues whose time on the Board has come to an end and to warmly welcome our new members. Sonia Di Loreto joins us as the new AISNA representative, succeeding Andrea Carosso, who will continue to serve the EAAS as treasurer (2024-2028). René Dietrich succeeds Karsten Fitz as DGfA representative. Jenny Bonnevier is the new representative for NAAS, replacing Jørn Brøndal.

Neither Makar Taran, the representative of the Ukrainian Association for American Studies (UAAS), or his substitute Artem Koshelev, will be able to join us online this time. Our thoughts and the support of our Association remain with UAAS and our Ukrainian colleagues.

Strengthening Member Associations and Transatlantic Partnerships

A central part of my work as President has been to strengthen ties among EAAS member associations and to renew and deepen our transatlantic relationship with the American Studies Association (ASA). Participating actively in conferences and other meetings has provided important opportunities to represent EAAS and to learn more about the work of member associations.

At the 2025 Annual Meeting of the American Studies Association in San Juan, Puerto Rico (20–22 November 2025), I participated in the networking panel and workshop "American Studies from Europe: Building Collaborative Opportunities for Faculty and Students to Study the US from Europe." Initiated by ASA Executive Director Kate Griffin and chaired by ASA President Alex Lubin, the session brought together colleagues from European American Studies institutions and networks to explore opportunities for collaboration and exchange between European and U.S.-based scholars and students.

After several years in which efforts to strengthen relations with the ASA had largely come from the EAAS side, the invitation from the ASA leadership was a particularly welcome and encouraging development. I used the opportunity to represent EAAS and European perspectives and to help reinvigorate transatlantic connections. One

immediate result was a further invitation: following the ASA panel, Hilary Emmett of BAAS asked me to join the roundtable “Declarations of Interdependence: Teaching American Studies Now” at the BAAS Annual Conference in Glasgow (9–11 April 2026). This was especially welcome because establishing a transnational network devoted to the teaching of American Studies has been one of the goals of my presidency. I am very pleased that the EAAS Teaching American Studies Network will now be formally launched in Bologna.

The importance of sustaining these connections has become particularly evident in light of the severe financial pressures facing Arts and Humanities programmes in the UK. In November 2025, I was glad to write a letter of support for colleagues in American Studies and related disciplines facing proposed closures and cuts. Most recently, these developments have included plans affecting American and Canadian Studies at the University of Nottingham.

The American Studies Network (ASN), a long-standing network of European American Studies centers affiliated with EAAS, remains another important partner. In May, I was invited in my capacity as EAAS President to participate in the 50th-anniversary symposium of the American Studies Center at the University of Warsaw, “American Studies: Pasts, Presents, Futures” (11–13 May 2026). The gathering provided another valuable opportunity to exchange perspectives with colleagues from across Europe and to reflect together on the present state and future of our field.

One aspect of the presidency that I have particularly valued has been the opportunity to listen to and learn from Board members and to experience first-hand how our member associations organize their own annual or biennial conferences. In addition to BAAS in Glasgow, I had the pleasure of joining our Portuguese colleagues at NOVA University Lisbon for the 46th APEAA Conference, “The Times They Are A-Changin’” (18–19 June 2026), as well as the APEAA Doctoral Symposium on 17 June. It was also a welcome opportunity to spend time with EAAS Board member Isabel Alves and to engage directly with colleagues and emerging scholars in the Portuguese association.

2026 EAAS Officer Elections

At this year’s Board meeting, the positions of Vice President and Secretary General are due for election. Aleksandra Izgarjan has completed one four-year term as Vice President and is eligible to stand for a second term. I am very grateful that she has agreed to do so, and we will vote on her candidacy during our meeting. Izabella Kimak has served the remaining two years of the four-year Secretary General term after I was elected President in 2024 and resigned from the Secretary General position. She is likewise eligible to stand for a further term and has agreed to be a candidate. We will also vote on her candidacy during the meeting.

I now turn to the main developments and ongoing matters from the past sixteen months since our last meeting.

EAAS Publications and Scholarly Recognition

[The EAAS Book Series](#) is expanding: we now have 14 published volumes, a further 4 are in production, and another 3 are under review. There is a good chance that we will publish 6 books this year. My thanks to Marek Paryż for his diligent and persistent work on all of these as series editor.

After a strong year with five submissions for the 2025 [Rob Kroes Book Award](#), we unfortunately received no submissions for this year's award. We have therefore decided to extend the submission deadline to October 15, 2026, to advertise the award during the board meeting and the conference and still give possible contenders time to submit their work. I call on all Board representatives to actively promote the Rob Kroes Book Award using their association's PhD and early-career networks, newsletters, and social media channels, as well as to reach out personally to suitable candidates: the winning manuscript is published by Brill in our prestigious EAAS Book Series, and the recipient is also awarded €500. Additionally, I invite any Board members willing to serve as reviewers to come forward and contact Frank Mehring directly.

[EJAS: The European Journal of American Studies](#) is the official journal of the European Association for American Studies, and since 2017 has been published as a quarterly with three special issues and one general issue a year. As President, I also serve as Executive Editor for the journal. Our latest issue, 21.2, is a general issue with fourteen articles. Marek is also the actual editor of the journal, and we have a full slate of special issues in track up to and including issue 4/2028.

After many years of dedicated service as [EJAS Editor for Web Presence](#), Ina Batzke has asked us to find a successor. We thank her most sincerely for her excellent and sustained work for the journal. For reasons of transparency, EAAS issued an open call for the position. The unexpectedly large number of strong applications made the selection process both encouraging and difficult. Following careful consideration, Marek and I appointed Verena Baier (DGfA) and Tomasz Jachec (PAAS) as Co-Editors for Web Presence. Both have accepted the appointment. We hope that sharing the role will also support greater long-term continuity.

In May 2020, the Board approved an annual bursary of €300 for the Editor for Web Presence, as well as reimbursement of travel and participation costs for biennial EAAS conferences and Women's Network Symposia of up to €700 per year. In view of the dual appointment, the Board will be asked to approve an annual stipend of €200 for each Co-Editor. We further propose retaining a single annual travel fund of up to €700. If both editors attend an EAAS biennial conference / Women's Network Symposia in the same year, each may claim up to €350. Alternatively, one editor may claim up to the full €700, in which case the other editor should have priority for use of the fund in the following year.

EAAS Online Presence and Outreach

The new EAAS website has been running smoothly for two years. Major structural changes and website security remain in the hands of a professional web agency, ensuring both long-term maintainability and enhanced protection. With the help of Ben Atkinson (BAAS), we were able to update some issues in the News section, most no-

tably an opt-in button for posting news on social media. We encourage all members to make use of the News section by submitting content via the [submission form](#) on the site. Please help spread the word within your national and multi-national associations so that this platform continues to reflect the richness of the work of EAAS members.

I would like to extend my sincere thanks to EAAS webmaster Vasileios N. Delioglanis (HELAAS Board Member, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki) and to Izabella for their continued work in keeping the website current and accurate. Izabella also responds to the increasing number of inquiries we receive via the website's contact page.

Another important communication channel is the [EAAS mailing list](#) moderated by Izabella and Vasileios N. Delioglanis. When we transitioned the list to its new platform in 2024, we migrated close to 1,000 email addresses. We have a stable subscriber base of currently 1,143, with more people subscribing than unsubscribing. If you wish to promote the list to your members, please direct them to subscribe via the following link which can also be found on the EAAS website [eaas.eu: jiscmail.ac.uk/EAASLIST](mailto:jiscmail.ac.uk/EAASLIST).

Upcoming EAAS Events

During our Board meeting, Aleksandra Izgarjan will give us an update on Novi Sad, Serbia, the location of the next EAAS Board Meeting and Women's Network Symposium. The Board Meeting is scheduled for **Wednesday, June 2, 2027**, from morning to mid-afternoon. The Women's Network Symposium will take place after the Board Meeting (June 2-4).

Christen Bryson (AFEA) will update us on preparations for the 2028 Biennial Conference in Paris. We will also hear a proposal for the 2030 Biennial Conference in Prague, to be presented by Michael Pitts from the University of New York in Prague. We are grateful to the Czech and Slovak Association and its representative Tomáš Kacer that it is ready to host the conference at both Charles University and the University of New York in Prague.

Board Meetings 2029 / 2031: Izabella (PAAS) will host the Board meeting and Women's Network Symposium together with her colleagues at the University of Warsaw in 2029. Anyone interested in hosting the Board meeting and Women's Network Symposium in 2031 or the Biennial Conference in 2032 is very welcome to confirm their interest.

I want to extend my sincere thanks to all of you for your continued dedication to your respective American Studies associations and to the wider EAAS community. This past year has been challenging for many within our field, and the second year of the Trump Administration and the continuance of war as well as new wars have only added to the urgency of our work as scholars, teachers, and representatives of American Studies in Europe.

I am grateful for the energy, commitment, and collegiality that sustains EAAS. I look forward to our discussions in Bologna and to working together on the projects and responsibilities that lie ahead.

With best wishes for a productive Board meeting and excellent EAAS Conference.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading "Ingrid Gessner". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ingrid" and last name "Gessner" clearly distinguishable.

Professor Dr. Ingrid Gessner
President (2024-2028), The European Association for American Studies (www.eaas.eu)

News from EAAS Member Associations: April 2024 – March 2025

listed by alphabetical order of the member associations

AAAS • Austrian Association for American Studies

The 51st AAAS annual conference “Education, the Arts, and American Studies” was organized by AAAS President Ingrid Gessner and AAAS Secretary Angelika Ilg. The conference took place at the University College for Teacher Education Vorarlberg (Feldkirch) from 17-19 October 2024. At the members’ meeting, the following board members were elected: President: Alexandra Ganser (Vienna); Vice-President: Martina Pfeiler (Linz); Secretary: Maria Katharina Wiedlack (Vienna); Treasurer: Marie Dücker (Graz); Board Members: Ingrid Gessner (Feldkirch), Roger Dale Jones (Klagenfurt), Cornelia Klecker (Innsbruck), and Markus Schwarz (Salzburg); International Delegate/EAAS representative: Ingrid Gessner. The 2025 AAAS conference will be held from October 3-5, 2025, at the University of Vienna. It will explore “Ruptures, Fractures, Discontinuities: Troubling American Studies.”

AYA (Austria’s Young Americanists) serves as a network for graduate students in the field of American Studies at Austrian universities as well as Austrian PhD students abroad. During the AAAS annual conference in October 2024 in Feldkirch, AYA organized a roundtable discussion titled “PhTeach: Teaching American Studies/Teaching During a PhD.”

AAAS membership figures have remained stable in recent years. AAAS continues its fruitful partnership with Fulbright Austria to facilitate exchange grants and Austrian-American educational and cultural events. The Fulbright Award for the best thesis in American studies that is presented annually in cooperation with the AAAS was given to Eléonore Tarla (Vienna), who received the award for her master’s thesis “Preparedness, Defense, Success: The Imagination of Survival in Contemporary U.S.-American Survivalist Manuals.”

AAAS board members Robert A. Winkler and Ingrid Gessner, together with Andreas Etges (German Association for American Studies), organized the second Austrian-Bavarian Postgraduate Workshop “American Studies in Times of Democratic Crises” at the University of Salzburg. The workshop received support from the Austrian American Partnership Fund of the US Embassy in Vienna, the Salzburg Global Seminar Salzburg, and the Bayerische Amerika Akademie (BAA). Furthermore, the AAAS board has awarded financial support to Marie Dücker (University of Graz) to attend the Salzburg Global Seminar American Studies Program.

JAAAS, the peer-reviewed journal of the association, continues to thrive and is always [welcoming open-track submissions and special issue proposals](#). Between April 2024 and March 2025, the following issues were published: *Narrative, Environment, Social Justice* (Vol. 5, No. 2) and *Flyover Fictions* (Vol. 6, No. 1). The next issues are *Versions of America: Speculative Pasts, Presents, Futures* (Vol. 6, No. 2), an open-track issue (Vol. 7, No. 1), and *Education, the Arts, and American Studies* (Vol. 7, No. 2).

AASSEE • Association for American Studies in South East Europe

ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES IN SOUTH EAST EUROPE (73 MEMBERS)

AMERICAN STUDIES ASSOCIATION IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

The Association organized workshops at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences at the University of Tuzla. The workshops were held by Stacy Mattingly, a visiting Fulbright professor, and Ismet Prcić, a Bosnian-American award-winning author for the general public, students of English language and literature and the alumni.

The Association recently organized a workshop on literary translation for graduate students in the "English Language Translation" program at the Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences in Tuzla. The workshop was led by Bosnian-Herzegovinian author Adisa Bašić, who has an extensive background in literature and creative writing. Bašić has published several poetry collections, including *Eve's Sentences* (1999), *Trauma Market* (2004), *A Promo Clip for My Homeland* (2011), and *Motel of Unknown Heroes* (2014). Students translated Bašić's short story collection "A ti zaključaj" from Bosnian to English. The Association plans to publish the English translation of this collection in 2025, aiming to make Bašić's work accessible to a broader audience and to foster cross-cultural understanding through literature.

CROATIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

CAAS organized five workshops with themes from the field of American Studies. It also organized an online lecture delivered by June Howard as part of the conference "Minds, Networks, Narratives," which marked the 90th anniversary of the English Department, University of Zagreb. The conference took place at the Faculty of Philosophy in Zagreb on November 7-11, 2024.

MONTENEGRIN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

MAAS organized a small conference on women and aging on November 1, 2024. Eight participants, primarily from the post-Yugoslav countries' academic community, with the addition of a colleague now employed at a university in Taiwan, attended the event. The conference was a resounding success, with each session sparking discussions and generating new ideas that we believe will contribute to the collective understanding of this important topic. The papers were mainly comparative, but every paper also focused on writers and researchers of American literature (Susan Sontag, Joy Harjo, among others). The selected papers will be published during the summer in the literary journal *Ars*, published by Otvoreni kulturni forum Cetinje, further extending the impact of our discussions. MAAS is also planning to organize promotions after the journal is published in several cities in Montenegro.

SERBIAN ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES

SAAS participated in the following conferences:

1. International Conference *Language, Literature, Intersectionality 2024*, organized by the Faculty of Philosophy in Niš, held on April 27, 2024,
2. International conference *International Pynchon Week 2024*, organized by the Faculty of Philology in Belgrade, held on June 17-21, 2024,

3. The 7th *International Conference On English Language and Anglophone Literatures Today* (ELALT 7), organized by the Faculty of Philosophy in Novi Sad held on October 26-27, 2024.

AEDEAN • Spanish Association for English and American Studies / SAAS • Spanish Association for American Studies

CONFERENCES:

The **47TH AEDEAN CONFERENCE** was held on November 6-8, 2024 at the Pablo de Olavide University in Seville. Around 350 papers were delivered, including 39 papers and 4 round tables on US Studies. The plenary speakers were Antonio Ballesteros (UNED), Kyria Finardi (Federal University of Espirito Santo), Pascual Cantos Gómen (University of Murcia), and Theo Dorgan (author).

The **48TH AEDEAN CONFERENCE** will take place on November 12-14, 2025 in Vitoria-Gasteiz (University of the Basque Country). The call for papers will be open until May 1, 2025. Information can be found on the website (www.aedean.org).

The **5th AEDEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR** was held at the University of Cantabria in Santander, July 4-5, 2024. There were three parallel sessions with papers on Literature, Culture and Linguistics, as well as two plenary sessions, given by Javier Pérez Guerra (Universidade de Vigo) and Paula Martín Salván (Universidad de Córdoba). The abstracts for the presentations will be available in the Spring 2025 issue of *Nexus*.

The **5th AEDEAN DOCTORAL SEMINAR** will take place on July 2-4, 2025 at the University of Cantabria. The call for papers is open until March 31. Applications for financial support can be sent until May 13, 2025.

The **17th SAAS CONFERENCE** is being held in Alicante, on April 8-10, 2025. The conference theme is "American Dreams, American Nightmares, American Fantasies." Plenary speakers include Cristina Alsina Rísquez (University of Barcelona) and Philip McGowan (Queen's University Belfast). The conference will host a dramatic reading by Giannina Braschi, introduced by Nuria Morgado. The call for panels was open until April 1, 2024. For more information and updates check <https://web.ua.es/en/saas2025/home.html>

PUBLICATIONS:

ATLANTIS was published in June 2024 (vol. 46, no. 1) and December 2024 (vol. 46, no. 2), and it included several articles in the area of US studies. The journal is currently ranked as Q2 in literature and literary theory (JCR).

Last year we also published two issues of **NEXUS**, which includes tributes, research papers, and book reviews. Both *Atlantis* and *Nexus* are available online.

The **E-BOOK FOR THE 2024 AEDEAN CONFERENCE** will be available online soon.

The deadline to send manuscripts to **REN REVISTA DE ESTUDIOS NORTEAMERICANOS** for volume 29 (December 2025) is currently open.

AFEA • French Association for American Studies

The annual AFEA conference “Power and Empowerment” was held at Aix-Marseille Université from May 21, 2024 to May 24, 2024. Anouk Bottero, Tamara Boussac, Esther Cyna, and Audrey Haensler made up the scientific committee. They proposed the conference theme, selected the panel propositions, and organized the keynote speakers as well as the round table discussions. Cécile Cottenet led the local organizing committee (Dominique Cadinot, Lucas Cantinelli, Francesca Gensio, Sebastien Lefait, Virgile Lorenzoni, Anne Reynes-Delobel, Claire Sorin-Delpuech, Michael Stricof, Tanya Tromble-Giraud, Sophie Vallas, Sara Watson, and Pierre-Francois Peirano). The first day of the conference is typically devoted to doctoral students presenting their research. 15 doctoral students presented this year and were able to dialogue with a discussant. At the members’ meeting, the following board members were elected: President: Mathieu Duplay; Treasurer: Hélène Solot; Board member: Aliette Ventéjoux; Board Member to the EAAS: Christen Bryson; Co-Editor-in-Chief of *RFEA*: Xavier Kalck. The 2025 annual conference “Resistance” will be held at Université de Picard Jules Vernes on May 20-23, 2025.

At the members’ meeting on October 11, 2024, the following board members were elected: Vice President of Research: Véronique Béghain, Secretary: Adeline Chevrier-Bosseau, Members of the ethics committee: Mathieu Bonzom, Camille Rouquet, Emmanuelle Delanoë-Brun, and Amélie Macaud; Co-Editor-in-Chief of *Transatlantica*: Monica Manolescu; Heads of the doctoral presentations at the annual conference: Michel Feith, Guillaume Marche, and Anne Crémieux; Assistant Treasurer: Sébastien Mignot; and Assistant Webmaster: Yohann Lucas.

There were 880 dues-paying members of the AFEA on January 1, 2025. This is largely consistent with 2024. The association did lose some members between 2021 and 2024. This might be linked to the approval of an Ethics Committee at the members’ meeting in the spring of 2021 (see below for more information). The U.S. Embassy also recently informed the AFEA board that it will not be providing any financing for the keynote speakers for this year’s conference. If this continues, as we fear it might, this could jeopardize the stability of the association’s budget and keep the AFEA from hosting American colleagues at the annual conference in the coming years (see below for more information).

The AFEA is responsible for two peer-reviewed academic journals: the *RFEA* and *Transatlantica*. The *RFEA* is a quarterly, print and electronic journal. In 2024 issues on “Lines,” “A Restless Nation (1815-1860),” “Voice(s), Sound(s), Nois(s), Silence(s): Listening to the United States of America,” and “Mainstreaming Intersectionality in Contemporary Cinema and Television” were published. *Transatlantica* is an online journal published semesterly. Issues on “Textual Fluidity, or Why We Need to Acknowledge Poetry Books in Multiple Versions” and “Merwin Recollected: Echo-Futures With or Without Us/ Cities of Hope” appeared in 2024.

In 2021, at the AFEA members' meeting, members voted for the establishment of an Ethics Committee. Their mission is to help prevent and fight against unethical behavior, create a reporting system for problematic situations, ensure mediation for concerned parties, and provide recommendations to the AFEA in how it can foster an environment that is open and inclusive to all researchers in American studies. 2024 marked the end of the first mandate. At the 2024 conference, the Ethics Committee hosted a round table that generated keen interest from participants and a spirited debate.

In order to support transparency in the hiring process of tenured Associate and full Professors in English Departments in France, some members of the English and American Studies associations in France decided to found a website that shares information on each hiring committee: the members of each hiring committee, the date they meet to pre-select candidates for interviews, interview dates, and the ranking of candidates after interviews. We call this website, "Wiki-Auditions." At the members' meeting in May 2024, the AFEA voted in support of their activities and voted to host their website on either our website or our sister association the SAES (the SAES also voted in favor of Wiki-Auditions. Their website will be on the SAES website).

At the end of February, the AFEA board was informed that the association would not be receiving any grants from the U.S. Embassy for its annual conference. The U.S. Embassy in France informed us that no grants were currently under consideration because of a lack of visibility of the year's budget. The AFEA is fearful that our partnership with the U.S. Embassy and U.S. Department of State will not be allowed to continue during the current administration and that this will jeopardize our ability to invite U.S. scholars to take part in our annual conferences. We further fear that the current administration's attacks on academic freedom will have an impact on French researchers who study the United States, whether that takes the form of receiving grants to travel to the United States to carry out research, or the extending of invitations to French scholars as Visiting Scholars if their research falls under any one of the categories that the Trump administration has deemed problematic.

AISNA • Italian Association for North American Studies

AISNA 2024-25: There were 150 paying AISNA members as of December 31, 2024 – in line with last year's report. AISNA's budget is healthy, with annual income from members' fees and grants from the US Mission to Italy, which sponsors conferences, awards, and publications. AISNA's activities are tracked via its website, <https://www.aisna.net/>.

Annual Meeting and 4th AISNA Graduate Conference (September 18-19, 2024, CSA, Rome): AISNA held its off-year meeting and assembly of members on September 18, which also included the 4th AISNA Graduate Conference, titled "'What is an American?' (1782-2024) Narratives and Counternarratives of an Imagined Nation." Keynote address for the AISNA meeting was delivered by Prof. Carla Billitteri, University of Maine: "'A perpetual cutting': Resistance to Form and Aporetic Dialogism in Radical Black Aesthetics." Keynote speaker for the 4th Graduate Conference was Katja Sarkowsky (Augsburg University).

ANNUAL CSA-AISNA SEMINAR (May 6-8, 2024). This year's annual seminar focused on "Banned (Hi)stories: Shaking the Foundations of American Culture." The seminar drew an attendance of over 70 participants – mostly American MA and PhD candidates from all over Italy. AISNA and CSA provided 19 scholarships partially covering participation costs. Speakers included: Emily DRABINSKI, Holly BREWER, Shireen CAMPBELL, Giuliano SANTANGELI VALENZANI, Renata MORRESI, Marco SIOLI, Aaron JAFFE, Valeria GENNERO, Alessandra LORINI. Seminar proceedings will be published in the "Quaderni del Centro Studi Americani" book series.

AWARDS: The Agostino Lombardo Award for best PhD dissertation went to Enrico Mariani (Università di Roma Tre), who submitted a manuscript titled "'The haphazard Americanization'. La crisi del melting pot nella narrativa autobiografica di Louis Adamic, Carlos Bulosan e John Fante." The Annamaria Martellone Award for best PhD dissertation in US history went to Bruno Walter Renato Toscano (Università di Pisa), with a thesis titled "'Their Struggle is our struggle': la Third Women's Alliance e la Alliance Against Women's Oppression tra antimperialism, diritti riproduttivi e attivismo transnazionale (1970-1989)." The Gullì Award for best MA thesis went to Katia Jole Maffei (Università di Bergamo), for a manuscript titled "Riscrivere il mito del West: *Butcher's Crossing* (1960) di John Williams e *In the Distance* (2017) di Hernan Diaz."

PUBLICATIONS: *RSA Journal* (<https://ojs.unito.it/index.php/rsajournal/index>), the journal of AISNA, published its 35th issue, with a special section on "Banned Books." *JamIt! Journal of American Studies in Italy* (<https://ojs.unito.it/index.php/jamit>), the journal of AISNA's Graduate Network, published issues no. 8 and no. 9 (with a special section on "Queering America: Gender, Sex, and Recognition").

AMERICAN STUDIES INITIATIVE: In 2024-25, AISNA has continued to partner with the USA Rome Embassy's "American Studies Initiative," ensuring the funding of adjunct professorships in US literature and history at various universities in Italy.

2026 BOLOGNA CONFERENCE: Planning continued throughout 2024, with Prof. Elena Lamberti leading the organization team and scientific committee, for the 2026 EAAS Conference in Bologna, to be titled "1776-2026: Visions of Freedom" (September 1-4). AISNA offered patronage, to insure involvement of the USA Embassy in Rome, as well as of Italian scholars in North American Studies and their international networks. Three Departments at Bologna are involved in the proceedings. The Call for Papers has been drafted and is now to be submitted to the EAAS board in April 2025 for discussion and final approval.

APEAA • Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies

In June 2023 the 43rd APEAA Meeting, "Culture(s) of the Self," took place. The event was held at the Catholic University of Portugal, in Lisbon, and was organized by the Research Centre for Communication and Culture. At the members' meeting, a new APEAA Executive Board was elected: President: Isabel Alves (University of Trás-os-Montes and Alto Douro); secretary-general:

Edgardo Medeiros da Silva (ISCSP-University of Lisbon); secretaries: Ana Raquel Fernandes (Universidade Europeia, Lisbon) and Zsófia Gombár (University of Lisbon); Treasurer: Diana Gonçalves (Catholic University of Portugal). General Assembly Board: President: Adriana Martins (Catholic University of Portugal); Vice-President: Hermínia Sol (Polytechnic Institute of Tomar); secretary: Jane Duarte (Catholic University of Portugal); secretary: Maria José Canelo (University of Coimbra). The Advisory Committee: Chair: Isabel Oliveira (New University of Lisbon); secretaries: João Paulo Ascenso and Miguel Alarcão (New University of Lisbon).

Over the past year the executive board has been working to fulfil the main objectives of the Association, namely to promote convergence and contact among members; to study and publicize issues related to the field of English-Language Studies in Portugal; and to contribute to the updating and improvement of the quality of research in the academic fields related to English language, culture and literature.

Communication with members is facilitated by the Association's bimonthly [Newsletter](#), which is an efficient way to publicize calls for papers, seminars and conferences, doctoral symposia, research projects, funding, grants and job opportunities. The Newsletter also informs about upcoming national and international events and initiatives.

We have [a new website](#) which will soon allow us to re-launch the publication of the APEAA journal *Op. Cit.*

Our current focus is on contributing to the success of the [45º APEAA Annual Meeting](#), to be held at the University of Minho on April 28-30, 2025. During the meeting, [the 2nd APEAA Doctoral Symposium](#) will take place, which aims to bring together students from Portuguese universities, allowing them to present their doctoral research projects, exchange ideas with peers, and receive feedback from specialists in their fields (mentors).

In terms of future initiatives, the Portuguese Association for Anglo American Studies (APEAA) plans to continue to support activities related to Anglo-American Studies, and respond to suggestions from our members. We also hope to continue to fulfil the aim of expanding our association; at the moment we have 112 members.

ASAT • American Studies Association of Turkey

The American Studies Association of Turkey (ASAT) will hold its regular General Assembly Meeting and election for board members in May 2025. The full list of the current members (2023-2025) is available at <https://asat-jast.org/>.

As of 30 December 2024, ASAT has a total of 99 registered members.

Two issues of the *Journal of American Studies of Turkey (JAST)* have been published: issue #61, (Spring 2024) and issue #62 (Fall 2024), both general issues. An open-access archive of *JAST* is available at <https://asat-jast.org/index.php/jast/issues>.

Two study groups have been initiated.

Indigenous Studies Circle Study Group:

“This initiative is a renewed effort to establish a unique platform in Turkey dedicated to interdisciplinary Indigenous studies. Our goal is to unite scholars, graduate students, and community members in exploring the resurgence of Indigenous knowledge, methodologies, and perspectives.”

More information is available at <https://asat-jast.org/index.php/activities/study-groups/indigenous-studies-circle-study-group>.

Science Fiction Study Group:

“This study group aims to create a space for academics who study science fiction not only in Turkey but also in the US, Europe, and other countries.”

More information is available at <https://asat-jast.org/index.php/activities/study-groups/science-fiction-study-group>.

Within ASAT’s traditional biennial conference series, the 42nd International American Studies Conference, entitled “Re* Imaginings and Visions of America,” was held between 23-25 October 2024 and was hosted by Yaşar University in İzmir, Turkey. The conference included 2 keynote addresses, 61 presentations, and 1 study group meeting, with a total of 63 presenters from 10 different countries, namely Turkey, the US, South Korea, Portugal, Italy, Greece, Romania, Tunisia, Malta, and France. Selected papers from the conference are currently being processed for possible publication in the upcoming Spring 2025 issue of *JAST*. Preparations towards the next conference which will be held in 2026 are ongoing – the host university proposals are being evaluated and the CFP is being drafted. The plan is to hold the 2028 conference in Ankara, as it will also mark the celebration of the 40th anniversary of ASAT’s establishment.

In the meantime, the co-editors of the *Journal of American Studies*, of the British Association for American Studies, Dr. Will Norman and Dr. Katie McGettigan, reached out to us concerning a possible collaborative project. Following several online meetings and numerous joint efforts, a project proposal was drafted and submitted for a British Academy Writing Workshops grant. Should the project be accepted, we will be working together for two years on “Securing the Futures of Early Career American Studies Scholars in Turkey through International Publication.”

BAAS • British Association for American Studies

American Studies in the UK continues to face numerous challenges. American Studies undergraduate programmes continue to be cut and closed, along with a sector-wide contraction of the Arts and Humanities. BAAS works closely with colleagues in the Arts and Humanities Alliance, UKCASA, the English Association, the Royal Historical Society and the British Academy to offer support to colleagues in departments facing closures and to reiterate the importance of American Studies scholarship. We recognise that it is incumbent on BAAS to think about how we can keep American Studies alive in our research, our teaching, and our public engagement in spite

of these closures. BAAS continues to facilitate an online space for those with leading roles in the UK American Studies community to discuss issues of common concern, share practice, and pool resources.

BAAS also works closely with the Eccles Institute for American Studies at the British Library. The 'America Now!' series, launched in 2024, has been a resounding success, with all events in 2024 sold-out. With discussion topics ranging from the Barbenheimer phenomenon to the supreme court, from country music to the future of the presidency, 'America Now!' has provided much needed expert insight into the society, politics, and culture of the contemporary United States. The series has been designed with the general public in mind, and it has demonstrated that there is a great deal of appetite amongst the British public for accessible and informative scholarly programming that goes beyond the headlines and hot takes. For BAAS, this collaboration has been especially fruitful because it has enabled our members to share their knowledge and expertise with the public. The America Now! Series will continue in 2025 with three events in its first season. As unfolding events in the US continue to move at a pace, events that make evidence-based scholarship available to the public have never been more important. BAAS is excited about continuing to work closely with the Eccles Institute for Season Two of 'America Now!' in 2025-26.

In 2024 BAAS continued to develop our administrative practices and procedures in line with our plans to professionalise the administration of the organisation and ensure compliance with relevant legislation. In 2024 we appointed an Administration Manager to support the Chair and other officers with the smooth running of BAAS, and ensure that all administrative activities are carried out efficiently and effectively to enable BAAS to fulfil its obligations to its members and carry out its charitable activities. The Administration Manager has reviewed our administrative systems and HR policies, line manages all other BAAS administrative staff, and supports the treasury team with financial administration. In 2024 BAAS finalised our review of HR policies and practices, and now all of BAAS's administrative team are on clear, up to date contracts and a transparent salary spine. BAAS is confident that we are now following best employment practices. In 2024 BAAS was contacted by representatives of media agencies because we had inadvertently used images on the BAAS website that we did not have the correct license to use. BAAS has since established clear copyright guidance for all members of the executive committee.

BAAS has an ongoing commitment to sustainability and inclusivity, and all of BAAS's initiatives are conducted with these principles in mind. This includes the BAAS Awards Programme, the Targeted Research Panels, and our support for initiatives relating to American Studies research, pedagogy, or career development or the development of networks or other organisations that support American Studies scholars, through the BAAS Development Fund. In 2024 we hosted our 69th Annual Conference as a digital only conference, in order to reduce BAAS's carbon footprint and invite new audiences to our community. The conference took place on the platform Discord, and ran very smoothly. BAAS has now committed to running one in three conferences digitally. We also continue to fund Targeted Research Panels that support, promote, and feature the production of research by people of colour, LGBTQ+ communities and disability communities. We continue to make use of our Code of Conduct to ensure BAAS events and spaces are inclusive, and to date there have been no reports of breaches of the Code of Conduct. In 2024 we added an Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Lead to our Executive Committee, in order to continue our work to broaden our gender and racial inclusion and ensure that all colleagues feel welcomed and are

involved in our events and activities, provide support for postgraduate students and early career academics, and make our events more accessible to scholars with disabilities or those with caring responsibilities. In 2024 we awarded our first Teaching Awards to recognise the excellent work done by BAAS members in the HE classroom.

In 2024 the BAAS Annual General Meeting approved amendments to our Constitution that have allowed us to recruit more trustees to serve on the executive committee, in particular an additional postgraduate representative, and to create specific roles related to Inclusion, Sustainability, and Schools. We have also added a clause that enables trustees and officers to take parental (or other) leave without having to resign from the committee. We hope that these changes will significantly help us to make BAAS an organisation that is effective for all of our members.

In 2024 BAAS applied for, and was successfully granted a block grant of \$200,000 to administer a Small Grants Programme on behalf of the US Embassy in London. The application was to distribute funding in support of US-linked educational events and activities in the UK, with a particular emphasis on widening participation and bringing new audiences to American Studies. BAAS's commitments to inclusion and sustainability were embedded throughout the application. However, in January 2025 as a result of Trump Administration policies, the BAAS/US Embassy Small Grants Programme was first suspended, and then terminated, as a result of various Executive Orders. In response to the Embassy withdrawing their funding, BAAS have released an additional £20,000 from BAAS's reserves to increase the budget for the Development Fund for 2025.

The 2025 conference will take place in person at the University of Hertfordshire. 2025 will mark BAAS's 70th birthday, and this will be an opportunity not only to reflect on how the organisation has grown and changed over the past 70 years, but also to think about where we want to be in another 70 years' time.

The *Journal of American Studies* is on a more even footing now as we have moved from five issues per year to four. The editors continue to encourage submissions from the membership of EAAS. As part of BAAS's anniversary reflections, the *Journal of American Studies* will publish a Special Issue to celebrate the 70th Anniversary of BAAS. This will include reflections on the history of American Studies in Britain, both institutionally and intellectually, and will republish significant past JAS articles with commentaries from current editorial board members.

BASA • Bulgarian American Studies Association

No report was submitted.

BELAAS • Belarusian Association for American Studies

In 2024, BELAAS went through the sixth reregistration and now has the status of a "Society for American Studies" but, according to law, has to regularly confirm its legal address, i.e. has to pay for office space monthly on a regular basis. Considering the situation, membership has been

considerably reduced, having today only 14 members. It has also created problems with holding conferences and events.

Nevertheless, the traditional 31st conference was held in May, 2024, bringing together academics and young scholars from Belarus, China, Iraq, Russia, and Zimbabwe. We are grateful to our distinguished EAAS colleagues Philip McGowan, Carmen Birkle, and Ingrid Gessner, who gave online presentations that were greatly appreciated by the participants.

The focus of BELAAS has been:

Testing the results of research into thematic, conceptual, genre-stylistic, structural, and discursive trends in the development of US prose in the 20th–21st centuries in comparison with the developments in Belarusian literature and determining their specific features as well as studying the problems of human consciousness, cultural memory, and the experience of civilization in the works of Belarusian and American writers. Participation of BELAAS members in various events in Belarus and other countries was to familiarize foreign peers with the experience of Belarusian scientists and teachers in studying the problems of modern literary criticism and cultural studies and to improve the professional competencies of academics at Belarusian universities.

In spite of various problems, 3 BELAAS members took part in the EAAS Munich conference (both on- and offline). They are grateful to EAAS for its support.

All in all, BELAAS participants took part in 19 regional and international conferences in Baranovichi, Grodno, Minsk, Vitebsk (Belarus), Vologda, Kazan, Krasnoyarsk, Moscow, Nizhni Novgorod, Rostov-on-Don, Yekaterinburg (Russia). They published 15 papers in academic journals in Belarus, Russia, and U.K., and 8 papers in collective monographs.

CSAA • Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies

The Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies (CSAA) continues to foster collaboration between scholars from the Czech Republic and Slovakia. To this end, a regular schedule of local conferences has been established, aligning with the practices of other national associations within the European Association for American Studies (EAAS). Commencing in 2025, the CSAA conference will be held biennially. This year's conference is scheduled to take place in Košice, Eastern Slovakia, on September 6-7, marking the first time the event will be hosted in Slovakia.

The call for papers has been designed to attract scholars specializing in American Studies from various social science disciplines, including history, sociology, and security studies. It is our hope that these scholars will join the association, which is currently predominantly composed of experts in literary and cultural studies.

Additionally, the traditional Colloquium of American Studies, previously held annually in Olomouc, will transition to a biennial schedule starting in 2026, alternating with the CSAA conference.

The CSAA leadership is advocating for the establishment of a PhD students' section within the association. However, we are facing challenges due to a general decline in the number of PhD

candidates in both countries, a consequence of ongoing transformations in PhD studies. We remain optimistic that the PhD students' section will be inaugurated in Košice in September 2025.

The CSAA Board remains unchanged from last year.

DGfA • German Association for American Studies

The 2024 annual conference of the GAAS (May 23-25) was co-organized in May by Martin Butler (American Studies) and Mario Dunkel (Musicology) and their teams at the University of Oldenburg and dedicated to the topic of “American Soundscapes.” It featured keynote addresses by Nina Sun Eidsheim from the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA), Nassim Winnie Balestrini from the University of Graz, and Jonathan Rosenberg from the City University of New York (CUNY), as well as 17 panels with at least four contributions each. The 2025 annual meeting on “American Archives/Archiving America” is going to be hosted by Daniel Stein and his team at the University of Siegen (June 12-14).

At the members’ meeting in Oldenburg, a new Executive Board was elected: President: Christian Lammert (Free University of Berlin); Vice-President: Andrew Gross (University of Göttingen); Executive Director: Regina Schober (University of Düsseldorf). For the publication *American Studies – A Monograph Series*, edited for the GAAS, two new general editors were implemented: Astrid Franke (University of Tübingen) and Timo Müller (University of Konstanz).

The annual conference of the GAAS-Historians on “Health in American History” was hosted by Nina Mackert (University of Leipzig) and Jürgen Martschukat (University of Erfurt) and took place in Erfurt (May 3-5). The political science section of the GAAS held their annual conference on “Authority and Trust in American Politics and Society,” co-hosted by the Heidelberg Center for American Studies (HCA) and the DFG-Graduiertenkolleg “Authority and Trust” at the Heidelberg University, at the HCA (June 6-8). The annual symposium of the Postgraduate Forum (PGF), titled “(Re-)Shaping the Public Sphere: Cultural Productions as/and Interventions,” was hosted at the University of Nürnberg-Erlangen in November.

HAAS • Hungarian Association for American Studies

In 2024, the Hungarian Association for American Studies (HAAS) had a membership of 67. The organization held its 14th annual conference, titled *America Beyond Crisis: Regeneration, Coping, Healing*, on May 24–25, 2024. The event attracted nearly one hundred presenters and over one hundred participants from ten different countries. Hosted by the University of Szeged, the conference received support from the University, the city of Szeged, and the Szeged Chapter of the Hungarian Academy of Sciences.

The HAAS General Assembly convened on May 24, 2024, in Szeged, where a new Board was elected. Ágnes Zsófia Kovács (University of Szeged) assumed the position of President, Zoltán Vajda (University of Szeged) was elected Secretary, and Renáta Zsámba (Eszterházy Károly

Catholic University, Eger) became Treasurer. Under the new leadership, HAAS launched an official website (<https://eaas-haas.hu>) and established a new mailing list.

The 2025 General Assembly took place on January 31, 2025, in Szeged as a satellite event of the HUSSE conference. During this meeting, members voted on three key initiatives. First, the establishment of the HAAS Lecture Series, an annual online event featuring discussions on contemporary American Studies (AS) topics, delivered by a distinguished member of the Association or the broader AS community. Second, the introduction of limited financial support for junior and senior scholars seeking to attend biennial EAAS conferences or other AS-related conferences in intervening years. Third, the decision to provide funding for one domestic conference with an American Studies focus per year. The continuation of these initiatives is contingent upon securing external funding, with potential sources including the Hungarian Academy of Sciences and the U.S. Embassy. The HAAS Board is actively working to establish connections with these external funding bodies.

The inaugural HAAS Lecture, titled *Pax Americana*, was delivered by former HAAS President Tibor Glant on March 20, 2024.

Additionally, *AMERICANA—E-Journal of American Studies in Hungary*, an independent publication closely affiliated with HAAS, invites submissions on American Studies topics for its 2025 volume. Further details are available at: <https://www.americanajournal.hu/index.php/americanajournal/>.

HELAAS • Hellenic Association for American Studies

In May 2024, the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS) in collaboration with the Fulbright Foundation held the 3rd **online annual lecture** delivered by Carol Becker, Professor of the Arts and Dean Emerita, Columbia University School of the Arts, who gave an inspiring talk about the role creativity and critical thinking can play in higher education.

Also in May 25-26, 2024, HELAAS participated alongside other organizations in the co-organization of the International **Symposium** (hybrid), titled "Emerging Perspectives in H.D.'s Hellenic Modernity and the Future of New Modernist Studies." The organizers of the event were: School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUTH) and Athens College in Greece, St. Thomas University and University of Alberta Augustana Campus in Canada, Fulbright Foundation Greece, HELAAS, Research Committee AUTH.

In June 2024, **Philip J. Davies**, chair of the UK Political Studies Association's American Politics Group and Professor Emeritus of American Studies at De Montfort University, Leicester offered an online **round table discussion** on topics revolving around American politics and cultural production, in particular the upcoming US presidential elections and its global impact.

In June, HELAAS in collaboration with the School of English, AUTH organized its 8th **Summer School**, themed "Active Citizenship in a Participatory Culture," with the participation of

distinguished guest lecturers: Ingrid Gessner (EAAS President), Rachel Moore & Meagan Driver (Fulbright Visiting Scholars), Vassilis Deligiannis (HELAAS Board Member & Post-Doc Researcher AUTH), Lydia Roupakia & Fani Boudouroglou (Faculty AUTH), Foteini Toliou (PhD Candidate AUTH & HELAAS member), Konstantinos Blatanis (Faculty National and Kapodistrian University of Athens). Coordinators of the full event were: Despoina Feleki (HELAAS Treasurer & Post-Doc Researcher AUTH) & Tatiani Rapatzikou (HELAAS Vice President).

In December 2024, HELAAS invited Dr. **Magdalena Paluszkiewicz-Misiaczek**, Chair of the Canada Institute of American Studies and Polish Diaspora at Jagiellonian University, Krakow to give a **webinar** on "Canadian Indigenous Women – Trauma and Resilience Throughout the Centuries."

Also, in December 2024, *Ex-centric Narratives: Journal of Anglophone Literature, Culture and Media* (<https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric/index>) published online its annual issue, consisting of a Special Issue titled "Mobile Locative Media and Hybrid Narrative Spaces" and Other Essays. The Special Issue was edited by Dr. Vassilios Deligiannis, School of English, AUTH and Dr. Manuel Portela (University of Coimbra) (<https://ejournals.lib.auth.gr/ExCentric/issue/view/1245/showToc>).

In March 2025, Dr. **Katie Googe**, University of Southern California gave a **webinar** on "The relationship between time, imperialism, and the rise of science fiction at the end of the 19th century." She will also offer a **masterclass** on "*Moses, Man of the Mountain* by Zora Neale Hurston (1939)." Dr. Googe who is currently a U.S. Fulbright scholar in Brno, Czech Republic will visit Athens and the National and Kapodistrian University of Athens as a Fulbright Intercountry Lecturer.

IAAS • Irish Association for American Studies

The annual conference of the IAAS, entitled "Dis/Trust," took place on May 1-3, 2024, at University College Dublin. The event was offered on-site and online, and its keynote speakers were Dr. Imaobong Umoren (London School of Economics) and Prof. Johannes Voelz (Goethe-University Frankfurt). IAAS 2024 was organised by Dr. Adam Kelly and Alex Kroll. The IAAS Postgraduate Caucus continues to support the work of researchers and early career academics, through webinars such as an information session provided by the Irish Federation of University Teachers on employment entitlements. It continues to offer its Writing Together program for postgrads and ECRs. Its home is on the IAAS Postgraduate Discord page, and provides a forum wherein ECRs and postgrads exchange ideas and information in a supportive and constructive environment. For more information join our Discord <https://discord.gg/xVDeWswS9p> or email postgrad@iaas.ie.

The Annual IAAS Postgraduate Symposium, "American Carnage," took place at University College Cork on 22nd November 2024. The organisers were Ginevra Bianchini and Beth Aherne, IAAS PG Caucus co-chairs.

The IAAS W.A. Emerson lecture, "Bad Bridget: Crime, Mayhem, and the Lives of Irish Emigrant Women," was delivered at The University of Ulster Belfast on October 10, 2024.

The IAAS Prizes Committee continues to provide support for junior American Studies scholarship through its competitive annual research bursary schemes, which help to fund the research-related activities of early-career and postgraduate scholars based on the island of Ireland.

NAAS • Nordic Association for American Studies

American Studies Association of Norway (ASANOR): The ASANOR biennial conference was on a theme anticipating the nationwide bicentennial commemoration of the first planned direct emigration from Norway to the Americas in 2025. The conference, which took place Oct. 3-5, 2024, was organized in cooperation with the Norwegian Emigrant Museum, Ottestad and Inland Norway University of Applied Sciences, Hamar. It ran successfully, featuring nearly 40 presentations. At the conference, the ASANOR Board voted to shift future conference dates away from the fall months to the spring, partly to better align with the NAAS conference scheduling routine. ASANOR's next conference is scheduled for June 4-6, 2026.

Danish Association for American Studies (DAAS): A number of activities advertised by DAAS and sponsored by the U.S. Embassy in Copenhagen and the University of Southern Denmark took place at the Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark, in 2024 under the overall heading, *The Soul of a Polarized Nation: The U.S. Presidential Election of 2024 and the Outlook for American Democracy*. Those events included visits by numerous prominent scholars and commentators on US politics and culture to Denmark. A “Harris v. Trump 2024 Pre-Election Event” on October 3-4 featured on-site talks by E.J. Dionne of Georgetown University, the Brookings Institution, and *The Washington Post*, as well as talks by Professor and former Executive Director of the Roosevelt Institute David Woolner, Marist College; Carolyn Jefferson-Jenkins, Adjunct Assistant Professor, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill and former President of the League of Women Voters; also, there were online talks by Professor Andrew Hartman of Illinois State University, Professor and Associate Dean Ray Haberski of Indiana University, Indianapolis, and Professor Laura Browder of Richmond University. On November 5, students organized in the Danish Student Association for American Studies (DSAAS) staged an election-night event. On November 15, Professor Johannes Völz of Goethe University Frankfurt gave an online talk on polarization. Finally, an American Studies Festival on November 21-22 featured on-site presentations by Professor and former President of the American Studies Association Shelley Fisher Fishkin, Stanford University; Professor James Fishkin, Stanford University; Associate Professor Nicole Hemmer of Vanderbilt University; and Professor Gina Caison, Georgia State University. All the on-site talks at the University of Southern Denmark were also live-streamed and made available on YouTube. In collaboration with the Nordic Association for Canadian Studies (NACS), DAAS organized the first, hopefully annual, North American Studies Seminar on Nov. 7, 2024. This event was well attended by both DAAS-members, NACS-members, and several high school teachers and classes. In addition to these events, several members of DAAS contributed in numerous outlets to the news coverage surrounding the 2024 Presidential Election.

The Finnish American Studies Association (FASA): The association conducted several activities that were aimed for scholarly and broader audiences. In the reporting period, FASA contributed to the 20th Maple Leaf and Eagle Conference in North American Studies at the University of Helsinki (May 2024) in various ways including the conference preparations as well as by

sponsoring a panel in which FASA gave a presentation on its activities (MLE2024, website: <https://www.helsinki.fi/en/conferences/maple-leaf-and-eagle-2024-conference>) Several FASA members participated and gave presentations at the MLE 2024 conference. Throughout the year, FASA collaborated with SAM, a non-profit organization promoting cultural exchange between the United States and Finland. Forms of collaboration included a panel discussion on the United States presidential election, which was also streamed to public, a conference grant for doctoral researchers, and a blog series about recent research aimed for general audience. FASA's important focus, in collaboration with John Morton Center for North American Studies, University of Turku, has been the preparations for the NAAS 2025 conference to be held in Turku, Finland on June 4-6, 2025. Conference website: <https://sites.utu.fi/naas2025/>

The Swedish Association for American Studies (SAAS): The main SAAS activity in 2023 was the co-hosting of the biennial NAAS conference. In the spring term of 2024, a PhD student workshop was organized for the third time and, as before, in co-operation with SINAS. The second workshop was an online event, held on October 22, 2022. The third iteration was held February 29–March 1, 2024, at Akademihotellet in Uppsala. 12 PhD students from Swedish universities – the highest number we have had – and seven senior scholars participated, including the then residing Fulbright Chair, professor Eric Weisbard. Another tradition that was continued during the period was the SAAS newsletter, summarizing the “State of the Field of American Studies in Sweden” for the years 2022 and 2023. The newsletter was compiled during the spring term of 2023 and 2024 respectively and sent out to members before summer each year. The submissions to the newsletter show a continued high level of activity given the size of the field in Sweden. The main SAAS activity during 2024 is the 12th biennial conference at Södertörn University, October 3-4. The SAAS board decided to use mainly the same format as the 2022 conference, in that the conference is primarily intended for current SAAS members and that the focus is on the discussion of work in progress, with shorter presentations and more time for discussion and scholarly exchange. The main organizer is David Östlund, working with a committee of local Södertörn University scholars. The invited keynote speaker is James T. Kloppenberg, Charles Warren Professor of American History at Harvard University. Given the presence of a distinguished scholar of US democracy and the time of the conference just before the presidential election, the keynote lecture, “Solidarity Embattled: American Progressives since 1900 in Atlantic Perspective” has been made a public event and is followed by a panel titled “Sound and Fury: The U.S. Election and Media Images in Long-term View” with Dag Blanck, Cecilia Khavar, and Göran Rosenberg joining the speaker in a discussion moderated by Christin Mays. The conference itself has around 20 presenters and will, in addition to presentation sessions, include a plenum session on the teaching of American Studies in Sweden. It should also be noted that the conference has been generously supported by Södertörn University.

American Studies in Scandinavia: The Nordic Association for American Studies (in partnership with its national organizations, the American Studies Association of Norway, the Finnish American Studies Association, the Swedish Association for American Studies, and the Danish Association for American Studies) is responsible for publishing the journal *American Studies in Scandinavia*. The journal has long served as a principal venue for Nordic scholars and students of American studies and those located in other nations as well. The journal publishes two issues per year (fall and spring), with 3 to 5 articles of 7-9 000 words each, and 3 to 5 book reviews per issue. The journal

also currently publishes special issues on proposal. The journal receives around 30 submissions per year. In addition to receiving submissions from Nordic and other European nations, as well as North America, the journal also receives an increasing number of submissions from up-and-coming nations in American studies scholarship such as Pakistan and China. The journal is committed to open access publication, publishing through the Copenhagen Business School (CBS) Open Journals online platform. In its current format, the journal is exclusively digital, with its website housed by the CBS Library.

NASA • Netherlands American Studies Association

The **29th Amerikanistendag** student conference took place on June 14, 2024, at Leiden University. This event provided a platform for students and scholars in American Studies across the Netherlands to present their research and exchange ideas. The day began with a keynote lecture by Katy Hull (University of Amsterdam) on anti-democratic trends in U.S. political history. In the afternoon, 14 students showcased their work, and the John Adams Institute announced its annual essay prize in American History. The event was a great success, and NASA encourages students to participate in the next edition, which will be hosted by the University of Amsterdam in Spring 2025.

The **NASA Annual Conference**, titled *Democracy in Action: Radical Cultures, Protest Movements & Resistance in the Americas*, was held on October 31 and November 1 at Utrecht University. Scholars from various countries, including the UK, Spain, Germany, Ukraine, Mexico, Algeria, and Qatar, participated. The keynote speaker, Nicholas Grant (University of East Anglia), discussed Paul Robeson's strategic patriotism and activism against U.S. imperialism and racial capitalism. The conference featured diverse panels covering topics from Black abolitionism and Confederate symbolism to Mexican electoral malpractice and Trumpian rhetoric. The concluding roundtable addressed American Studies' responses to geopolitical crises, highlighting the enduring relevance of social movements and comparative historical perspectives.

The **Rob Kroes Travel Grant** supported Meredith Wielingen's participation in the *Eric P. Newman Graduate Summer Seminar* at the American Numismatic Society in New York. Over eight weeks, she engaged in intensive lectures, research, and site visits, expanding her knowledge of numismatics and American currency history. This experience enriched her thesis work, particularly her growing interest in American commemorative coins and their historical significance.

The **American Studies Community** continues to thrive with diverse research initiatives. Marije van Lankveld (Radboud University Nijmegen) explores *Settler Colonialism by Minority Communities*, focusing on Irish women writers in North America and their role in shaping colonial narratives. Sara Polak (Leiden University) is leading an ERC-funded project, *Worlding America: How Play Shaped the United States from New Media to Politics, 1503-2028*, examining the intersection of politics and play in American history. Marcella Schute (Erasmus University Rotterdam) reflects on her experience teaching history courses, emphasizing the importance of quantitative methods in historical research.

The ***Netherlands American Studies Review (NASR)*** welcomed a new Editor-in-Chief, Nicolas Turner (Leiden University), and published its first 2024 issue in the summer, featuring articles on topics such as *The Handmaid's Tale* and the Iraq War. The next edition is scheduled for January 2025.

NASA's 2024 events and research initiatives highlight the vibrant and interdisciplinary nature of American Studies in the Netherlands. The organization remains committed to fostering academic collaboration, supporting student research, and engaging with critical discussions on history, culture, and politics.

We're pleased to announce that the Netherlands American Studies Association will hold its 30th annual Amerikanistendag on **Friday, April 25, 2025**. The event will be hosted by our colleagues in American Studies at the University of Amsterdam.

NASA will be co-organizing a conference on the historical significance of **water in shaping the United States**, in collaboration with the Roosevelt Institute for American Studies (RIAS) and the Theodore Roosevelt Center at Dickinson State University. The event will take place at **RIAS in Middelburg from May 21 to 23, 2025**, and will explore how water—through naval power, conservation, and resource management—has influenced America's economic, political, and cultural development. By shifting the historical focus from land to water, the conference aims to uncover new insights into American expansion, diplomacy, and environmental policy. Scholars are invited to submit proposals that examine the role of water in U.S. history and its lasting impact in the Anthropocene.

PAAS • Polish Association for American Studies

[Polish Association for American Studies](#) held its **annual conference** on September 25-27, 2024 at the University of Białystok. The theme of the conference was "[American Hospitality](#)." The conference was organized in cooperation with the International Association for American Studies and featured three keynote speakers – John T. Matteson (John Jay College of Criminal Justice, CUNY, USA), title: "'Ferocious Roots': Hospitality, Identity, and Exclusion in Recent American Latina Literature"; Saniye Bilge Mutluay Çetintaş (Hacettepe Üniversitesi, Turkey), title: "Crossing the Threshold: Thoughts on Hospitality and Hostility in the USA"; and Karolina Krasuska (University of Warsaw, Poland), title: "Migrants, Exiles, and Refugees: Towards Multidirectional American Studies" – and 70 presentations by scholars from Poland and other countries.

The reports on past PAAS conferences (since 1998), with conference programs and photographs, are currently being added to the Association's refurbished website and are available at <https://paas.org.pl/archive/past-paas-conferences/>

As of December 2024, PAAS has 92 members, which is a slight decrease from the previous year after the current Board decided to terminate membership of those members who have not been paying their dues for a number of years.

A new issue of ***Polish Journal for American Studies*** came out in 2024, including special issue on “Latinx Stories in the 21st Century” edited by Ewa Antoszek, varia, and reviews. The issue can be accessed at <https://paas.org.pl/pjas/pjas-archive/pjas-18-contents/> Three thematic issues are scheduled for publication in the immediate future, namely “The Beats: Wilderness and Wildness” in 2025, “The Ecological Eye/I in the 21st Century: Sustainability in North American Non-Fiction” in 2026, and “Myth in Contemporary American Literature and Culture” in 2027.

The Association continues to hold an annual **competition for the best MA thesis** in American Studies in Poland. In 2024 the jury decided two theses merited the award: “Writing Men in the (M)Anthropocene: An Ecocritical Analysis of Masculinity in Contemporary Fiction,” written by Piotr Dąbrowski under the guidance of Prof. Anna Pochmara-Ryzko at the Institute of English Studies, University of Warsaw, and Matin Nikookar Ardestani’s “Identity, Crisis, Stasis: An Investigation of the Leftist Critiques of Identity Politics,” written under the guidance of Prof. Agnieszka Graff at the American Studies Center, University of Warsaw.

RAAS • Romanian Association for American Studies

RAAS – The Romanian Association for American Studies has continued to promote the organization’s goals and to increase the cooperation among its members. We have also tried to encourage younger academics to join the organization and we are happy that more PhD and M.A. students in American studies have joined our association this year.

In December 2024, a new RAAS board was elected: Iulia Milică (The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) – president, Mihaela Precup (The University of Bucharest) – vice-president, Stefana Iosif (The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) – secretary, Stefan Ghiran (The Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi) – treasurer. The new board will continue the projects started by the former team and will try to strengthen the bonds between the Romanian and the European associations for American Studies. At the beginning of 2025, a selection of papers presented at the 2023 Conference “Mapping Spaces and (the) US” organized at Ovidius University Constanta will be published.

RSAS • Russian Society of American Culture Studies

The 50th International conference of the Russian Society for American Culture Studies, with the theme “Sculpting the Future to Build the Present: American Culture and Democracy,” took place in Moscow on December 4-8, 2024, under the auspices of the Georgy Arbatov Institute for the U.S. and Canada Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences (further ISKRAN). There were seven sections where over 80 reports were discussed by both experienced Americanists and those who recently identified the United States as a sphere of scientific interests from 28 universities and academic institutes in eight Russian cities, as well as from Belarus, North Macedonia, China, Egypt, and the USA. In addition to the speakers, many listeners were also attracted by the traditional round table “Imprints: Image of Russia and Image of America,” dedicated to the memory of

Professor Yassen Zasursky. There was also one more round table dedicated to the history of the association itself “Half a Century of Russian Americanists’ conferences,” coordinated by professor Olga Nesmelova (Kazan Federal University).

Happening a month after the November 2024 elections in the USA, the theme of the conference devoted to interaction of the ideas and practice of democracy in culture provoked a lot of discussions on the past, present, and future of democracy as a continuing experiment in government. The plenary talk by professor Valery Garbuzov on dichotomy of democracy and authoritarianism in the modern world set the tone and framework of looking at the current processes not as a product of unique personal traits and circumstances but in a perspective of certain tides of urgent needs in the society and ways to meet them. Professor V. Garbuzov underlined the need to maintain American studies in Russia which accumulated rich tradition, including culture studies, and expressed willingness to support our conference further. Professor Olga Panova from the Philological Department of Lomonosov Moscow State University (further LMSU) and Gorky Institute of World Literature spoke on Dr. William E.B. Du Bois’ reflections on democracy “Between West and East: W.E.B. Du Bois on Democracy in Contemporary World.” Dr. Larisa Mikhaylova (LMSU) presented an overview of the Russian Society of American Culture Studies development over 50 years, dwelling on the seminal figures of Yassen Zassoursky, Maya Koreneva, Alexader Mulyarchik, Alexandre Vashchenko, and Ekaterina Stetsenko, as well as evolution of approaches to conference themes formulation, up to arriving at its determination by vote among the members of RSACS online (from 2021).

The most well attended sections of the conference were those on Contemporary culture, Ethnic aspects, and Gender aspects of culture, with over 10 papers each.

Abstracts of the conference in English are published at https://rsacs.org/abstracts_50_eng/

Video recordings of the conference are available at <https://rsacs.org/category/media/>

The 51st RSACS conference will be arranged around the theme “The concepts of «America» and «American» in literature and culture of the USA: historical and modern connotations.” The conference will be held on December 3-7, 2025, at the premises of Georgy Arbatov Institute for the U.S. and Canada Studies, Russian Academy of Sciences in Moscow (with a possibility to present online). Planned sections include Journalism, Culture of America in the 17th-19th centuries, American Culture of the 20th-21st Centuries, Ethnic Aspects of American culture, Gender Aspects of American Culture, Fantastic in the Arts and Culture of the United States, and Canadian Dimension of American Culture. You may send the suggestions to organize a panel discussion to larmih@gmail.com until May 15, 2025. Registration link and dates will be published on the website rsacs.org at the end of May.

SANAS • Swiss Association for North-American Studies

SANAS is experiencing a period of relative stability. Our member count has been hovering around 75 or so; this year, at the AGM, we voted in 7 new members. SANAS continues to focus both on

strengthening the academic network within Switzerland and building bridges to international organizations, especially in the German-speaking world.

Our flagship event this last year was the 2024 SANAS conference in Geneva. Centered on the theme "American Futurisms," and organized by Prof. Deborah Madsen with the assistance of Aicha Bouchelaghem and Caroline Martin, the event brought an international crowd to Geneva on November 7 and 8. A volume with selected papers and essay drawn from the conference will be published with SPELL this upcoming year. The second event was our annual spring reading group. In May 2024 we welcomed Prof. Brian Ward to Sankt Gallen, where he workshopped a paper on Loretta Lynn, coal mining, and the medical humanities. We continue to struggle somewhat with the attendance numbers for the spring reading group, and are brainstorming potential alternative formats to make sure we can justify the expenditure on this event while still keeping open opportunities for regular exchange and networking.

Regrettably, the U.S. Embassy has not changed its stance on funding a travel award—like the last few years, they have opted not to collaborate on this. We of course hope that this will change in the future, and in the meantime offer a SANAS Research Award to members. For 2024, the award went to Dr. Sofie Behluli and Malaika Sutter of the Department of English in Bern, who received the award to further their project on contemporary literary practices and reading.

Looking ahead, the small American Studies community in Switzerland is in a transitional phase, with several chair professors retiring or retiring soon. In Zurich, Katharina Gerund was hired as the new Professor for American Literature and Culture. Her research focuses on military cultures and cultures of war. We will also say goodbye to Prof. Deborah Madsen (Geneva) and our own Prof. Thomas Austenfeld (Fribourg), current treasurer of SANAS. We are deeply grateful to both of them for their many years of service and engagement with SANAS, and we also look forward to seeing what the incoming chairs will do for the future of the field in Switzerland.

UAAS • Ukrainian Association for American Studies

The Ukrainian Association for American Studies (UAAS) has been actively engaged in promoting American Studies in Ukraine through various academic initiatives, conferences, lectures, and publications over the past year.

Journal Publication

UAAS continues to publish the peer-reviewed journal [*American History & Politics*](#). Since April 2024, two new issues (No. 17 and 18) have been released, and work is currently underway on Issue 19. The journal remains a crucial platform for scholarly discussions on American history, politics, and culture.

The [Facebook page](#) of the journal has grown into an essential hub for academic discourse, boasting **23,000 followers**. The page is updated daily with 2-5 posts, providing insights into recent developments in American Studies, scholarly debates, and upcoming events.

UAAS also actively engages with the academic community through its official [Facebook page](#) and the [Ukrainian Association for American Studies Group](#) on Facebook, which serve as platforms for scholarly exchange, networking, and sharing information on upcoming events and research opportunities.

International Conferences & Seminars

1. [International Research Seminar on the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election](#) (Washington- Kyiv, October 10, 2024)

UAAS co-organized a major **international research seminar** focusing on the **peculiarities of the 2024 U.S. presidential election**. Experts from the U.S. and Ukraine engaged in discussions about electoral strategies, historical precedents, and potential global impacts.

2. [III International Conference in Memory of Yuri Knorozov: “Ukraine – Latin America: Public Diplomacy Towards Mutual Understanding”](#)

This conference highlighted the growing academic and cultural connections between Ukraine and Latin America, fostering discussions on historical ties and contemporary diplomatic challenges.

3. [Panel Discussion on the 2024 U.S. Elections: Historical Experience, Expectations, and Global Consequences](#)

UAAS hosted a roundtable discussion on the potential impact of the **2024 U.S. presidential elections** on world affairs, with a particular focus on **Ukraine-U.S. relations**.

Lectures and Public Talks

1. [Lecture by Canadian Sinologist Gordon Holden](#)

Gordon Holden delivered a lecture to students of **American Studies and East Asian Studies programs**, providing an insightful comparative analysis of American and Chinese global strategies. (link)

2. [Lecture by the Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine, Nataliia Tymots](#) (May 14, 2024)

UAAS members participated in a moderated discussion with the Canadian Ambassador, focusing on **Canada-Ukraine relations and North American diplomatic strategies**. Prof. Oleg Mashevskyi led the discussion.

3. [Lecture by American Professor David Livingstone](#)

David Livingstone delivered a talk titled **“American Anthems: The Times They Are A-Changin,”** where he explored historical transformations in American music. His **live banjo performance** and interactive engagement made the session particularly memorable.

4. [Terrell J. Starr Public Talk](#) (March 14, 2025)

UAAS organized a roundtable discussion with **Terrell J. Starr**, an influential journalist and the creator of **Black Diplomats**, a YouTube channel covering civilian life in wartime Ukraine. His talk, titled **“U.S. Domestic Xenophobia Threatens Ukrainian Sovereignty,”** provided a unique perspective on race, politics, and international affairs.

Academic Collaborations and Publications

- UAAS actively contributed to the publication of [conference proceedings](#) from the international conference **“Ukraine-Latin America: Challenges and Prospects of Global Partnership.”**
- The **third seminar** [“Crimea in the Coordinates of History”](#) was successfully held, bringing together historians and political analysts.

Conclusion

Over the past year, the Ukrainian Association for American Studies has successfully expanded its **academic outreach**, strengthened **international collaborations**, and contributed to **public discourse on American Studies** in Ukraine. With a stable **membership base**, a thriving **academic journal**, and a growing **social media presence**, UAAS continues to play a leading role in the study of the **United States in Ukraine**. Future initiatives will focus on **enhancing student engagement**, **expanding research opportunities**, and **fostering new international partnerships**.