



European Association  
for American Studies

# AMERICAN STUDIES IN EUROPE

Newsletter • Issue No. 63 • February 2011 • ISSN 1359-4923

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The President and his team celebrating 15 years of the Halle-Wittenberg Center for United States Studies, Nov. 20, 2010  
(Photograph by Christine Grabbe)

## Message from the President

Dear members of the European American Studies community,

After the conference is before the conference. But allow me first to reminisce about our highly successful 2010 meeting in the beautiful and hospitable city of Dublin. On the following pages you will find photographs of the city and of Trinity College taken by our colleague Lehel Vadon who represents the Hungarian Association for American Studies on the EAAS Board, taking over as chronicler from former Vice President Martin Heusser. Summaries of the proceedings of twenty-three workshops and of the History Shop Talk are available in this newsletter. The best workshop papers and the major lectures will be published separately in volume 5 of our new book series *European Views of the United States*. Stephen Matterson and Philip Coleman, the editors, tell me that they are making good progress. I cannot mention all the conference highlights but I would like to dwell on two.

In recognition of the exemplary services that Rob Kroes rendered to EAAS over many, many years, the EAAS created the Rob Kroes Publication Award for the best original monograph by a European Americanist. The first winner is Astrid Franke of the University of Tübingen whose book *Pursue the Illusion: Problems of Public Poetry in America* was published days before the Dublin conference. In the General Meeting I

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paid tribute to Rob and he to Astrid who could not attend because of an airline strike. The remarks that she wanted to make – Academy Award-like – are printed below on page 43. Watch out for the next Kroes Prize advertisement which will soon appear on [www.eaas.eu](http://www.eaas.eu). Another high point was the introduction of the monumental and innovative (the two do not often go together) volume *A New Literary History of America* by editors Greil Marcus and Werner Sollors. As we go to press, Sollors has landed another scoop by unearthing and publishing five hitherto unknown stories by Zora Neale Hurston. Read more on page 44.

sue of this newsletter which is due in May. Since it is now in the competent hands of Vice President Meldan Tanrısal and her Assistant Editor Cem Kılıçarslan, we are certain that *American Studies in Europe* has again become a reliable publication.

Speaking of publications, our e-journal *EJAS* comes to mind. The European Journal of American Studies was founded in 2006 under the tutelage of Marc Chénétier who then represented EAAS. Five years and thirteen electronic issues later we can be certain of a grand success. I say this with such confidence because we were invited in January to be indexed in the *MLA*



*Sphere Within Sphere* by Arnaldo Pomodoro, outside the Old Library of Trinity College, Dublin  
(Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

Izmir 2012 is already very much on my mind. The chosen topic is “The Health of the Nation.” Although we are quoting Jefferson’s dictum “health is worth more than learning” in the Call for Papers which was published on the EAAS website a while ago, we beg you not to take it too literally. For a successful conference, scholarship is of the essence. But do pay attention to your health while you are working hard on your parallel lecture and workshop proposals! The EAAS Board is going to meet in Rome a mere eight weeks from now to decide on the conference program. The workshop announcements will appear in the next is-

*International Bibliography* and listed in the *MLA Directory of Periodicals*. This accolade was made possible by the tireless work of editors Giles Scott-Smith, Hans Krabbendam, Cornelis (Kees) van Minnen (for the fields of history, social sciences, and international relations), Pawel Frelik, Roxana Oltean, Jean-Yves Pellegrin, Theresa Saxon (for the fields of literature, culture, the arts, and American Studies), and Theodora Tsimpouki, the book review editor.

Giles Scott-Smith informed me in November that after four years of service he wished to step down as chief editor for the history and social science section

and that Hans Krabbendam and Kees van Minnen also were of the opinion that *EJAS* should have a new editorial team for these subject areas. I sent Giles a note of thanks and said that he and his colleagues had done “a tremendous job for *EJAS* and hence for the entire community of European Americanists.” To ease the transition, he gracefully agreed to remain at the helm until the EAAS Board had designated a new editorial team.

In closing, let me say a few words about the state of EAAS. Almost a year ago, Martin Heusser asked to be relieved from his position of Vice President since recurring health problems had rendered him unable to fulfill his duties. After a successor had been elected in Dublin, I wrote to him that the EAAS officers understood that “circumstances at times, and particularly over the last year, have made it difficult for you to contribute to the EAAS in ways that you’d want to, and we all hope that things will improve for you. But all in all, your work on the EAAS Board for more than a decade continuously showed your commitment and dedication—especially evident in your efficient hosting of the Zurich Board meeting last year—and we wanted to acknowledge this with a formal letter of thanks.” Meldan Tanırsal, the representative of the American Studies Association of Turkey on the EAAS Board, was elected to serve ad interim and will stand as a candidate for a full term of four years when we elect a new Vice President and a new Secretary General in Rome.

The report of the President, which is item 3 of the Dublin Board Meeting minutes below, began with the statement that “there have been difficult times in the recent past for the running of the association.” I think I can say without any mental reservation that these times are over. The EAAS is in good shape as an organization and our losses due to the financial crisis of 2008 have been partially recovered. In fact, we are about

to solve a major problem that has been on the agenda for several years, namely how to admit new members from Eastern and Southeastern Europe without jeopardizing the functionality of the Board which has grown to twenty-one members. With several American Studies groups in the former Yugoslavia waiting in the wings, a solution had to be found. When Dr. Petar Penda of the University of Banja Luka, Bosnia, approached me in April, 2010 with a request for membership, I suggested to him that “our preference would be to invite federated organizations with a regional focus to become members. There are, for instance, American studies organizations in Finland, Sweden, Denmark, Norway, and Iceland. However, they are represented in the EAAS through the Nordic Association for American Studies. The Czech Republic and Slovakia have parted ways in the political sphere, yet in EAAS they are represented by the Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies. I realize that such unions may be difficult to achieve in your part of Europe. And yet who, if not academics, can bring about supra-national cooperation! I would be much in favor of a South-eastern European Association for American Studies. Bosnia-Herzegovina, as a multi-national nation, might well lead the way to such an end.” To my delight, these views were well received and Petar Penda immediately began to contact American Studies scholars in Bosnia, Serbia, Croatia, and Slovenia. Other countries in the region may follow. The membership application of the SEEAS is on the Rome agenda. Story to be continued in the next ASE newsletter.

Warm greetings to all,  
Hans-Jürgen Grabbe



The 18th century Irish Houses of Parliament, now the Bank of Ireland, College Green, Dublin  
(Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

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Board members Marcel Arbeit, David Rio, Daniele Fiorentino, Pawel Frelik and Reinhold Wagnleitner at Trinity front gate (Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

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# MINUTES OF THE EAAS BOARD MEETING

## 25 and 26 March, Dublin, Ireland

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*Thursday 25 March 2010*

The Board meeting began at 10:20 with the circulation of the attendees' list. All constituent associations were present, with the exception of the Bulgarian member, Kostadin Grozev. President Hans-Jürgen Grabbe welcomed new members: Boris Vejdovsky (SANAS, ad interim), David Mauk (NAAS), and Teresa Cid (APEAA). Jacques Pothier (AFEAA) was present ad interim at the last meeting and is now the official delegate. HJG also announced that, for reasons he would explain later, the Secretary-General, Jenel Virden, could not be in Dublin, and that he had asked Gert Buelens to take the minutes of the meeting.

There were no additions to the agenda.

### 1. Welcome

HJG quoted from A. N. J. Den Hollander in 1973 on similar difficulties in the running of the association as have occurred in the past year or so. He preferred not to dwell on those further and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### 2. Minutes of the Zurich Board Meeting

There were no remarks. The minutes were accepted by the Board, with thanks to the Secretary General.

### 3. Report of the President 10.25

There have been difficult times in the recent past for the running of the Association. Martin Heusser has, after a protracted period, felt it necessary to resign as Vice President. Jenel Virden cannot join us in Dublin because of a domestic crisis. HJG reads out an e-mail detailing the problem.

There have also been intricate problems around the legal-financial running of EAAS, but HJG and the Treasurer, Stephen Matterson, have this under control.

EAAS has worked productively with the European Study Group of 19th-Century American Literature, giving modest travel grants (6 x €200) to enable members to attend events. It is especially young scholars (from Latvia, Poland, Turkey, Spain, etc.) who are being supported in this way.

There has been an issue with the Young Americanists' page (<http://www.eaas.eu/eaas-networks/post-graduate-forum>) that has not been updated during the

past two years. HJG believes that it should be kept in spite of lack of enthusiasm from some postgraduate student representatives.

### 4. Report of the Secretary General

In the absence of JV, this item is skipped.

### 5. Financial Reports

#### a. Treasurer ad interim (Hans-Jürgen Grabbe) 10.40

The revenue from the Amsterdam Fund (MeesPierson Portfolio) is unpredictable. It was for many years unnecessary to draw on the Fund. When it did look desirable, the market was such that the Fund was losing money. There is some lack of clarity regarding a drop of €1676 in the Portfolio, which MeesPierson claims is due to a currency fluctuation (dollars to euros) that will be rectified again at the end of the next reporting period, but which has not been documented to HJG's satisfaction, so that he feels compelled to declare this item as a budgetary loss.

Item Administration: mainly spent on legal work for the one-off incorporation of EAAS.

Budget Plans for 2010 & 2011: perhaps the expectation that the Portfolio will gain value is too optimistic. Publication of the Newsletter is now electronic, so that funds can go to the book series. A monograph of 300 pages will cost roughly 4000 Euros; funds are also foreseen under Publications for travel of the editors of the EAAS e-journal to meetings, and for website maintenance.

#### b. Steward of the EAAS Trust Fund (Hans Bak)

HB will join us on Friday. This item is postponed till then.

#### c. Treasurer (Stephen Matterson) 11.00

The €5000 budget for the Dublin conference may not need to be claimed: there are as of today 266 registrants; from 280 a break-even situation is reached.

BLASA has not responded to the invoice request. All others are in good standing. Income from dues for 2009 was about €25000. There is currently €21000 our account.

SM is both conference treasurer and EAAS treasurer. He wonders whom he should show his conference

accounts. HJG does not feel it is necessary to have EAAS vet the local organizational accounts; that was also not the case with earlier conferences. He believes that this is the responsibility of the host organization, in this case the IAAS.

## 6. The EAAS after the Withdrawal of Vice President Heusser 11.10

### a. General Discussion

HJG has communicated about the problematic situation with the board on several occasions. There has not been a chance to talk face-to-face with Martin Heusser. HJG regrets this on a personal as well as professional level. Boris Vejdovsky reports that he spoke to MH recently, and that he seems back in the saddle at Zurich University. We all know him as a very committed person and can only conclude that serious problems must have been at the root of this unfortunate lapse.

### b. Discussion of Possible Candidacies

HJG asks suggestions as to how we should proceed, also taking into account that the 2011 board meeting would normally elect both a Vice President and a Secretary General. Teresa Cid signals that an overlap between officership and conference organization is good, esp. to add weight to requests for local and national funding. HJG does not dispute this in principle but points out that the fundraising aspect for conferences has in the past sometimes not actually been properly covered by people wearing those two hats. HJG does the round of the table inquiring after members' preparedness to serve, having also pointed out that, in our decision, not only the regional but also the gender aspect had best be considered.

Several people express a strong desire to help the association, but also a fear that their other duties (or problems of another nature, such as visa restrictions on travel) would, at this point, prevent them from contributing as intensively as seems to be required. HJG points out that what is mainly needed is a willingness on the part of officers to devote a reasonable amount of time, even when the going is rough at their own universities, to interacting with the other officers, at a rate of perhaps every second day by email and a Skype conference once a week. There is no special competence required, except for availability for consultation. The issue of editing the Newsletter (part of the VP's role) is discussed and the difficulty downplayed now that the experience and template is there; moreover certain aspects of the editing can be delegated. After some further discussion, HJG indicates that we might assign certain tasks to non-officer members, as we have made Hans Bak Steward of the Amsterdam Trust Fund (editing the

Newsletter or running the website would be other tasks that qualify) but he is not prepared to consider a three-tier structure of executive board, board and members. We are a team of 21 members and we have 4 officers.

The following people indicate that they could serve. Gert Buelens might stand for Secretary General in 2011.

Pawel Frelik, Meldan Tanrisal and Daniele Fiorentino are prepared to stand for Vice President.

## 7. Pre-Conference Reports 11.51

### a. Report of Dublin Organizers and Pre-Conference Business (Stephen Matterson)

All materials are ready, but SM did not want to distract board members from their proper business by issuing it at the meeting. Everything is under control. There are some special features such as the book launch of Marcus and Sollors, *New Literary History of America*.

Astrid Franke, winner of the Rob Kroes Prize, cannot attend due to the BA strike; she mailed an acceptance speech to Rob Kroes, which he will read out.

### b. President's Pre-Conference Visit to Dublin, 7–9 January 2010

The conditions were icy on the roads; warm in the company of the team, which clearly did an excellent job.

## 8. EAAS Website 11.58

### a. Report on the new Content Management System

HJG procured the software free of charge. He displays the nuts and bolts of the system for the enjoyment and education of board members, demonstrating that no knowledge of HTML is needed to operate this extremely user-friendly system. HJG opted for a newspaper look, with front page teasers and "Read More" links taking you to the full text of the item.

### b. New Webmaster

Design is under control and can continue to be delegated for certain aspects to the professional, who, for a modest fee, has taken care of this so far, but some board member needs to be prepared to be the recipient of input, such as requests to post CfPs. HJG asks for a volunteer. Jacques Pothier steps up to the plate. The Board is very appreciative.

[Auditors of accounts: Philip Davies and Marcel Arbeit agree to take on this duty once more.]

The Board adjourns for lunch at 12.15.

## 9. EAAS Articles 14.19

### a. General Discussion

The issue before the Board is a legal problem relating to EAAS's incorporation under German law.

HJG wrote to board members to prepare this point prior to the meeting, as follows:

"The cornerstone of the EAAS edifice is its not-for-profit status. This has been refused by the German tax authorities. The provisions for liquidation in Article 16, Paragraph 3 – though in harmony with the Civil Code – are not considered sufficient under the tax laws. I am attaching a letter from the Inland Revenue Office that makes this clear. Also attached is the all-important Section 5 of Appendix 1 of the German Tax Regulations. In straightforward language this is to say that upon liquidation of EAAS our assets have to go to another association or corporation under German public law which is not-for-profit in its own right. Needless to say, this creates a serious problem for a multinational association. I have racked my brain but could not think of a public body in our country that would fit the bill. The Council of Europe, for instance, would, but it is seated in Strasbourg. The Regional Inland Revenue Office suggests that we leave our assets to the Martin Luther University (page 2). That is, of course, out of the question. A feasible option might be the Leucorea Foundation who houses our archives and provides us with office space and an address. We could negotiate an agreement with them, stipulating that EAAS money be used to foster European-American scholarship."

### b. Proposed Changes to Article 16 (3)

Article 16 as it now stands is as follows:

"Amendment of Purpose, Liquidation"

(1) A change in the purpose of the association or its dissolution may only be resolved in a Board meeting called for this purpose, in which the approval of all members is required.

(2) Liquidation shall be performed by the acting Officers, unless the Board with a two-thirds majority of the members present decides to appoint a liquidator.

(3) The liquidation of the association shall otherwise occur subject to the provisions of the German Civil Code."

Proposed new Article 16 (3):

"When the association is liquidated or if the purposes justifying tax relief no longer apply, its assets will fall to the Leucorea Foundation, a public law foundation ("rechtsfähige Stiftung des öffentlichen Rechts") at Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, which

shall be required to use them directly and exclusively for non-profit purposes in conformity with article 2 (3) of the EAAS Articles, specifically by supporting study and research in all areas of American culture and society and by promoting the integration of young European academics in American Studies through research and travel grants."

If the proposal is adopted, then an amendment to Article 17 is also required.

It now reads: "(3) The above Articles were passed on April 3rd, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland."

This should be changed to "(3) The above Articles were passed on April 3rd, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland, and amended on March 25, 2010 in Dublin, Ireland."

### c. Vote to Amend the Articles

The Board unanimously approves the amendments.

[Addendum by HJG: The vote will have to be repeated when the EAAS Board meets again in April, 2011 since the court of registration insists on a separate, signed attendance list.]

## 10. EAAS Publications 14.32

### a. The book series *European Views of the United States* (Hans-Jürgen Grabbe)

HJG reports that the series has just published the first winner of the Rob Kroes Prize: Astrid Franke, *Pursue the Illusion: Problems of Public Poetry in America* 259 pages, 3319.20 cost + VAT giving a total price of €3950. It will sell for €39.

Vol. 1 of the series, *Conformism, Non-Conformism and Anti-Conformism in the Culture of the United States*, eds. Antonis Balasopoulos, Gesa Mackenthun, and Theodora Tsimpouki, sold only 53 copies so far. This is not so surprising. Conference proceedings do not sell as well as monographs and the series still has to find its market and get more recognition. Volume one has been reviewed twice which is encouraging. In the arrangement with VU Press Amsterdam until 2006, most copies were gratis (to board members and authors), so that only a small number was actually sold and very few copies could be found in major libraries.

Jacques Pothier reports this problem not to be new: he could not actually get hold of EAAS volumes produced by VU Press Amsterdam.

Gert Buelens suggests direct marketing (e.g. to libraries) as a separate duty to be undertaken by one Board member.

Boris Vejdovsky suggests electronic publishing. HJG responds with principled agreement, yet points to the risk of Open Access publishing for the business model of publishers like Winter. Gert Buelens and Bo-



ris Vejdovsky add that OA publishing is not the same as self-publishing and that e-publishing can also be commercial (cf. Kindle Books). David Mauk chimes in that conference proceedings are particularly suitable to e-publishing, because you can more easily sell individual chapters. A print-on-demand agreement with the publisher is also suggested.

A discussion ensues of the relation between EJAS canvassing at the Oslo conference and that done by the editors of the Oslo proceedings. HJG responds that there were supposed to have been arrangements as to which publication venue would get priority for which type of work (e.g. lectures for the conference volume). But a blurring occurred, according to David Mauk.

Some ideas are circulated about publishers (Intellect and Continuum provide print and electronic issues simultaneously) and about marketing (e.g. conference sales: but HJG reports this was not a success in the past).

#### b. The Oslo Proceedings (David Mauk)

The editing will be done by mid-June, and the InDesign software will be used. DM apologizes for the delay. Martin Heusser's illness was a hindrance; there were others. There will be 25 pieces, arranged into thematic sections. HJG will write general introduction; DM a specific one.

HJG adds that he asked Gert Buelens to step in as an additional editor, to be approved by the board. DM states he does not think he needs a third editor; the only issue was to have a local person in Oslo to help with the implementation of InDesign. DM was not aware of the policy of having an officer among the editors. Stephen Matterson proposes to note the two-editor situation as an exception. This proposal is adopted, so that the editors of the Oslo proceedings will be David Mauk and Ole Moen.

#### c. The Future of the EAAS Newsletter *American Studies in Europe*

HJG wonders whether downloading the Newsletter is still a necessity or even a practicality.

Pawel Frelík is in favor of retaining the Newsletter in printable form, so that colleagues with weak internet access can print it out for reference, and sometimes to distribute among colleagues without internet access.

Several members argue in favor of having the Newsletter in printable format, yet to have some of its information accessible on the website through direct links, such as the conference program (already the case) and the minutes (link to be added). This proposal is accepted.

#### d. The E-Journal *European Journal of American Studies* (Pawel Frelík)

*EJAS* will be transitioning to new software at revues.org. One improvement will be PDF-functionality in addition to HTML. PF further reports on recent issues and special issues. *EJAS* is listed on the Directory of Open Access Journals and is under review at Thomson Reuters for ISI-inclusion (this usually takes 18 months, since 3 subsequent issues have to be reviewed, but may go more quickly in view of the accretive model of e-publishing). Unique visitors are on the increase: 20 000 in 2007; 35 000 in 2008; 41 000 in 2009. Problems with peer reviewers continue. Reviewers have three weeks, but often take three months and need several reminders, occasionally then providing a three-sentence review. The editors would welcome suggestions of good, reliable reviewers, especially in literature and culture. Pawel Frelík also asks guidelines for renewing the editorial board, suggesting that it would be appropriate to have an open call for candidates, even though no one is eager to resign right now. HJG feels that the editorial team is young enough not to take steps for renewal. He also thinks an open call is not the best procedure to guarantee qualitative standards. He does have concerns regarding the Advisory Board. HJG suggests that EAAS Board members could advise on appropriate working advisory board members within their expertise (and country) and suggests that we adopt a rule to have half of the advisory board be replaced every three years.

There is some discussion about ways of increasing profile such as the existing mention on the American Studies Association list ([www.theasa.net](http://www.theasa.net)): *American Studies Journals – A Directory of Worldwide Resources*, where it needs to be ensured that the current issues are listed.

Gert Buelens places a footnote to the *EJAS* editorial board arrangement, suggesting that some system for possible replacement of members (and advisory board members) should be put in place, with a call for candidates among the possibilities. David Mauk and Philip Davies propose that Pawel Frelík develop a plan to be discussed at the next Board meeting. This proposal is accepted.

HJG adjourns the meeting, good work having been efficiently completed today 16.00

#### **Friday 26 March 2010**

HJG opens the meeting at 10.10 am, and welcomes Hans Bak, Steward of the Amsterdam Trust Fund for item 5.b of the agenda.

HJG, SM and Hans Bak are sitting in a row: three former treasurers, one of which is also current treasurer—a rare moment, photographically commemorated by Lehel Vadon.

## 5. Financial Reports

b. Steward of the EAAS Trust Fund (Hans Bak); item postponed from yesterday

HB reports on the Amsterdam Trust Fund and explains briefly its nature and origin. It was set up by former treasurer and president Rob Kroes in the late 80s as a safety net for EAAS, in view of dwindling support from American official sources, and esp. with the aim of contributing to the cost of organizing conferences (which has not really proved necessary so far).

The Fund is with MeesPierson bank (Amsterdam), which fused with Fortis. The assets are managed according to a “defensive risk profile,” which means the bank intervenes when risks are perceived. The cost to the Fund is 0.5%. HB reviews the past 6 years, which included bad years in world finances overall. The good news is our funds are back up in total value to €10 463 (it was never more than €17 000). More than half of the assets are in fixed income securities (government bonds etc. at a fixed interest rate). HJG proposes to transfer alternative investments (14% in 2009; in real estate mainly) to fixed income securities too, keeping around 25% in (potentially higher-yield) shares/equities. He wants above all to be able to rely on a steady income, which this shift would guarantee at roughly €5 000 a year. HB responds he is willing to discuss this with the bank, but that we may have a package with them, where alternative investments form a fixed part. Nonetheless, HJG would like this to be pursued. Cash assets are also discussed, now 10% of the Fund, which seems excessive in view of the fact that EAAS has €20 000 in cash available. Philip Davies raises the issue

again of our charity status: under British law, we would need to spend more money. HJG answers that we are alright as long as we spend our income on objects within the purview of our articles. In the past few years, we have been losing money, so this has not been an issue.

## 11. EAAS Travel and Conference Grants (Stephen Matterson and Hans-Jürgen Grabbe) 10.30

SM reports we received eight applications. Usually, those are discussed by the officers during the conference and then announced to the board on Monday. SM proposes postponing this until we have a new vice president and can consult with the secretary general. HJG adds that the idea of sponsoring intra-European grants rather than trans-Atlantic ones should be reviewed next year, in part given the degree to which the cost of those types of travel has become very similar. It could also be considered assigning funds to groups of European scholars meeting for an Americanist purpose.

## 12. Auditors’ Report and Vote on Accounting

This item is postponed, because an error has been discovered for which paperwork must be consulted.

## 13. Election of the Vice President 10.36

HJG introduces the discussion: the VP will serve for one year, but preferably we now elect someone who is available for election in Rome too; on that occasion, the Secretary General needs to be elected too, and, in 2013, a new President and Treasurer will be needed.



Three treasurers: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (2004–08), Stephen Matterson (2009– ), Hans Bak (2000–04) (Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

Another issue is the location of the 2012 conference: Halle-Wittenberg was a likely location at one point, but when HJG became president, he realized this was not realistic. Similarly, the organization of the Dublin conference has proved SM's primary job; it is a significant intellectual job. Combining a function of officer and conference organizer is a challenge. HJG next shows a table of the EAAS officers since 1954, drawing attention to regions and gender. Few women have served. Meldan Tanrısal, Pawel Frelik, and Daniele Fiorentino have said they are available. DF feels he should bow out in view of the considerations raised by HJG. Yuri Stulov and Marietta Messmer will collect ballots. MT clarifies her candidacy in light of Turkey's organizing the 2012 conference: the combination can facilitate matters. HJG responds that his experience has been that this is not necessarily the case. Teresa Cid wonders whether it applies to the post of VP as much as to that of Treasurer; it may help in raising funds to have that function to your name. There is some discussion of the regional aspect, where the situation is complex. There is also a question about the combination VP and editor of *EJAS*, to which PF responds he is only one of seven editors who share the work.

[11.10] The result of the election for Vice President, for the period between now and the Board meeting of 2011, is a clear vote for Meldan Tanrısal. HJG thanks the candidates.

[Addendum by HJG: Since the EAAS could not produce a signed list of the board members who voted, it was not possible to register MT as Vice President. The three remaining officers therefore invoked Article 8 (11) of the by-laws which says: "The Board may commission the Officers to assign the implementation of resolutions passed during the Board meeting to individual members of the association." That is to say, we have interpreted the Vice Presidential vote as a resolution to assign the duties of Newsletter editor and interim Vice President to Meldan Tanrısal until the next Board meeting which will take place in Rome from 7 to 10 April 2011.]

#### **14. Application for Membership: Serbian Association for American Studies 11.00**

HJG reviews the correspondence so far, including an invitation from him to the SAAS president to come to Dublin to discuss membership, which was not accepted. The original issues have not been resolved. Among them are:

The mixed status of an organization that embraces Americanists and Anglicists, and is officially called Serbian Association for Anglo-American Studies. We

have one such organization, AEDEAN, but agreed it should remain an exception: for accounting purposes, this has proved a problem: how many members are Anglicists, how many Americanists?

Only Serbian citizens can be members and SAAS must report any membership in international associations to the authorities: this is not acceptable to EAAS.

Is the organization truly national in scope? Most members belong to the staff of one university. No convincing explanation was provided for this weighting.

SM proposes that we certainly postpone our decision until such time as the problem with the legal requirements is settled. HJG concludes that we will invite the SAAS president to Rome, and pay for reasonable expenses in this exceptional case.

#### **15. 2011 Board Meeting in Rome 11.12**

Daniele Fiorentino reports on preparations: The Center for American Studies will be kept open on the Saturday. The schedule is Thursday night (April 7), meeting all day Friday (8) and Saturday (9), aiming to finish in mid-afternoon. We should aim for three per diems, hoping some meals might be sponsored, which DF indicates will be the case. We need two types of accommodation for different budgets.

[11.25 Break]

#### **16. 2012 Conference 11.54**

##### a. Venue of 2012 Conference

Meldan Tanrısal comments on Ankara, Istanbul and Izmir or Antalya as possibilities with various pluses and cons. HJG is concerned about our ability to sell Ankara to the membership. He recalls a visit to Izmir at an earlier point when it was considered as a conference venue. This strikes him as ideal, a notion seconded by SM. Izmir is the favorite venue.

##### b. Conference Theme

HJG says that traditionally local organizers get a first opportunity to suggest a theme. Meldan Tanrısal has no proposition.

Gert Buelens suggests "The Health of the Nation". Several board members think it is an excellent choice with many possibilities. It could also attract legal and political scientists, since 2012 is an election year, where this is likely to be an important issue. There is general support for the theme.

#### **17. Venue of 2013 Board Meeting 12.04**

Pawel Frelik proposes Lublin. HJG reminds us that Moscow was proposed earlier, though the minutes

failed to mention this. Tatiana Venediktova offers further details on this, including some issues, such as possible visa problems, and holidays in the period. Therefore 2 May–5 May or 25 April–28 April will be chosen. Lublin is noted as our first choice for 2015.

### 18. Items for the General Meeting 12.14

GB, SM and HJG will sit down for a moment after the Board meeting to draw up the agenda for the General Meeting..

### 19. Venue of 2014 Conference 12.15

Adina Ciugureanu repeats her suggestion of Romania, specifically Constanza, which Pawel Frelik spontaneously commends as a beautiful place on the Black Sea. AC has experience organizing a 590-strong conference there in 1998, but does indicate a worry that the road and railway from the airport will not be ready in time. There is a 2.5 to 3-hour journey from Bucharest airport. HJG sees this as a serious problem. Yuri Stulov asks whether Bucharest would be a possibility. Indeed, and we have contacts there too with EAAS experience (Rodica Mihaila, Roxana Oltean). Gert Buelens wonders whether Turkey and Rumania as successive destinations does not carry a certain concern from a tourism perspective, an observation seconded by HJG. HJG proposes we postpone the decision to the Rome meeting. AC expresses the hope that some of the infrastructure issues will be resolved by 2014.

### 20. Any Other Business 12.24

Reinhold Wagnleitner will leave on Sunday and wants to thank all board members now for the good cooperation, since he will probably not be able to join us in Rome. Daniele Fiorentino will most likely leave the board by 2011, but will see us in Rome anyway. Boris Vejdovsky, who is new to the board, thanks members for the welcome. He mentions that he is also on the board of American Studies Association (chair of its International Committee), and hopes to strengthen cooperation between the two organizations.

### 21. Auditors' Report and Vote on Accounting 12.28

Phil Davies reports that he and Marcel Arbeit examined the accounts and found them to be transparent and clear.

David Mauk proposes acceptance, seconded by Daniele Fiorentino. There is a unanimous vote of approval of the accounting.

The Board meeting is closed at 12.30 pm.

Minutes taken by Gert Buelens, EAAS delegate for BLASA

Signed: Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, EAAS President

Signed: Stephen Matterson, EAAS Treasurer



EAAS Board Meeting (Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

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# 2010 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE

## 26–29 March, Dublin, Ireland

### Forever Young? The Changing Images of America

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#### Workshop Reports

##### Workshop 1

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

**Chairs:** Susan Castillo, King’s College London, UK and John Andreas Fuchs, Katholische Universität Eichstätt-Ingolstadt, Germany

This workshop explored the re-invention and rejuvenation of the American South in literature, history and popular culture, examining how interpreters of the American South portray southern myths, as well as the southern obsession of re-living the past.

In session 1, Marcel Arbeit examined the Dixie-Southernization of the U.S.A. and how Country and Western music leaving its roots behind became known as Hillbilly music due to being perceived as the music of the southern working class. Turning to novels, Jan Nordby Gretlund focused on the image of the past in southern novels. Diana Rosenhagen examined Zora Neale Hurston’s ways of drawing a texturally rich image of the black South between traditional stereotypes connected to the Southern African American communities. Moving on to yet another medium, photography, Géraldine Chouard presented a vivid image of a past South through Eudora Welty’s photographs.

In session 2, Constante Gonzalez discussed the dynamic southern past and how writers like Ellen Glasgow and Bobbie Ann Mason rebelled against fixed traditions and rejected southern myths. Gregory Jason Bell examined how beginning in the 1890s the white southern elite of Tampa, Florida successfully constructed a regional identity, which is a widely embraced product of historical memory, but does not reflect reality. Moving on to the 21st century Marguerite Nguyen analyzed the formation of a new Southern Identity, a Southern Asian-American identity as demonstrated by the seven-term Chinese American sheriff of Jefferson Parish, Harry Lee. Concluding the workshop Wendy Ward discussed the South as seen through the eyes of an outsider, the photographer Alec Soth.

The Panel confirmed the truth behind W. J. Cash’s statement that “if it can be said that there are many Souths, the fact remains that there is also one South.” This one South could be seen as the underlying con-

stantly reemerging common pattern uniting Southerners in their struggle for a Southern Identity by reliving and reinventing a common past in order to build a common future. The workshop papers will be published in a special issue of the *Moravian Journal*.

##### Workshop 2

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

**Chair:** Olaf Stieglitz, Universität zu Köln, Germany

First, Maria Moss (Lüneburg University) took a close look at the ambivalent image which to this day continues to surround Natives in an American sports culture that still emphasizes the physical traits considered “inherently Indian” and thus enhances the view of Natives as embodying primitivist meanings. Focusing on young Native American “Sport Heroes”, Moss presented examples for this ongoing stereotyping.

In a second paper, Clara Juncker (University of Southern Denmark) gave a portrait of baseball star Joe DiMaggio, exploring the changing perceptions of him in biographies, media, and other genres and linking him to shifting perceptions of American masculinity, sports, and politics. Juncker emphasized especially the importance of Marilyn Monroe, at times DiMaggio’s wife, in changing his image from young and energetic to older and more conservative.

Pablo Dominguez (Heidelberg University), in his paper, analyzed Hollywood Surf Movies from the early 1960s. He demonstrated how Cold War anxieties centering on the bodies of white, young males considered “too soft” to combat communism inspired certain story lines and certain images in films which aimed at overcoming the perceived “muscle gap” by representing strong, healthy and truly “American bodies.”

Ben Dettmar (Michigan State University) examined how television has played—and continues to play—an integral role in the popularity of soccer in U.S. culture. Especially formats made for younger audiences stimulated a perception of soccer that led to the impression that the sport cannot compete with the “Big Three and One-Half of American Sport”.

### Workshop 3 The U.S. as a Cultural Fountain of Youth

**Chairs:** Anne Ollivier Mellios, Université du Paris XIII, France and Marco Mariano, University of Eastern Piedmont, Italy

This workshop dealt with American and foreign intellectuals' shifting image of U.S. culture in the 20th century. There were seven participants from five countries. The four presentations in the morning dealt with European intellectuals and the United States, and focused especially on questions such as the reception of American culture and American literature in France and in the Netherlands, and the role of intellectuals as mediators, as well as intellectual migration after World War II and its influence on a Swedish vision of America.

Even though the topics were quite different, the four presentations were very stimulating and, surprisingly enough, echoed one another, triggering a very interesting debate on the shaping of a French, Dutch and Swedish vision of U.S. culture in intellectual circles between 1918 and the 1950s. The three presentations in the afternoon focused on specifically on the Cold War and the 1960s, and dealt with intellectuals both from a European and American (including Spanish-American) perspective. We heard very interesting presentations on cultural diplomacy and Spanish-American authors in U.S. universities during the Cold War, on David Riesman's *The Lonely Crowd* as an American intellectual's interpretation of youth counter-culture, and on U.S. culture as interpreted both by an American and a Czech writer (John Steinbeck's *America and the Americans*, 1960 and Miroslav Holub's *An Angel on Wheels*, 1963).

### Workshop 4 Beginning America and the World: Walt Whitman

**Chairs:** Sascha Pöhlmann, Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität München, Germany and Krystyna Mazur, University of Warsaw, Poland

Tatiana Venedictova explored the richly ambiguous motif of auction and auctioneering in Whitman's poetry: the disturbing analogy it suggests between "singing oneself" and "selling oneself"—a human being and a poem, both, figuring as ideal commodities. The practice of economic exchange and poetic communion for Whitman are paradoxically and provokingly related.

Günter Leypoldt explored the relationship of Whitman's concept of "America" to the romantic invention

of "cultural youth." The premise of his paper was that the notion of "cultural youth" had been complicated by the romantic models of history in which "rejuvenation" could signify both the radical departure from old traditions and the primitivist return to an earlier stage of civilization in a higher form. Thus Emersonian rejections of tradition (as dead knowledge blocking the continuing revelation of spiritual interiority) are only one aspect of the epithet "Young" that begins to dominate American and European reform movements in the 1830s.

Alexander Ruchman spoke of sun imagery in Whitman's "Song of Myself." At the end of the first section of "Song of Myself" Walt Whitman invokes "Nature without check with original energy." Whitman's commitment to seeking out "original energy," which is evident throughout his oeuvre, is derived from the Wordsworthian concept that learning should draw upon one's direct experience of Nature rather than only upon one's experience of books. It is Whitman's declared intention in "Song of Myself" to teach his audience how to appreciate things in their essence rather than "at second hand or third hand." Ruchman discussed the various implications of the phrase "original energy" and investigated Whitman's claims in "Song of Myself" about how it might once more be perceived. He addressed Whitman's engagement with the creation story of Genesis, to consider images of purification appearing throughout Whitman's poem, and to examine his references to what is perhaps the ultimate source of "original energy," the sun. His paper concluded with a discussion of how appropriately the term "original energy" might be used of Whitman himself—American literature's great original and the self-appointed forefather of all poets who came after him.

### Workshop 5 The Undead and Forever Young: Ghosts, Zombies and the Unburied Corpse of Race

**Chairs:** Justin D Edwards, Bangor University, UK and Agnieszka Soltysik Monnet, University of Lausanne, Switzerland

The two sessions of Workshop 5 brought together a diverse range of texts and topics, from the Antebellum slave narrative to contemporary African-American drama and fiction to the Twilight series to film adaptations of vampire narratives. Yet we found certain tropes and themes reverberated throughout the presentations and discussions. The relationship between the uncanny and racial (or ethnic) identity was, for instance, explored by several speakers: the slave's

status as being and non-being (Worley), the double-consciousness of African-American identities (Walsh), the foreigner and the marginalized subject of the outsider (Dow), as well as the vampire as a hybrid and racially ambiguous figure (Schuller). The dynamics of trauma and the haunting were also seen to share the tropes of 'the return' and the representational problems of speaking the 'unspeakable'. This was documented in the re-writing of a traumatic past through spectres and ghosts (Chassot), and a playful—even irreverent—new writing of history through 'rap and ref' techniques that mix homage with an anti-essentialist politics to reject victimization (Saal). Finally, versions of the 'comic gothic' were highlighted in several of the presentations: humour was seen in depictions of the trickster figure (Walsh), the pulp fiction techniques employed by Richard Wright as well as the various forms of characterization employed by Meyers in the Twilight series (McLennan).

### **Workshop 6** **Wars and New Beginnings in American History**

**Chairs:** Jean Kempf, Université de Lyon II – UMJR Triangle, France and Rob Kroes, Universities of Amsterdam and Utrecht

This workshop took the general theme of the conference – “Forever Young” – to apply to America’s rhetorical tradition of looking at wars in terms of the new beginnings they might bring. In eight presentations several historical configurations, illustrating the workshop’s theme, were analyzed, from the Civil War, through the Spanish-American War, to World War II and its aftermath, leading into the Cold War. Attendance at the two workshop sessions was good, discussions were lively. The conveners consider publishing the workshop proceedings separately.

### **Workshop 7** **Perpetuating Youth in American Film**

**Chairs:** Penny Starfield, Université de Paris VII – Denis Diderot, France and Marimar Azcona, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

The eight papers presented in this workshop explored the wealth, variety and enduring presence of the representation of youth in U.S. cinema. The topic was tackled from a variety of perspectives, ranging from Melvyn Stokes’s historical view on the simultaneous emergence of adolescents as a social group and the

beginning of the teenpic genre in the 1950s (“Selling the American New Wave: What Hollywood Film-Makers and Publicists Thought They Knew about Sixties Young People”) to Alicia Otano’s paper on the latest and extremely successful teenage fad, the Twilight saga (“New Beginnings: Stephenie Meyer’s Emotionally Intelligent Youth”). The approaches to adolescence in films also covered gender differences. While Carmen Indurain contextualized male teenagers in the road movie genre (“Perpetuating Young Drifters in Contemporary American Film”), the analyses of The Virgin Suicides provided by both Clare Hayes-Brady and Gilles Menegaldo touched on the pains of female adolescence, showing how different the experience of growing up is for boys and girls. Similarly, the ideology that accompanies the representation of young characters in specific films was the main issue in both Tomás Pospisil’s “Otto, Eliot and Aliens” and Thomas B. Byers’s “All That Was Old is New Again: Youth and Nostalgia in Bonnie and Clyde and Public Enemies.” Yet another angle was provided through Natalie Dupont’s “The Important Young Audience: A Modification?” relating the most recent marketing and commercial strategies of an industry which has been fighting almost from its inception to adapt to social changes and technological innovations in order to remain forever young.

### **Workshop 8** **Regeneration, Rejuvenation, Rebirth and the American West**

**Chair:** Dean Rader, University of San Francisco, U.S.A. and Martin Padget, Aberystwyth University, United Kingdom

This panel on the American West was a treat. Attendance varied from 20-40 over the day, and even though the crowd was relatively small, there was great attention paid and some wonderful comments. The highlights of the panel were Jonathan Silverman’s audio-visual presentation on Johnny Cash and the American West, Eric Sandeen’s visual presentation of the Bravo 20 photographs by American photographer Richard Misrach, and Michael Boyden’s fascinating exploration of the translation of Hendrik Conscience’s *Gould-land*. What set these papers apart from the rest of the presentations was their rhetorical stance.

Boyden, Sandeen, and Silverman made arguments about their respective topics, rather than running through a list of titles or offering up plot summaries of novels or collections of poems. Sandeen’s presentation relied a bit on informational data, but this was

useful because virtually no one in the room was aware of Misrach's work.

His large scale photographs of missile sites in Nevada are stark portraits of absence and presence. Silverman, on the other hand, made the argument that Cash's persona as both a cowboy and an Indian were carefully constructed personas.

Cash used assumptions audiences had about "cowboys," "men in black," and "Indians" as a way to create a narrative that would allow him to be many different Cashes. Boyden did an excellent job of showing how a Belgian ex-pat wrote the American west and then how that story was itself translated and mis-translated for an entirely new culture of readers. Jaroslav Kušnir looked at Cormac McCarthy novels, and David Rio, filling in for Jelena Sesnick, did a nice job of talking about Basque writers in the American West—namely Nevada.

Özge Özbek Akıman worked through a virtually unknown book of poems by the Texas poet Dale Smith, showing how Smith uses Cabeza de Vaca as a controlling metaphor for the settlement and displacement of the West.

Similarly Victoria Kennefick also explored the settlement of the West—except her West is outer space. Her paper was a funny, smart look at how the American television show *Firefly* relies on the plot points, devices, and semiotics of the American West. Gülriz Büken walked the audience through various paintings by Native American artists, noting their trickster motifs. Overall, the workshop was very enjoyable.

The participants spent time together throughout the conference and have stayed in touch. The chairs recommended Sandeen's and Kusnir's papers for publication in the proceedings, as Silverman and Boyden had leads elsewhere.

### **Workshop 9** **'The Kid': Changing Images of American Childhood**

**Chair:** Alexander Runchman, Trinity College, Ireland

This workshop addressed the question of how American childhood, as presented in literary texts written between 1914 and 1975, lost its innocence.

The first panel focused on novels of immigration. Martín Urdiales Shaw analysed David Schearl's encounters with Irish and Polish children in Henry Roth's *Call It Sleep*, aligning David's innocence with his Jewishness and suggesting that each of his transgressions is a reaction against his heritage. Jerzy Durczak, meanwhile, drew a compelling distinction between mid-century adolescent rebels with causes and more recent

characters without any cause at all, contrasting Claude Brown's *Manchild in the Promised Land* with Junot Diaz's *Drown*. Olga Karasik concluded the panel with an insightful discussion of Philip Roth's early novels, highlighting the conflict between Jewish parents who do not want their children to turn into 'real' Americans and children who disown the traditions their parents hold dearly.

The second panel placed greater emphasis upon the child as individual, inviting more psychoanalytical interpretations. Philip McGowan, in his reading of two early William Maxwell novels, discussed storytelling as a mode of history, a means of revisiting formative events that shape an entire life. He raised the question of how a child copes with the loss of a parent, a topic taken up by Gillian Groszewski in her paper on middle generation poets, many of whom employ a child's voice in elegies for parents and contemporaries. Michael Hinds presented Randall Jarrell as a poet who 'redeems the manchild', often writing more about childishness rather than childhood, whilst Aurélie Sanchez concluded a stimulating workshop with an analysis of O'Neill's *Ah! Wilderness*, a play in which O'Neill is intent upon portraying not only youth itself but also the youth of the nation.

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

**Chair:** Salah Oueslati, Université du Poitiers, France

Focusing on attempts to overturn the national origins quotas established in the 1920s, David Mauk's paper examines the evidence that Asian-American and "New" immigrant lobbies mobilized to change American law in their favor through policy changes regarding individual nationality groups as well as the general policy reforms that culminated in 1952 and 1965. For Pierre Guerlain, key questions concerning the so-called Israel lobby are, first, one of definition—who can be said to belong to or support this lobby, by no means an easy matter which can be solved in ethnic terms—and then one of effectiveness—is U.S. foreign policy in the Middle East shaped or largely shaped by the Israel lobby and is the image of the U.S. in this region of the world and beyond highly correlated with the activities of a domestic pressure group? Martin Russel's paper assessed how the particular role of the Irish-American lobby in creating and sustaining U.S. intervention represents a paradigmatic shift for our conceptualisations and perceptions of both American democracy and foreign policy. John Chandler analysed



the multiple short-comings of faith-based policy under Bush and explains the reasons why Barack Obama promised in his campaign for the presidency to not only continue, but to “elevate the program to a moral center of his administration.” His paper attempted to provide insight into the reaction of conservative Christian interest groups. Conor McGrath’s paper traces the development of Barack Obama’s sometimes ambiguous and sometimes antithetical attitudes and relationship to lobbyists. On his first full day in office, President Obama signed an executive order restricting the activities of lobbyists. The paper questioned whether Obama’s history in this area adds up to a coherent or principled track record, or whether it simply relates a series of inconsistent political decisions. Alf Tomas Tønnessen’s paper focused on the work of conservative lobbying against health care reform in connection with President Bill Clinton’s failure. It discussed ways the campaign against Obama’s health reform proposal departed from the campaign in the early 1990s and analyzed to what degree anti-Europeanism was evident in the rhetoric of the campaign in the early 1990s and in recent months.

### **Workshop 11** **Remembering the New Nation: Changing Images of Nineteenth-Century America in Literature, Culture, and the Arts**

**Chairs:** Maria Holmgren Troy, Karlstad University, Sweden and Carmen Birkle, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Germany

Bridget Bennett’s (University of Leeds, England) paper on “Imagining New Homes on the Frontier” looked back at the American frontier as a time and space of new beginnings in the discovery of new territory through constant movement. Yet, at the same time, the frontier also allowed new home-making in its multiple manifestations. Similarly, the American sea novel proposed a different and watery version of the frontier.

As Helena Maragou (American College, Greece) suggested in “Ambiguities of a (Liquid) Frontier: Sea-Faring Outlaws in Cooper’s *Red Rover* and Ingraham’s *Lafitte*,” sea novels manipulate the sea as a trope to (re)construct the notion of “border” and contribute to both the formation and perpetuation of national memory.

The contributions by Kate Kirwan (University College Cork, Ireland), “Remembering the Essex: Literary Delineations of a 19th-Century Tragedy,” Maria Holmgren Troy (Karlstad University, Sweden), “Images of Nineteenth-Century America in Recent American Vampire Narratives,” and Ina Bergmann (University of

Würzburg, Germany), “Revisiting the New Nation—Revising Cultural Memory: Images of 19th-Century America in the New Historical Fiction,” focused on historical fiction written in the late twentieth and early twenty-first centuries that looks back at, sheds new light on, and rewrites nineteenth-century America.

Ageenah Saleem (University of Cincinnati, U.S.A.) in her paper “Poe and Pac: Bad Boys of American Literature. Rethinking the Role of Poetry and Verse in American Social Activism” introduced a different dimension of remembering the past. By focusing on the current hip hop lyrics of Tupac Shakur (Pac) and comparing it to Edgar Allan Poe’s poetry, she reread Poe’s work as a contribution to the social activism of the time.

The workshop concluded with Susanne Hamscha’s (Free University of Berlin, Germany/Austria) contribution on “Re-Founding the Nation: Barack Obama, Declare Yourself, and the Reenactment of 1776.” In the same way that historical fiction is a reminder of the nineteenth-century new nation in the making, Barack Obama’s call for newness and change in his campaign speeches and inaugural address is a way of remembering the idealistic times of the Declaration of Independence reaching into the nineteenth century. Therefore, “remembering the new nation,” far from being a conservative look backwards, suggests a hopeful look into the future, supportively based on the past, and will keep the American nation an unfinished project, a nation forever in the making, and, thus, “forever young.”

### **Workshop 12** **“Hell No, We Won’t Grow!” Innocence and Responsibility In U.S. War Literature.**

**Chairs:** Cristina Alsina Rísquez, Universitat de Barcelona, Spain and Cynthia Stretch, Southern Connecticut State University, U.S.A.

By insisting on the mutually reinforcing characteristics of youth and innocence as foundational to national identity, a pervasive American mythos offers each new generation the possibility of a fresh start in its defense of liberty, morality, and justice abroad. This ideal projection of national identity is unsettled by the repeated occasions in which U.S. political practices cannot be reconciled with such idealization and where a deep cultural investment in “innocence” results in an expansive capacity for denial.

This workshop explored the role of literature and photography in creating a space of dissent where the accepted definitions of “innocence”—and of inno-

cence's implied opposites "guilt" and "experience"—could be problematized.

The first session opened with Laura López tracing Melville's transition from *Battle Pieces* (1866), where he thought it possible for a responsible nation to emerge from the Civil War, to his disillusionment in *Clarel* (1876). Lena Günther used *Generation Kill* (2009) to explore the impact of "The Three-Block War" on the soldiers' moral evaluation of war. Nerys Williams analyzed how Juliana Spahr's poetry (2005) creates a space of resistance through duration and process.

The second session opened with Walter Höbbling analyzing how the literature about the Vietnam War questions basic American values both on the personal and the collective level. Cristina Gómez explored the intersection of postmodern theories and contemporary American representations of war. Elisabeth Boulot explored, through the work of photographer Nina Berman, the contribution of women to protests about the Iraq War.

### **Workshop 13** **Representational and Literary Futures: American Writing in the New Millennium.**

**Chairs:** Arthur Redding, York University, Canada and Tatiani Rapatzikou, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

The eight papers presented in the two sessions of this workshop attempted to comment on various themes within the 21st century American literary, cinematic and online production. A few of the themes that these papers touched upon were: narrative realism and meta-fiction as a means of re-orienting the public imagination, challenging the 1960s radicalism in new millennium American fictional production, the exploration of the relationship that there is between American fiction and digital technologies leading to the emergence of a literature of free culture, the combination of print-specific and electronic-coded language for the creation of a multilayered and bio narrative experience, the function of authorship in the era of digitization, the visualization of ontological uncertainty in post 9/11 cinematic productions drawing from the superhero tradition, the ethical challenges of post 9/11 fiction, and the pictorial turn that is witnessed in recent American literary practices.

Both panels were followed by an invigorating discussion where a range of ideas and arguments were brought forward, exchanged, reviewed and questioned. Our contributors came from different universities and countries such as Canada, Germany, Greece, Ireland,

Italy, Romania, Sweden, and the United Kingdom enriching the conversation with their own socio-political viewpoints and perspectives as well as current scholarly concerns. Steps have already been taken for a special journal issue (under the auspices of the online journal *Writing Technologies*) to be published by December 2010 bringing together those papers which thematically focus on the exploration of the printed and digital intersection.

What this workshop has succeeded in highlighting is the multiple and variable textualities one can trace within American literary production. This testifies its re-generative as well as re-inventive character as to the way the verbal, the visual, the material and the human can be re-conceptualized in the context of cultural and political global awakenings.

### **Workshop 14** **"Oh, very young": Music and Changing Youth in Twentieth-Century America**

**Chair:** Clare Hayes-Brady, Trinity College, Ireland

This two-panel workshop took place on the second day of workshops in Dublin. There was one change to the program: Ulrich Adelt, who was due to present the workshop's opening paper on "'The First Black White Person': Youth, 'Race' and Gender in Janis Joplin's Music", was obliged to withdraw from the conference for personal reasons. Consequently, the first panel opened with Jaap Kooijman, whose paper on Michael Jackson's relationship with Black Power was a timely investigation of the relationship of popular culture and politics. This was followed by two compelling presentations on representations of youth in hip-hop by Gerwin Gallob and Barry Shanahan. Given the related themes of these papers, the post-presentation discussion included energetic debate on a number of common themes, notably the issues of sampling and originality in hip-hop music.

The second panel ranged over a broader spectrum, opening with Olga Manulkina's impressive consideration of the crossover of popular and classical music in the "Bang on a Can" collective. Katie Stewart explored the development of folk songs for children and Maria Johnston closed with an engaging talk on Paul Muldoon's "poetry of rock'n'roll", which was greatly enhanced by the subject's presence. Discussion included the balance of lyric and melody and the poetic aspect of music. Overall, the unifying theme of the workshop was influence and musical indebtedness, with questions of originality generating the greatest debate. The chair

thanks all who contributed to this lively workshop and apologises again for her pronounced laryngitis.

### **Workshop 15** **Old Stories, Young Perspectives: Contemporary Chicano Voices**

**Chairs:** Amaia Ibarraan Bigalondo, University of the Basque Country, Spain and Francisco Sánchez Ortiz, University of Aberdeen, United Kingdom

The workshop aimed at presenting new, young forms of artistic expression produced from and by the contemporary Chicano community, as well as addressing issues which affect the contemporary Chicano youth.

Its first session was devoted to papers presenting the sometimes violent and harsh reality in the U.S. barrios, the terrible and dramatic effects of the uncontrolled expansion of the maquiladoras in the U.S.-Mexico border, and the proliferation of Chicano gangs. Amaia Ibarraan proposed a reading of three contemporary novels which deploy different ways of understanding and defining the contemporary “Chicana identity”. Imelda Martín Junquera focused on the dramatic and unpunished Juárez feminicides, as denounced in Alicia Gaspar de Alba’s *Desert Blood*. Aishih Wehbe presented Ana Castillo’s vision of a young Chicano’s coming of age in an atmosphere of violence, where gang banging and the effects of illegal immigration are protagonist. Finally, Josephine Metcalf’s paper focused on gang life, through her reading of Richard Rodríguez’s memoir *Always Running*, which she complemented through personal field work in schools in California, where gang banging is a common phenomenon.

The panel was resumed by undertaking an exploration of new examples of Chicana narratives. Saskia Hertlein offered a new perspective on Luis Alberto Urrea’s *Into the Beautiful North*, a novel which addresses old issues such as immigration, from a fresh, formally and conceptually young perspective. In this same light, Ludmila Martanovschi analysed Sandra Cisneros’ *Caramelo*, where she observed the means through which stories about Mexican heritage, family secrets and other topics, are interwoven from a young perspective using diverse narrative strategies. Finally, Yolanda Melgar’s analysis on Norma Elia Cantú’s “fictional autobioethnography” *Canicula: Snapshots of a Girlhood en la Frontera*, highlighted the amalgamating, mestiza nature of the Frontera, where the border between fact and fiction, history and personal memoir is blurred.

In sum, the quality of the contributions offered in both panels and the subsequent debate generated by

their presentation, can be undoubtedly defined as excellent and academically enriching.

### **Workshop 16** **Queer Youth(s)**

**Chairs:** Roman Trušník, Tomas Bata University in Zlín, Czech Republic and Tomasz Basiuk, University of Warsaw, Poland

The workshop explored representations of LGBTQ youths in a television series, fiction by two gay male authors, and the discourse of a social movement. Marianne Kongerslev argued that Showtime’s *Queer as Folk* interrogates the category family by representing same-sex couples engaging in traditional endeavors, such as raising children. Despite its appearance as another socially responsible morality play, the series puts forth an anti-assimilationist stance. Yuri Stulov read Randall Kenan’s *A Visitation of Spirits* as focusing on the young protagonist’s racial and sexual otherness that lead him to attempt escape from an oppressive social environment and, ultimately, to commit suicide. His untimely death is read as a figurative preservation of the innocence of youth. Roman Trušník traced Andrew Holleran’s trajectory from a celebration of youth in *Dancer from the Dance* to representations of ageing and ageism in his later novels, especially *The Beauty of Men*, even as an interest in the dynamics of intergenerational relationships is maintained. Guillaume Marche argued that scholarly literature on LGBT youth has tended to focus on risk reduction and HIV prevention rather than on emerging forms of sexuality. However, queer youth appear to be the spearhead of a transformation of LGBT collective identities and mobilization, tending to reject the most commonly used sexual identification labels due to youths’ alleged greater fluidity in their experience of sexuality.

### **Workshop 17** **Positioning the New: Is Chinese American Literature Inside or Outside the Canon?**

**Chairs:** Elisabetta Marino, University of Rome – Tor Vergata, Italy and Tanfer Emin Tunç, Hacettepe University, Turkey

All the papers in this workshop focused on the dialectics between Chinese American literature and the canon, highlighting the ways in which Chinese American writers have rejuvenated the image of America. Lina Unali elucidated how Bloom’s traditional literary

analysis, *The Western Canon*, is no longer valid, especially given the transnational flow of migration which has broadened, and to a certain extent deconstructed, the meaning of the western canon

Meldan Tanrısal described how the male-dominated traditional canon was altered as a result of the social and political change of the Civil Rights Movements. She also discussed Amy Tan's works, arguing why they should enter the canon.

Teresa Botelho's paper illustrated how plays like D. H. Hwang's *Yellow Face* and Chay Yew's *A Language of Their Own* question the constructedness of identity and the creative limitations of essentialized ascription. Heidi Kim focused on Lin Yutang, who was published and marketed between the 1930s and 1960s as an integral contributor to American literature. Kim conveyed how Yutang's emphasis on diaspora presages the complexities of contemporary globalization.

During the second workshop session, Nelly Mok explored how, in *Mona in the Promised Land*, Gish Jen dismantled the political and racial dichotomy hovering over her Chinese American heroine's sexual awakening and ethnic identity. Meadhbh Hand argued that rather than conforming to publishers' expectations to produce a "Chinese American" memoir, Li-Young Lee produced a work that bridged both the American canon and his perceived Chinese cultural heritage. Michelle Rhee's paper expounded on the desire to read for ethnicity in F.M. Ng's *Bone* while illustrating how Ng elides such interpretation. Katarzyna Spiechlanin rounded out the workshop by demonstrating that Amy Tan's novels attempt to regain the lost spirituality of everyday life, as her prose verges on the border between magical realism and the psychological.

### Workshop 18

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

**Chairs:** Andrew S. Gross, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany and Marek Paryż, University of Warsaw, Poland

The workshop explored the rhetorical constructions of youth and their ideological functions across a range of literary and non-literary discourses from the American Revolution to the Civil War. The eight speakers on the panel addressed issues related to the symbolic construction of America in the antebellum era. Andrew S. Gross (Free University, Berlin, Germany) explored how certain enlightenment and pre-romantic conceptions of youth and youthfulness informed the international or cosmopolitan aspects of Thomas Paine's writing.

Stefan Brandt (Free University Berlin, Germany) concentrated on the performative aspects of the presentation of national experience in Charles Brockden Brown's novel *Arthur Mervyn*, arguing that the eponymous protagonist's struggle for survival amidst the decay and corruption of the American metropolis parallels the process of maturation of the young nation.

Zoe Detsi-Diamanti (Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece) talked about the patriotic sentiments underlying the depiction of the War of 1812 in Mary Carr's play *The Fair Americans* (1815).

Michal Peprnik (Palacky University, Olomouc, Czech Republic) analyzed James Fenimore Cooper's ways of portraying young American characters with respect to the category of "station," which covers the discursive formations of age, class, rank, race, gender, religion, and nationality.

Lawrence B. Goodheart, (University of Connecticut, U.S.A.) demonstrated how two cycles of paintings by Thomas Cole: *The Course of Empire* and *The Voyage of Life*, perpetuate the pastoral notions of the harmony of man and nature, endowed in the latter cycle with manifest religious significance, and thus gloss over the material excesses of empire.

Albena Bakratcheva (New Bulgarian University, Sofia, Bulgaria), argued that the attractiveness of the rhetorically constructed eponymous figure derives from an inherent sense of American belonging and reflects youthful enthusiasm that effectively turns the American Scholar into an American cultural landmark.

Marek Paryż (University of Warsaw, Poland) focused on the shifts in rhetoric and imagery across Emerson's *New England Lectures* and "The Young American" to show how the writer, in the latter text, adapts the rhetoric of expansionism.

Finally, Alexandra Urakova (Russian Academy of Sciences, Moscow, Russia) discussed the counter-image of youth in antebellum America, that is the menacing figure of the old man as presented in two stories by Edgar Allan Poe: "The Man of the Crowd" and "The Tell-Tale Heart."

### Workshop 19

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

**Chair:** Eric Sandeen, University of Wyoming, U.S.A.

The workshop was chaired by Eric Sandeen, since neither Subarno Chattarji (a new academic post) nor Jon Roper (administrative duties) could attend.

The subject of our workshop of four papers profited from the recently-concluded American presiden-

tial campaign, which once again highlighted the importance of technology in the political dynamics of the U.S.A..

Jaap Verheul (Utrecht) presented a very useful overview of anti-Europeanism and cultural nationalism in the early Republic. Boston Brahmins, he argued, tried to invent a new Athens while, ironically, drawing from romantic nationalisms then developing in Europe. Thus, American writers both emulated and “othered” European models.

Jutta Ernst (Hildesheim/Vienna) followed with a close examination of Leutze’s famous representation of Washington crossing the Delaware. Such iconography, she pointed out, continues to be important in political rhetoric, even though the technology of campaigning and governance has changed.

The remaining two presentations focused on the 2008 presidential election. Keying on the recent call of John Carlos Rowe to examine new “cultural speech acts” in American Studies, Matthias Oppermann (Bielefeld) and Pia Wiegink (Siegen) analyzed the use of new media by the Obama campaign. Their paper pointed out the convergence of new and traditional media that allowed the Obama campaign to change its message in response to day-to-day events and brought new voters to the polls.

Finally, Carl Pedersen (Copenhagen Business School) projected the pre-election success of the Obama campaign’s new media strategies into the post inauguration world of right-wing backlash, much of it using the same sort of organizing principles and technologies. The conversation following workshop presentations gravitated toward the situation in 2009. With that, we could have the chance to extend this exchange in the new realities after the 2010 election.

### Workshop 20

#### Young Adam and Old Eve: Changing Images of American Culture

**Chairs:** Aagje Swinnen, University of Maastricht, The Netherlands and Heike Hartung, Universität Potsdam, Germany

Since the twentieth century, new narrative genres have emerged in the U.S. which pursue their heroes and heroines into midlife and old age. Reversing the Bildungsroman and its focus on individual development and the youthful white male hero, these new narrative forms describe how women (and men) grow older in a society not particularly amenable to aging. While the emphasis on novelty and youth is pervasive in the founding myth of the American nation, the papers in this seminar

argue for a paradigm shift in contemporary American culture toward narratives of female aging.

Helen Chupin showed how Anne Tyler in her novel *Ladder of Years* (1995) uses chronotopes of aging to reformulate traditional spatial representations of aging in order to find a suitable ‘space’ in which aging can take place with serenity. Camelia Elias took her starting point in the film *Harold and Maude* (1971) to argue for ways in which both eccentricity and wisdom can be reconciled in representations of old women in film and fiction. Ellen Matlok-Ziemann argued that the apparently harmless spinsters in Faulkner’s *Intruder in the Dust* (1948) and Higgins’s *Harold and Maude* could be turned into vehicles for criticizing racist ideology and capitalist society respectively. Michele S. Ware read Elizabeth Strout’s short story sequence *Olive Kitteridge* (1995) ‘against the grain’ of prevalent generic notions of development. All four case studies focus on alternative models for the experience of aging and the representation of old women.

### Workshop 21

#### Images of the American Presidency Abroad

**Chair:** Antonia Sagredo, Universidad Nacional de Educación a Distancia, Madrid, Spain

This workshop aimed at examining different kinds of images of the American presidency which have circulated all over the world in the last centuries.

It focused on three papers dealing with “Spanish Interpretations of the American Presidency”, presented by Antonio Daniel Juan, (University of Murcia) “Images of American Presidency in the Soviet and Russian Media (1950s–2000s),” written by Irina Novikova (University of Latvia), and “Change and Action: Powerful Images of Obama, Kennedy and F. D. Roosevelt’s Persuasive Rhetoric” elaborated by María Luz Arroyo (University of Madrid).

These papers focused on the development of American historical interpretations in Europe, and on publishing patterns and policies, in order to show which themes have predominated and the images of the North American presidency that have been projected in the different European nations, and the factors that have contributed to introduce some changes in the presidential image.

The workshop created a great opportunity for developing an interesting debate among European scholars in American Studies, exchanging ideas, positions and points of view of approaching the United States’ presidency from a variety of perspectives.

## Workshop 22 The American Youth Culture Story in Fiction and Film

**Chairs:** John Dean, University of Versailles St Quentin, France and Gigliola Nocera, University of Catania, Ragusa, Italy

No workshop report was submitted.

## Workshop 23 Remediating the Beats: Visual, Auditory, and Inter-arts Legacy

**Chair:** Bent Sørensen, University of Aalborg, Denmark and Erik Mortenson, Koç University, Turkey

All invited presenters gave papers pertaining to the remediation of texts by Beat Generation writers. The emphasis was strongly on the works of Jack Kerouac, although William S. Burroughs was also represented—whereas Beat poets, disappointingly, were not proposed as topics. The remediations discussed were predominantly films and TV-productions, despite the plethora of other media with Beat content (music, games, cartoons) that have proliferated in the last few decades. Most papers engaged more with the Beat content than with theorizing the notions involved in remediation, again despite this being an academic growth field.

Of note for American Studies relevance was the interest in crossing from literary studies into the adjacent fields of popular culture and cultural and media history which was shown by all presenters. The decade of choice for this cultural historical focus was, not surprisingly, the 1960s where the first mass dissemination of Beat-related ideas took place in connection with the creation of the Beatnik character in TV, music and cartoons.

Papers of particular note were presented on the materiality of Kerouac's texts as visual artifacts, rarely seen and discussed Burroughs adaptations, plus a concentration of papers on the best known experimental Beat film, Robert Frank and Alfred Leslie's *Pull My Daisy*. Work on continuing the scholarship with the field of Beat texts and their remediation will take place within the newly founded European Beat Studies, led by Oliver Harris and Polina McKay, of which the convener is a co-founder, and most presenters in the workshop are members.

## Workshop 24 The New Generation at 50: Commemorations and Representations of President John F. Kennedy and the American 1960s

**Chairs:** John A. Kirk, the University of Arkansas, U.S.A. and Andreas Etges, John F. Kennedy Institute for North American Studies, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

The workshop received a strong number of submissions that were painstakingly whittled down to just five: Sylvia Ellis (Northumbria University) "JFK and Ireland: Mixing Memory and Reality;" Mark White (Queen Mary, University of London) "Commemorating Camelot: Posthumous Representations of John F. Kennedy;" Tanfer Tunç (Hacettepe University) "Turkey and the Kennedy Mystique: Idealized Icons, National Memory, and the (Re)birth of Camelot;" Melissa Fabros (University of California, Berkeley) "Fugue for JFK: A. R. Ammons's Tape for the Turn Year—Mourning, not Melancholia, in America;" and James Deutsch (Smithsonian Center for Folklife and Cultural Heritage) "Forever Young and Alive: The Post-Mortem Legends of John F. Kennedy."

Unfortunately, both Ellis and White were forced to withdraw from the session at short notice. Nevertheless, three vibrant papers produced equally vibrant discussion that more than filled the allotted time. Fabros assessed A.R. Ammons' poem, "Tape for the Turn of the Year," written in the wake of the Kennedy assassination, as a form psychological healing and "working-through" of national trauma. Deutsch examined the myths, legends, and assassination conspiracy theories that have continued to grow ever more elaborate since Kennedy's death. Tunç insisted that Kennedy's romanticization and commemoration were not just an American phenomenon, but had global expression. Using Turkey as an example, she demonstrated how Kennedy's image had been crafted there. The ensuing discussion revealed ongoing divisions about the significance of the Kennedy presidency in U.S. history, and particularly the extent to which the images and representations of his presidency reflect historical reality.

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## 2010 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE Dublin, March 29, 2010

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### History Shop Talk

**Conveners:** Jean Kempf, Université Lumière–Lyon 2, France and Jaap Verheul, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands

Historians of the United States met during the Dublin Conference to discuss the most pressing issues and future prospects in their field. Despite the sparse attendance on that Irish Monday morning (about a dozen present, including EAAS president and the two chair persons), conversation was lively and showed that American history in Europe is mutating and is looking towards new objects and issues that need to be addressed in specific places.

*Interdisciplinarity.* All present felt the need to continue the tradition of meeting in off-years between EAAS conferences for a Historians Conference in Middelburg, the Netherlands. Participants discussed the disciplinary focus of historians within the American studies community, and the differences in focus between the various European academic communities. Some argued that there remained a need to broaden in the direction of “harder” topics such as political history, possibly connecting with scholars working in related fields such as political science and social sciences, as has been done in the UK by the group of Historians of the Twentieth-Century United States (HOTCUS). The United States is now often studied within broader (inter)disciplinary frameworks such as conflict studies, communication studies, urban culture, technology and culture, and religion (the situation, however, is very different from country to country).

Conferences can serve as meeting points for scholars working on American topics from such divergent paradigms. Hans-Jürgen Grabbe emphasized that such topics could very well be included as such at EAAS Conference. Call for workshops are very open and the opportunity should be seized by all to make proposals that correspond best to their specific approaches without searching for any deliberate syncretism. Although there is no formal or institutional impediment to include such topics at EAAS conferences, available expertise and initiatives may prevent some topics to be represented. As we later learned, the next historians’ conference will be organized by Manfred Berg (U of Heidelberg) and Kees van Minnen (Roosevelt Study

Center) on 27–29 April 2011 on “The South and Europe.”

*E-science.* Participants also discussed ways to strengthen the information flow among historians and organize spaces where they can exchange ideas. The EAAS site (eaas.eu) and the distribution list eaas-1 (with close to 1,000 subscribers) already serve the needs of many, and can easily be expanded to accommodate new groups as has been done for the “Postgraduate Forum” and the “The European Study Group of 19th Century American Literature.”

Some suggested to take advantage of the many new digital network possibilities such as Facebook, as been done by the Heidelberg Summer program, to connect scholars working on common themes, and the create local networks for faculty and students. On the whole facilities are there, but historians need to make the most of them in order to (re)create virtual networks of Americanists even when they are spread over many new (often small/very specialized) sub-fields. A more disconcerting aspect of e-science is the growing disparity between European scholars in access to the expensive data-bases offered by information providers such as LexisNexis and Proquest. Although scholars depend on budgetary decisions by their home institutions, cooperation between universities may help to enhance the availability to digital information. In an age of digital sources open access remains a collective concern among European historians of the US.

*Future challenges.* The session ended in an animated discussion of emerging and promising topics and themes for future research. Among the many fields that were suggested were religion and secularization; post-racialism; fear and emotions; trans-Atlantic perceptions; and the broad field around constitutionalism, law, crime and deviance in the US.

The workshop chairs suggest that all the European historians of the US use the EAAS list start consulting their colleagues about potential workshops in the EAAS conference that would serve their needs and interests while participating in the broadening of the issues that our biennial conferences are supposed to achieve.

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# 2012 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE

## 26–29 March, Izmir, Turkey

### The Health of the Nation

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#### Call for Papers

*“Leave all the afternoon for exercise and recreation, which are as necessary as reading. I will rather say more necessary because health is worth more than learning.”*

(Thomas Jefferson, letter to John Garland Jefferson, June 11, 1790.)

Over the past two years, President Obama’s proposed health care reforms initiated an often bitter and sometimes divisive debate which, while focused on health provision, also asked fundamental questions (and exposed tenaciously held positions) about the state of the nation, its history and ideology. Our conference theme, the Health of the Nation, addresses these issues, where health can be both literal and metaphorical, personal and public, human and environmental.

The self-analysis involved in considering the health of the nation has always been a characteristic of Americans, and is an issue variously understood according to time, circumstance, and disciplinary approach. Health and the body also retain their metaphoric power in national self-awareness, while a heightened awareness of environmental health and risk is a topic of growing importance, as is the development of Recreation and Leisure Studies as an academic subject.

The EAAS welcomes proposals for parallel lectures and workshops investigating the Health of the Nation from all perspectives and disciplines. Topics addressed might include:

The relation between health and wealth  
(Emerson said “The first wealth is health”)  
The health of the individual and the health of the state  
The politics and economics of health care  
The legal and constitutional dimensions of healthcare provision; the body’s health in literature and film  
(often linked symbolically to national trauma)  
The relation between health and healing  
Illness as metaphor  
The ideals of health communicated by the media  
Health and the environment

The deadline for submission of workshop and parallel lecture proposals is:

**February 28, 2011**

Potential workshop chairs and parallel lecturers should prepare a one-page abstract and a ½-page cv with no formatting. Please do not submit proposals for individual workshop papers at this time. These should be sent to selected workshop chairs who will be announced in the May 2011 issue of the ASE newsletter.

A workshop may be chaired by one person but should preferably be chaired by two persons from different countries. No one may (co-) chair a workshop at two consecutive EAAS conferences. Chairs are required to be members of their national or joint-national associations as are all presenters accepted by chairs. This also applies to parallel lecturers. EAAS accepts presenters from the U.S. who belong to the American Studies Association or the Organization of American Historians. Other speakers from outside of Europe must also be members of their respective American Studies Associations.

Please send proposals to:

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## **2012 EAAS Conference: Guidelines for EAAS Workshops**

1. A workshop may be chaired by one person but should preferably be chaired by two persons from different countries. No one may (co-)chair a workshop at two consecutive EAAS conferences. Chairs are required to be members of their national or joint-national associations as are all presenters accepted by chairs. It is the responsibility of the chair-person(s) to determine membership. The e-mail addresses of the secretaries of the EAAS members organizations are available at <http://www.eaas.eu/about-eaas/constituent-members>. EAAS also accepts presenters from the U.S. who belong to the American Studies Association and the Organization of American Historians. Other speakers from outside of Europe must also be members of their respective American Studies Associations.
2. Workshop sessions are 2:00 hours.
3. Speakers are selected by the workshop chairs from those colleagues responding to the Call for Papers published in the ASE Newsletter of May 2011. The required number of speakers per session is four, the maximum number is eight (two sessions).
4. Of the participants in any workshop, the total number from any one country for each work-shop should not exceed two. Speakers must be members of their national or joint-national Association for American Studies. If none exists, please get in touch with the Secretary General.
5. No speaker can present more than one paper at the conference.
6. Papers should be presented rather than read; chairs are encouraged to suggest this to their contributors.
7. The maximum presentation time for papers is 20 minutes; chairs must keep their speakers within that time frame. The overall structure of the workshop is the responsibility of chairs; chairs must comply with these rules in order to: 1) allot each paper the same amount of time; 2) allow sufficient time for discussion.
8. Proposals for workshop papers, together with abstracts (150–200 words) must reach the workshop chair(s) by September 1, 2011. Chairs are expected to send out acknowledgments of receipt of proposals and to inform proposers as early as possible whether their papers have been accepted.
9. Chairs are encouraged to send out electronic versions of abstracts/papers to all speakers in their workshop prior to the conference.
10. Workshop chairs should briefly introduce the topic and the speakers at the beginning of the first session. At the end of the last session, chairs might want to sum up the conclusions of the presentations and discussions.
11. Speakers must present their papers in person; they are expected to be present at all sessions of their workshop.
12. Chairs are responsible for selecting up to two of their workshop presentations and recommending them, in order of preference, for publication in the EAAS conference volume. Chairs and presenters are also encouraged to approach the editors of our e-journal, The European Journal of American Studies (EJAS; <http://ejas.revues.org>), since only about 20 essays can be published in the official conference volume..
13. Chairs are required to submit a post-conference report to be published in the EAAS newsletter American Studies in Europe. It may therefore be useful to take notes during the sessions. The report of approximately 200–250 words should give readers of the ASE an idea of the major arguments of papers and of conclusions reached in the workshop.
14. If special technical equipment (data projection devices, screens, audio equipment, computers) is needed in a workshop, please inform the local organizers.
15. Please address all correspondence concerning workshop matters to the EAAS Secretary General in the first instance (address below). Please acknowledge all correspondence from the Secretary General.
16. Workshop chairs should make copies of these Guidelines available to their speakers.
17. A meeting of all workshop chairs with the EAAS Secretary General will be scheduled on the first afternoon of the conference to discuss last-minute arrangements.

**IMPORTANT DEADLINES:**

**SEPTEMBER 1, 2011:** Workshop paper proposals (with 150-200 word abstract) to be sent to Workshop Chairs.

**SEPTEMBER 15, 2011:** Workshop Chairs send tentative list of speakers and paper titles to the EAAS Secretary General for inclusion in the October issue of the ASE Newsletter and posting on the EAAS Website ([www.eaas.eu](http://www.eaas.eu)).

**DECEMBER 1, 2011:** Send FINAL titles of papers, names and addresses of speakers to the EAAS Secretary General.

**JANUARY 10, 2012:** Deadline for information to be included in the conference program.

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The Campanile at Trinity College (1853)  
(Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

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## EAAS TRAVEL GRANT REPORTS

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**Grant Recipient:** Juliane Braun, Julius-Maximilians-Universität Würzburg, Germany

**Research Project:** *Petit Paris en Amérique?* - French Theatrical Culture in Nineteenth-Century Louisiana

**Institutions Visited:** New Orleans Public Library (NOPL), University of Louisiana at Lafayette (ULL)

In the contested space of nineteenth-century Louisiana opposing forces drove and resisted political and social changes. Situated at the region's political and cultural center, the vibrant New Orleans theater scene served as a 'stage' for struggles over cultural sovereignty and ethnic identity.

In my dissertation I examine how ethnic differences between and among the increasingly dominant anglophone culture and the older, francophone tradition in Louisiana were decisively (re-)negotiated in and around theater. Specifically, I identify how the French-language theater of Louisiana adopts, reinvents, integrates, and excludes elements of French and American theatrical culture and how this affects the larger trajectory of nineteenth-century American drama. Focusing on an in-depth analysis of plays by six key francophone Louisiana playwrights—Louis Placide Canonge, Auguste Lussan, Alexis Daudet, Charles Oscar Dugué, Cérou, and Paul Louis LeBlanc de Villeneuve—my dissertation traces Louisiana's francophone theater from its late eighteenth-century beginnings until 1859, when the most important French playhouse of New Orleans, the Théâtre d'Orléans, closed its doors forever. Conceiving of New Orleans theater as a medium for cultural self-reflexion my dissertation seeks to describe the status of francophone drama in Louisiana and the key role it played in sustaining the region's French population, a community that profoundly shaped the cultural landscape of the North American continent.

Even though I had already been on two previous archival visits to Louisiana I realized while drafting my dissertation that I was unable to develop some sections of my project with the resources on hand in Germany. The EAAS Transatlantic Travel Grant gave me the opportunity to conduct essential research in the archives of Louisiana. In the course of this third visit I uncovered crucial new materials that will significantly reshape my argument.

One of the sections that needed a more solid critical foundation was my analysis of the theater context, particularly with regard to questions of reception. While at the New Orleans Public Library (NOPL) I therefore

set out to conduct a systematic search of newspaper articles and critiques of theater performances. Regarding francophone nineteenth-century Louisiana newspapers, the collection of the NOPL contains the most complete runs of Louisiana newspapers (e.g. *L'Abeille*, *Le Courrier de la Louisiane*, *L'Union*, *Le Moniteur de la Louisiane*, *L'Argus*), all of which were readily available on microfilm.

Perhaps even more important for the development of my project though was the fact that the NOPL also houses the New Orleans City Archives. Going through the City Ordinances and Resolutions I found evidence of theater legislation and intense censorship. Resolutions in manuscript form revealed information about theaters for the free people of color. With the help of the Obituary Index and Finding Aids, I was able to locate crucial information on leading theater personalities of the time.

From the research I did at NOPL I also collected materials for a conference paper delivered at the Annual Meeting of the American Comparative Literature Association (ACLA) held in New Orleans at the last weekend of my stay. Not only was this conference a unique opportunity to meet people who work on related projects, but the discussion and exchange after my talk also yielded new ideas and alternative ways of looking at the cultural landscape of antebellum Louisiana.

With the help of the EAAS grant, I was furthermore able to travel to Lafayette, where at the University of Louisiana, I had arranged to meet with Dr. May Waggoner, a leading scholar in the area of francophone Louisiana. During this visit, I had the opportunity to consult with her on specific questions I had regarding my project. She provided invaluable guidance and important advice.

The time I spent in New Orleans and Lafayette proved very fruitful for the development of my dissertation. Not only do I now have a much clearer idea about the reception of the plays, but my visit also revealed crucial new facts about the theater context, such as theater legislation and censorship, and a better knowledge of the mechanics of the theater for the free people of color. These discoveries will enable me to push my argument further while relying on a much sounder foundation of primary sources. I came back with a wealth of new materials and would like to sincerely thank the EAAS for this amazing opportunity.

**Grant Recipient:** Beatriz Oria Gómez, Universidad de Zaragoza, Spain

**Research Project:** Love in the Times of Sex: Intimate Discourses at the Turn of the Millennium in *Sex and the City*

**Institution Visited:** Queen Mary, University of London

The main aim of my four-week research stay at the Queen Mary, University of London (UK), was the compilation of bibliographic material for the writing of my dissertation, entitled “Love in the Times of Sex: Intimate Discourses at the Turn of the Millennium in Sex and the City”. In it, I analyse this television series from a generic and cultural perspective. More specifically, I focus on how the formal and generic aspects of the show come into play with sociological tendencies of US urban culture in the field of intimacy and the relationships between the sexes at the turn of the millennium. Despite being a Spanish scholar, my research concerns only Anglo-Saxon culture and is carried out in English. Therefore, this visit has given me the opportunity to compile bibliography which is difficult to access in Spain.

With this aim, I visited three libraries: the Queen Mary University Library, the Senate House Library and the BFI (British Film Institute) Library. The latter features an impressive collection of written and audiovisual material since 1890 till the present day. The availability of books, journals and databases related to the field of cinema and television studies allowed me to compile information about *Sex and the City* and also about the industrial context in which it is inscribed: the new wave of “Quality TV” which is taking place in American TV fiction at the turn of the century.

My visits to the Queen Mary University Library and the Senate House Library also provided me with less specific bibliography about film and TV genres. However, these libraries allowed me access to the necessary information for the sociological part of my dissertation. In it, I examine SATC’s treatment of issues like singleness, romance, sex and sexuality, monogamy, marriage, or friendship through the textual analysis of a selection of episodes. These libraries gave me access to their vast bibliographical collections, not only in print, but also online. Electronic resources and databases such as JSTOR and Academic Search Premier granted me quick and efficient access to very useful information for the writing of my thesis. My bibliographic searches in these libraries basically revolved around the sociological aspects of my dissertation, such as friendship, sexuality and romantic love.

Apart from the bibliographical search, my visit to London has also allowed me to meet Professor Pe-

ter Evans. He is an expert in film studies and, more specifically, on romantic comedy, having published extensively on this topic. Since my dissertation constitutes an approach to *Sex and the City* from a romantic comedy perspective, his advice in this respect was very valuable.

On top of this, my stay in London has also given me the chance to attend the Fifth International Conference of the Interdisciplinary Social Sciences, held in Cambridge 2-5 August. I presented a paper entitled “Sex and the City: How Romantic Comedy Found a Home in TV in the 21st Century.” A longer version of this paper has been submitted for publication in *The International Journal of Interdisciplinary Social Sciences* (<http://thesocialsciences.com/journal/>).

All in all, the research visit to the Queen Mary, University of London, partially funded by EAAS, has constituted a very valuable experience for my academic career and a fundamental step towards the completion of my dissertation, since it has allowed me to access necessary bibliography unavailable at my home institution. It has also given me the opportunity to meet a renowned expert in the field of my research and present a paper at an international conference which may result in a publication in a peer-reviewed international journal.

**Grant Recipient:** Irina Kudriavtseva, Minsk State Linguistics University, Minsk, Belarus

**Research Project:** The Thematic and Artistic Aspects of the 20th Century American Southern Short Story

**Institution Visited:** University of Tübingen, American Studies Department

The aim of my research visit was to investigate the thematic and artistic peculiarities of the 20th century southern short story in the United States, which may be considered a separate tradition within the American short story. The focus of my research lay in the development of southern literature and in the development of the American short story in the 20th century. Thanks to the rich holdings at the Tübingen University libraries, I had access to the most current books and journal articles in the field of my research, which allowed me to widen the scope of my dissertation as I became more aware of the importance of theoretical approaches to my project.

Before my trip to Germany, I had studied the major concepts of Russian and Belarusian theoreticians in the field of short fiction studies. After examining some of the most authoritative American sources (among them the collections of essays *The Tales We Tell: Perspectives on the Short Story*; *Short Story: Theory at a Crossroads*; and *New Short Story Theories*), I was

able to identify the differences and similarities in approaches to the genre, one them being a movement towards conceptualizing the genre in terms of a cluster of characteristics within a bounded “short-storyness.”

As for the history of the American short story in the 20th century, I was able to identify the periods during which contributions from the South made the greatest impact: the 1920s to the 1930s, and the 1950s to the 1970s.

I focused my research on southern authors who earned their reputation primarily as short story writers (Katherine Ann Porter, Eudora Welty, Flannery O’Connor, Peter Taylor, Bobby Ann Mason), and compared the stylistic and thematic peculiarities of the novels and short stories of southern authors who worked in both genres (Erskine Caldwell, Thomas Wolfe, William Faulkner, Alice Walker, and Ernest Gaines). *A Companion to Literature and Culture of the American South* (ed. Richard Gray; Oxford, UK: Blackwell, 2004) was particularly important to my project since it gave me an overview of how the traditionally white southern literary canon has expanded over the past few decades.

Most importantly, I was able to map out a tentative typology of the 20th century southern short story which would reflect southern writers’ critique of class, race and gender conflict in the South; their concern with the problem of tradition; and the role of past experience and memory (both cultural and personal) in identity (personal and collective) formation and functioning.

I identified two major stylistic tendencies in the southern short story and corresponding short story varieties: the objective-realistic and the subjective-lyrical modes. This framework will allow me to focus on individual southern authors’ contributions to the short story genre while tracing the thematic and aesthetic continuity in the twentieth-century southern short story. This will undoubtedly facilitate the introduction of the southern short story, in all its diversity, to Belarusian readers.

Overall, I studied more than a hundred different books and articles, including primary sources, none of which are available in Belarus. The grant enabled me to achieve much more than I had hoped for. It also gave me the opportunity to participate in the “Senses of The South” Conference hosted by EAAS’ Southern Studies Forum, and organized by Laboratoire Suds d’Amérique of the Institute of the Americas at the University of Versailles, St Quentin en Yvelines, in September 2009 in France.

At the conference, I presented the paper “A Southern Gentleman Talking: The Narrator’s Voice in Peter Taylor’s Novel *A Summons to Memphis*.” My participation in the conference broadened my understanding

of major issues in contemporary southern studies and proved to be an invaluable networking opportunity.

**Grant Recipient:** Lucas Richert, Institute for the Study of the Americas, University of London

**Research Project:** Pills, Politics, and Pitfalls: The Food and Drug Administration During the Reagan Years

**Institutions Visited:** Chemical Heritage Foundation, Philadelphia; University of Philadelphia Rare Book and Manuscript Collection, Philadelphia

In July 2009, I was able to complete my dissertation research in American archives with the support of a Transatlantic Grant from EAAS. In my doctoral dissertation, I examine the evolving relationship between the Reagan administration and drug regulation policy-makers in the 1980s. I focus on how a venerable federal agency (the Food and Drug Administration) was impacted by the Reagan administration’s belief in deregulation. I discovered in the course of previous research trips that Ronald Reagan adjusted FDA regulation-making protocols through his appointment power and executive orders. However, I did not have sufficient evidence to convey how FDA stakeholders mediated this process. These stakeholders included pharmaceutical industry lobby groups, watchdog organizations, and health activist movements. My research trip to the United States filled this gap and included a visit to the Chemical Heritage Foundation in Philadelphia and the largely untapped Walter J. Lear Health Activism Collection at the University of Pennsylvania.

The first days of my trip included a review of the Oral History Collection at the Chemical Heritage Foundation (CHF). Located on Chestnut Street, just minutes away from Independence National Historical Park, the CHF is a world-class drug research institution that houses a unique compilation of testimonies. I explored 25 interviews with drug company executives in the 1970s and 1980s.

Hugh D’Andrade, for instance, was a Vice President at both Ciba-Geigy and Schering-Plough from 1977–1995. Beyond his knowledge of the technical aspects of drug development and procedural interactions between companies and regulators, he maintained that the shifting political culture in the late 1970s was a significant facet in the approval and sale of new pharmaceutical technologies.

Robert Luciano, President of Schering-Plough, presented a grim overview of the regulatory structure of the 1980s and indicated how entrenched bureaucratic interests inhibited the ability of external forces (trade associations, activist movements, and Congress) to shape the FDA. Gerald Weissman, a clinical

research scientist at GlaxoSmithKline, suggested that the FDA's rigid inflexibility and antiquated processes were a source of trouble in the 1980s.

All in all, the oral history collection provided me with well-rounded and solid data about the drug industry and its regulator, the FDA. The objective was to increase my comprehension of the thorny relationship between the pharmaceutical industry and FDA bureaucrats, and I accomplished this.

I continued my research at the University of Pennsylvania, where I consulted the Walter J. Lear Health Activism Collection housed in its Rare Book and Manuscript division. There, I examined the Physicians' Forum, the Medical Committee for Human Rights, and the Women's Health Concerns Committee (1974–1984) Collections. The papers of Frank Furstenberg, Ruth Bleier, and Paul Lowinger, in particular, exposed how health activist movements intertwined from the 1960s onward.

One of the analytical threads in my dissertation explores the influence of health activist movements on government policy. This line of reasoning culminates in a chapter that charts and interprets the impact of HIV/AIDS activists on National Institutes of Health and Food and Drug Administration policy-makers as well as advisers close to President Reagan. While consulting the mammoth Walter J. Lear Collection, I stumbled on rewarding gems of information about the development of health activism in the United States since the post-World War II period. These gems not only informed my research into the most powerful AIDS movements in the 1980s—AIDS Coalition to Unleash Power (ACT-UP) and Project Inform—but also provided valuable fodder for future publications on American health activism.

This research trip yielded unexpected and important results that benefited not only my dissertation but also potential future projects. For example, the Reagan administration's goal to limit the size and scope of government, reduce excessive regulation, and promote increased cooperation between businesses and US regulatory agencies had far reaching effects at the FDA—effects that have parallels in 2009 and 2010. I reached this conclusion only after visiting archives in the United States, which would not have been possible without EAAS's financial support.

**Grant Recipient:** Claudia Ulbrich, Martin-Luther-Universität Halle-Wittenberg, Germany

**Research project:** Indigenous-German Relations in Pennsylvania and Georgia, 1740-1790

**Institutions Visited:** McNeil Center for Early American Studies, University of Pennsylvania; American Philosophical Society, German Society of Pennsylvania, Historical Society of Pennsylvania, Library Com-

pany of Philadelphia, Lutheran Theological Seminary, Philadelphia; Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster; Moravian Archives, Bethlehem

I was extremely honored to receive the Transatlantic Grant from the European Association for American Studies, which gave me the opportunity to conduct indispensable research for my dissertation project in Pennsylvania between May and July 2009. My research project focuses on relations between indigenous societies and German-speaking settlers in Pennsylvania and Georgia, mainly from 1740 to 1790. I examine processes of cultural contact, conflict, and translation between communities such as the Iroquois, Delaware, Shawnee and German-speaking Pietists.

My central research question was directed towards processes of indigenization of German-speaking communities of Pietist provenience (Lutherans and Moravians), who migrated to the shores of the Delaware and Susquehanna rivers in Pennsylvania and to the Savannah area in Georgia during the second half of the 18th century. They often originated from the Palatinate, Wurttemberg or Salzburg. August Hermann Francke and later his son Gotthilf August (from Halle) provided books and pharmaceutical products to the migrating Pietists and their families.

Starting with Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg in 1742, Pietists also began sending clergymen to America. The ministers settled permanently and considered themselves to be agents of change who would influence and shape the surroundings and inhabitants of the New World. However, they were not immune to external influences, some of which may be summarized as aspects of indigenization. The term indigenization here means the acquisition of indigenous knowledge as well as the transfer of ideas, values, and cultural practices by settling Pietists.

The empirical component of the dissertation dealt with the representation of indigenous populations and their cultures by German-speaking Pietists in different texts, e.g. letters, diaries, reports, newspapers, and official documents such as council minutes. Written accounts by Heinrich Melchior Muhlenberg (1711–1787), who is today seen as the founder of the Lutheran Church in North America, as well as by fellow ministers such as Justus Heinrich Christian Helmuth (1745–1825), Johann Christopher Kunze (1744–1807), and Johann Martin Boltzius (1703–1765) were examined. The goal was to trace their views on a variety of topics concerning indigenous peoples through personal encounters with indigenous spirituality and a consideration of the importance of place to medical care and social practices (i.e. ceremonies).

The archives I visited housed a wealth of published material and unpublished manuscripts dating back to

the second half of the 18th century, all of which allowed me to trace the path of the Pietists in Pennsylvania. The American Philosophical Society, the Historical Society of Pennsylvania, the Library Company of Philadelphia and the Lutheran Theological Seminary were especially helpful in providing information about Muhlenberg and other ministers. The reading room at the German Society of Pennsylvania gave me a glimpse into subsequent periods of German life in the region. Short visits to the Lancaster County Historical Society and the Moravian Archives in Bethlehem were beneficial in confirming initial assumptions about indigenous-German relations, thereby extending the scope of my investigation.

I have benefited deeply from my academic experience in Pennsylvania, and am indebted to the McNeil Center for Early American Studies and its director Daniel K. Richter for allowing me to serve as a research associate and providing me access to library and research facilities at the University of Pennsylvania. Clearly, the EAAS travel grant enabled an immersion into the topic that could not have been accomplished otherwise, and I wish to express my sincere gratitude to the European Association for American Studies for this opportunity.

**Grant Recipient:** Dennis Büscher-Ulbrich, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Hamburg  
**Research Project:** Poetics, Performance, and Radical Politics (of Sound): Bruce Andrews, Amiri Baraka and the Aesthetico-Political Project of Avant-Garde Praxis since the 1970s  
**Institution Visited:** Fordham University, New York

I can say without the slightest doubt that the EAAS funded research trip to New York City, which I undertook in September, 2010, was extremely successful.

The EAAS scholarship has enabled me to deepen my transcultural knowledge, linguistic performance, and social competence to a significant extent. As regards my research project, I can say to have made crucial advances towards a successful completion of my dissertation and a comprehensive set of related theoretical as well as methodological issues. Fordham University political science professor and avant-garde poet and performance artist Bruce Andrews has been overwhelmingly cooperative and most beneficial in that process. Prof. Andrews and I frequently debated key literary, theoretical, and socio-political issues centered around my research project. He also introduced me to other researchers in field, such as Prof. Michael Golston at Columbia University, and numerous protagonists of the Postwar and contemporary NY downtown art scene, giving me the unique opportunity to discuss some of my questions with distinguished avant-garde

artists, like Henry Hills, Sally Silvers, Abigail Child, John Zorn and Charles Bernstein. Moreover, he provided me with additional (audiovisual) performance documentation, which otherwise it would have been impossible to access. Besides the aspects mentioned above, Prof. Andrews welcomed my proposal to interview him in person on the subject of avant-garde aesthetic practice and political subjectivity. In fact, I conducted and taped a three-hour interview at his house, on September 28, 2010, which I am still in the process of transcribing but will publish as an appendix to my dissertation in order to open up possibilities for further study.

Amiri Baraka I actually visited at his house in Newark, NY on September 23, 2010, in order to conduct a two-hour interview on art and politics, which turned out to be extremely insightful and countering many of the assumptions about African-American radicalism which have come to dominate the field of African-American studies at least in German academia. I am still in the process of transcribing the interview, which I likewise intend to publish as an appendix to my dissertation in order to open up possibilities for further study and facilitate critical discourse.

Having had access to well-equipped libraries and archives at Columbia and Fordham as well as NY Public Research Libraries, Performing Arts Libraries, Performance Space 122, and the Schomburg Center for Research in Black Culture, enabled me to study countless historical sources as well as original performance texts, performance documentations, reviews, and interviews, most of which I would have been unable to access from Hamburg University. Moreover, the English-speaking environment and lively intellectual exchange proved to be and continues to be extraordinarily productive with regard to my writing, particularly in the final phase of my dissertation.

Detailed analyses of the newly gathered performance texts and audiovisual material still remain to be undertaken in order to complement findings and further understanding of the significance of performance for the work of Andrews and Baraka in particular, and the complex relation between forms of avant-garde aesthetic practice and political subjectivity in general. Here, engaging with the work of Jacques Rancière turned out to be crucial, particularly as Profs. Andrews and Golston actively endorsed the methodology I have tried to derive from Rancière's work, including possible junctures in the process of theory application.

Finally, I need to mention the wonderful people who provided me not only with a place to stay but also offered the most warm-hearted comfort and advice as well as challenging and exhilarating discussions – Ulrich Geister and Achieng Worambo.

Since I never had the opportunity to study abroad, or to conduct research in the US, before, I was all the more and more than delighted about the EAAS enabling me to undertake this extremely valuable research trip and exposing me to a unique intellectual—and no less emotional—transatlantic experience, for which I am deeply grateful.

**Grant Recipient:** Kevin Zdiara, University of Erfurt, Germany

**Research Project:** The Life and Work of Horace M. Kallen (1882–1974)

**Institution Visited:** The American Jewish Archives, Cincinnati, OH

In my dissertation I undertake to write the first comprehensive study on Horace M. Kallen (1882–1974), a student of William James, leading Zionist and coiner of the term cultural pluralism. Thanks to the Transatlantic Travel Grant of the EAAS I had the opportunity to do research in the Horace M. Kallen papers collection of the American Jewish Archives (AJA) in Cincinnati from February 24 to April 17, 2010. During this period I was able to look at the complete Kallen collection (95 Boxes, 37.5 linear ft. and approximately 60,000 pages) plus related collections and materials. This was a very valuable stay and it definitely brought my project an important step forward. I would like to thank EAAS-President Professor Grabbe and the EAAS board for making this possible.

The AJA is one of the leading Archives on American Jewish History. Its location on the campus of the Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute for Religion (HUC) makes it an ideal place for a research stay that is focused on the life and work of a person that is so closely related to the American Jewish experience in the first seven decades of the Twentieth Century.

The Kallen Papers are a unique collection of historical documents. An important part of the collection covers Kallen's early letters from the first three decades of the 20th Century. There are extremely insightful correspondences with his teachers George Santayana, William James and Barrett Wendell with whom he had intensive friendships, and discussed personal as well as intellectual matters. But particularly his involvement in the early American Zionist movement (which was most active in the period from around 1913–1921) can be traced with the help of the collection, one can follow his cross-country trips as an agitator and what today is commonly called networking for the cause of Zionism. He gave talks on this subject in different places, from the Pacific Coast to the South and the Mid-West, and kept up the correspondence with these places in order to build a strong network of fellow Zionists. The collection has correspondences with such important figures of Zionism as Leon Simon, Jacob

de Haas and Alfred Zimmern and it provided me with an insight into Kallen's ideas of Zionist propaganda and his work. But moreover, the AJA's collection has the correspondence with his American fellow Zionists and close friends Louis D. Brandeis, Stephen S. Wise, Julian Mack and Felix Frankfurter with whom Kallen formed an influential and important group of early Zionists and developed his ideas about Judaism, Zionism and Americanism.

In addition to the letters, there are many personal items, such as diaries, notebooks and calendars, that gave me most interesting biographical information. Also there are boxes of manuscripts for talks which Kallen gave that are yet unpublished. With Kallen's remarks and notes on these manuscripts I could see how Kallen wrote his articles, how he edited them and how his thoughts developed. Furthermore, I found various articles and hints to articles which help me compiling the currently most comprehensive bibliography of Kallen, covering more than 40 books and far more than 400 articles.

I also took the opportunity to look up other collections located in the AJA with Kallen letters and with references to Kallen. I researched the collections of Abraham Cronbach, Jacob Billikopf, Stephen S. Wise, Trude Wise-Rosmarin, Martin M. Weitz, Jacob Schiff and Henry Hurwitz.

The AJA are located on the campus of the HUC and are closely related with this historical institution of Reform Judaism. This made it possible for me to use HUC's Klau Library which has the largest Judaica collection in the Western hemisphere. Its focus on Jewish subjects helped me in finding Jewish journals that are unavailable in Germany. I discovered articles by Kallen in such leading Jewish-American journals as *The American Hebrew*, *Jewish Spectator*, *Jewish Heritage*, *Jewish Frontier* and more. Overall the result of my findings is that Kallen played a much more active role within the Jewish community of his time than is currently recognized in any scholarly work on him.

I also used the stay on the Campus of HUC to get in contact with its faculty. Especially my talks with Prof. Michael A. Meyer, the leading historian of Reform Judaism, was a unique experience and gave me new insights into Kallen's relation to Judaism.

Finally, I would like to use this opportunity to point out the excellent working situation in the AJA. The staff was always friendly and requests were done in an instance. Compared with similar institutions I have visited in the U.S.A., the AJA were by far the most comfortable and scholarly valuable place. Furthermore, the director Prof. Gary Zola and the chief archivist Kevin Proffitt included me into the social events taking place in the Archives. Particularly, the 2010 Passover Seder in the main reading room will remain a lasting experience for me.



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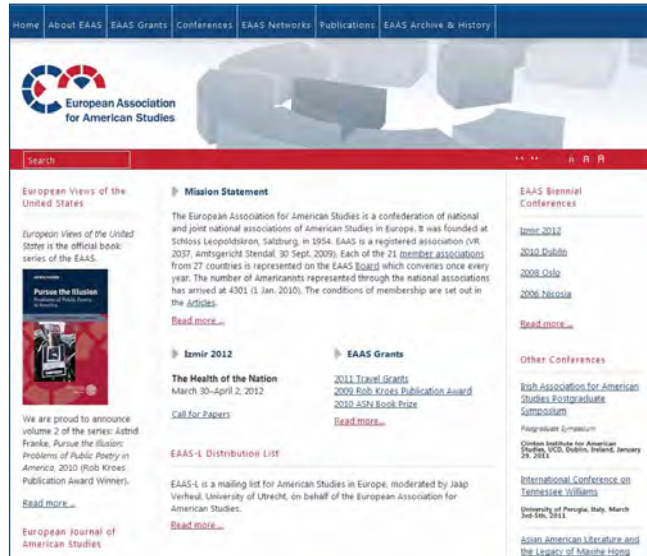


Statue of Oscar Wilde, Archbishop Ryan Park, Merrion Square, Dublin

(Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

# EAAS ON THE WEB

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



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

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# THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK

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

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

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

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

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

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## **Denmark**

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

Center for the Study of the Americas (Copenhagen)  
[http://uk.cbs.dk/forskning\\_viden/institutter\\_centre/institutter/csa](http://uk.cbs.dk/forskning_viden/institutter_centre/institutter/csa)

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Heidelberg Center for American Studies (Heidelberg)  
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Center for United States Studies (Halle-Wittenberg)  
[http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en\\_index.html](http://www.zusas.uni-halle.de/en_index.html)

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

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

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## Rob Kroes Publication Award

### Excerpts from the remarks of EAAS President Hans-Jürgen Grabbe at the Dublin General Meeting on March 26, 2010

Professor Rob Kroes of the University of Amsterdam was Treasurer of the EAAS from 1976 to 1988 and President from 1992 to 1996. These sixteen years of service are and probably will remain unparalleled. But his contribution to American Studies in Europe went beyond fulfilling the duties of an officer.

In the introduction to volume 1 of the new series *European Views of the United States*, EAAS President Marc Chénétier paid this tribute to Rob Kroes: “I cannot forget, to begin with, that ever since the European Association for American Studies began publishing the results of the research conducted in its ranks, decades ago, the various volumes that contained them were produced thanks to the energy and dedication of my very dear friend Professor Rob Kroes, at the University of Amsterdam. He has our deep gratitude . . .”

A few months later, at the EAAS Board Meeting in Oslo on May 8, 2008, I reiterated how helpful Rob had been in promoting the EAAS through these publications and I reported that the officers wished to institutionalize a new prize that bears his name. The series *European Views of the United States* would henceforth include the publication of a prize-winning original monograph in non-conference years. This idea was embraced with enthusiasm by the Board and met with the wholehearted approval of the European Americanists present at the General Meeting.

In March of 2009, the new biennial Rob Kroes Publication Award for the best English-language book manuscript in American Studies was announced. The competition was open to all members of the twenty-one national and joint-national EAAS member organizations if the following conditions were met: “To be eligible, a manuscript should be in the fields of literary, cultural, or historical studies. Interdisciplinary studies are also welcome. All entries should be concerned with phenomena or events that focus on what is now the United States of America. We welcome comparative and international studies that fall within these guidelines.”

Six manuscripts were submitted and a jury consisting of former EAAS presidents Rob Kroes and Heinz Ickstadt and officers Martin Heusser and Jenel Virden unanimously chose Astrid Franke’s study “Pursue the Illusion: Problems of Public Poetry in America” as the winner.



Astrid Franke, *Pursue the Illusion: Problems of Public Poetry in America* (Heidelberg: Winter, 2010)

### A juror’s evaluation of the manuscript

In her study of “a tradition of public poetry in the U.S.,” Astrid Franke discusses various forms of non-individualistic and neo-classical poetic expression from the American Revolution throughout the 19th century (submerged as a sub-stream of non-romantic writing) to the political poetry of the 1930s and up to the present day. Neither bound to a specific poetic form nor to a specific political message, it has substantially contributed to the literary repertoire of a democratic society, originating in „an attitude of public obligation“ and coming to the fore as dominant poetic practice during specific historical moments of change or crisis. What makes this study especially impressive is the ability of Ms. Franke to read the texts she analyzes with great subtlety and a marked sense of linguistic detail, and, at the same time, to unfold their semantic richness in view of the socio-historical and socio-theoretical contexts in which they were written and read. In other words, she is able to understand the specific

poetic “gestalt“ of the texts from the public function their authors claim to pursue with them. “What [these authors] have in common is that they understand the public role of poetry not as a given but as a challenge; to think the public anew and to devise ways in which common concerns could be expressed demands innovations in language, in subject matter, and in social roles, not least that of the poet. Thus, aesthetic innovation and public commitment, though there may be a tension between them, are yet intertwined.”

Although, in her analysis, she juxtaposes authors that are rarely discussed together (Vachel Lindsay and T. S. Eliot, or Robert Hayden and Robert Lowell), her poems nevertheless form an ensemble of divergent, yet mutually reflective, answers to the same question concerning the specific function of poetry in a democratic society.

In her introductory chapter, she discusses several concepts of a democratic public (including that of Habermas) but places her own work in the continuity of Dewey’s idea of democracy and its public as a continuous task of social creation. Perhaps in order to keep her own pragmatist temperament in check, Ms. Franke juxtaposes Dewey with one of Dewey’s critics: Theodor Adorno whose concept of art as negative utopia is diametrically opposed to Dewey’s illusory and elusive notion of a public always in a process of becoming. “For Adorno, problems of form are a reminder of the social antagonisms that art, despite its efforts, cannot resolve – all art, for Adorno, is the pursuit of illusion, but one that makes us aware of what we miss.”

Accordingly she develops a conceptual frame that embraces Dewey’s pragmatism but also questions its premises with a strong dose of Adorno’s skepticism. In her analyses she thus tries to connect the problems of poetic form with the social context from which they issue: the gaps and tensions of the linguistic surface of the text with the irreconcilable antagonisms of a society continuously falling short of its ideals. They may thus “speak” socially precisely where language fails.

I have rarely read a study of poetry in recent years that deals in such nuance and detail but also with so much respect and loving care with the texts it analyzes. The care Ms. Franke applies to the texts connects her with their authors—with their care for the word arising from a deep “care” for the body politic.



Astrid Franke

**Astrid Franke could not attend the award ceremony because her flight from the U.S. was cancelled due to a labor conflict. This is what she had wished to say:**

I feel very honored to receive the Rob Kroes-prize and I also feel grateful and somewhat lucky for the little niche in the publishing world which the series *European Views of the United States* is offering me. I know this is not the Academy Awards, but I would like to add a very heartfelt word of thanks—partly because it will reveal something about the prize that may not be obvious to you:

What I won is not just the honor connected with Rob Kroes and the publication with Winter; what I won is Hans-Jürgen Grabbe as an editor! And I mean ‘editor’—not someone supervising a number of graduate students or technical helpers who read and correct the manuscript, check bibliographical references, and persuade a publishing program not to split footnotes—but someone who does all these things himself. For all of you who know Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, you will be able to guess how thorough and rigorous his work has been; for all others, let me stress that this prize has offered me a quality of editing that can no longer be taken for granted in scholarly publishing. This is a precious gift which renders the prize invaluable. So one more time: thank you so much for all the time and labor you have put into it.

## News

### EAAS Co-Sponsors Symposium in Memory of Emory Elliott at the Salzburg Global Seminar



Emory Elliott (October 30, 1942 – March 31, 2009)

From September 24-28, 2010 the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association organized a symposium at Schloss Leopoldskron entitled “To Honor Emory Elliott: American Literary History in a New Key.” Emory Elliott was one of the world’s most distinguished scholars of American Studies, whose scholarship and teaching encompassed American literature from the Puritans to Postmodernism and Transnationalism. A strong supporter of the EAAS, Elliott often attended EAAS conferences, and brought numerous scholars from around the world to teach and do research at the University of California Riverside.

The EAAS, which was founded at the Salzburg Seminar in 1954, was a co-sponsor at this American literary history symposium, which was attended by 74 speakers, participants and guests from 22 countries. The EAAS contributed a very successful and well-received panel at the symposium, entitled “Rethinking Literary History.” The panelists were Professor Stephen Matterson of Trinity College Dublin who is treasurer of the EAAS and EAAS Board member for the Irish Association of American Studies, and Professor Teresa Cid, University of Lisbon, who is as the Board member for the Portuguese Association for American Studies.

### African American Literature Rediscovered: First Publication of Previously Unknown Zora Neale Hurston Short Stories

It was somewhat of a sensation when the *Chronicle of Higher Education* reported the discovery of previously unknown stories by the African American writer Zora Neale Hurston (<http://chronicle.com/article/The-Newly-Complicated-Zora/125753>). Hurston is one of the most important writers of African American literature of the 20th century, whose work has significantly influenced contemporary multicultural American literature. Prof. Glenda R. Carpio and Prof. Werner Sollors were surprised to find these texts by the author of the famous novel *Their Eyes Were Watching God* (1937) in the spring of 2010 almost by coincidence when they were team-teaching a course at Harvard University. They made their finding when perusing microfilms in search of contexts for literature and culture of the twenties and thirties.

The five new stories by Zora Neale Hurston, which were not included in *The Complete Short Stories of Zora Neale Hurston*, will now appear in a special issue of the journal *Amerikastudien/American Studies*. Since 2002, this journal has been published for the German Association for American Studies (DGfA) at the University of Regensburg, with Prof. Udo Hebel, chair of American Studies, as General Editor. The issue presents not only the short stories by Hurston and two previously unknown Hurston letters but also new texts by the contemporary African American writers Jamaica Kincaid and Ishmael Reed. There are also a number of original articles on current developments in African American literary studies by renowned scholars from the U.S. and Germany.

The *Chronicle of Higher Education* article by professors Carpio and Sollors shows that the new Hurston stories set in New York during the Harlem Renaissance may change the popular image of Zora Neale Hurston and African American Literature between the world wars. So far Hurston was associated mainly with African American literature and folklore of the southern rural United States. Now we see an urban-cosmopolitan side of her enmeshed in the life of the modern city of New York.

The special issue of the journal *Amerikastudien/American Studies* will appear in April 2011 under the title “African American Literary Studies: New Texts, New Approaches, New Challenges” as Issue 55.4 (2010). See <http://www.amerikastudien.de/quarterly/index.html>.

## Editorial Deadlines

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- March 1, 2011      Deadline for the submission of updated information about the officers of EAAS member associations to the Secretary General. Please note that new Board members should be reported right after their election since the website is updated continuously and the EAAS officers must know who is representing whom.
- October 15, 2011      Deadline for submission of relevant information for the Fall 2011 *American Studies in Europe* newsletter to the Editor. Make sure to add “ASE-EAAS” (without quotes) to the subject line of your e-mail(s).

## Calls for Papers and Conference Announcements

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If you wish to publish a call for papers or announce a conference, please notify the EAAS webmaster, Prof. Jacques Pothier (pothier@eaas.eu). Information on conferences will henceforth be available on the website only (<http://eaas.eu/conferences/other-conferences>).