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for American Studies

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In this Issue:

Message from the President	1
EAAS Board Members	3
Minutes of the 2011 Board Meeting	5
2012 Biennial Conference Workshops	12
Constituent Associations of EAAS	24
EAAS on the Web	30
The American Studies Network	31
EAAS Rob Kroes Publication Award	32
Editorial Deadlines	33

Editor:

Meldan Tanrısal
Department of American Culture and
Literature, Hacettepe University, Turkey
E-mail: Tanrisal@eaas.eu
Assistant Editor:
Cem Kılıçarslan

Webmaster:

Jacques Pothier
Université Versailles St Quentin,
47 bd Vauban, 78047 Guyancourt
Cedex, France
Phone: + 33 1 46267072
E-Mail: jacques.pothier@uvsq.fr

Website:

<http://www.eaas.eu>



Phil Davies, President
(Photograph by Alexander McIntyre)

Editorial

With our conference in İzmir, Turkey just around the corner, the most important business of this issue of American Studies in Europe has to be the full call for papers that you will find on page 12. I am sure that you will find opportunities there to showcase your research and interests, and hope that you will contact the Workshop Chairs to offer your work. But first, allow me to distract you for a brief while – I promise not to keep you for long.

Immediately before the EAAS Board meeting that took place in Rome in April of this year, the Association's President, Hans-Jürgen Grabbe, informed his colleagues that a temporary illness prevented him from attending the meeting, but even more disappointingly for the rest of us that he would be standing down from office.

President Grabbe leaves office having made more impact than could be expected from most full terms, never mind from an abbreviated three-year term. Individual circumstances have led to an unexpected turnover of officeholders during these three years. Also entirely unexpected was the discovery that the Association's status as an incorporated organisation had lapsed. And there were improvements to be made. The EAAS website was not keeping up with the needs of increasingly

sophisticated webservers. The newly minted European Journal of American Studies needed to build on its innovators' foundations.

Hans-Jürgen threw himself wholeheartedly into the presidency of our Association, at no time appearing to be daunted. He was rock-like in his willingness to take on extra roles; dogged in his pursuit of the Association's interests when negotiating with government agencies and others; skilled and innovative in his careful re-design of the EAAS website; meticulous in his archiving of the Association's history; and energetic in his support of existing and new publication and award projects. We have relied heavily on his work, and we shall miss his official input while still listening to the advice he may offer.

The Association has simultaneously lost the services of Jenel Virden, whose term as Secretary-General came to an end. The influence of Jenel's organisation

We are delighted that Gert Buelens has taken over as the new EAAS Secretary-General. It is a critical role in the Association, requiring assiduous engagement with the issues of the moment, and an application to detail that is not easy to find even in a community of research scholars. Gert assumes this role with the wholehearted support of his colleagues; Stephen Matterson continues in office, managing Association finances with care. I am very pleased to have been offered the opportunity to complete the current presidential term. I thank my colleagues for this opportunity and for their help while I find my way through the expectations of the role. Normal service will resume before long, since a full term President will be elected by the Board soon.

Meldan Tanrisal remains in office as EAAS Vice President. As well as leading the team responsible for the logistics of the 2012 conference in Turkey, she is responsible for this most valuable of Association



Colosseum, Rome (Photograph by Meldan Tanrisal)

was as evident as ever at our meeting, which, as have all the meetings under her management, ran efficiently and successfully. I think most, possibly all, Board members have at some time relied on Jenel for some advice, help, or explanation of an arcane element of EAAS practice. I know that she remembers well the generous help and friendship extended by existing members when she first joined the Board, and has extended that same support to many others who have joined later.

products, American Studies in Europe.

May I now invite you to enjoy the exciting range and variety of workshops that will be hosted in İzmir. EAAS members have engineered an array of multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary opportunities for a multinational community to come together and discuss the things that interest us. I hope that you find an opportunity to offer a paper that engages with this challenge.

Philip Davies

EAAS BOARD MEMBERS

OFFICERS:

President and Board Member for BAAS:

Philip John Davies

Eccles Centre for American Studies, The British Library, 96 Euston Road, London NW1 2DB, Great Britain

Phone: +44 (0) 20 7412 7551 Fax: +44 (0) 20 7412 7792

E-Mail: davies@eaas.eu

Vice President and Board Member for ASAT:

Meldan Tanrisal, Department of American Culture and Literature, Hacettepe University, 06532 Beytepe, Ankara, Turkey

Phone: +90 312 297 8500/8520 Fax: +90 312 299 2085

E-mail: Tanrisal@eaas.eu

Treasurer and Board Member for IAAS:

Stephen Matterson, Department of English, Trinity College, University of Dublin, Dublin 2, Ireland

Phone: +353 1 896 1879 Fax: +353 1 671 7114.

E-mail: matterson@eaas.eu

Secretary General and Board Member for BLASA:

Gert Buelens

English Department, Ghent University, Rozier 44, 9000 Ghent, Belgium

Phone: +32 9 2643700 Fax: +32 9 2644184

E-mail: Gert.Buelens@UGent.be

BOARD MEMBERS:

Marcel Arbeit (CSAA), Department of English and American Studies, Palacky University, Křižkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic

Phone: +420 68 563 3104 Fax: +420 68 563 3111

E-mail: asociace@gmail.com

Teresa Cid (APEAA), English Department, University of Lisbon, Faculdade de Letras, Alameda da Universidade, 1600-214 Lisboa, Portugal

Phone: (+351) 914671642 Fax: (+351) 217960063

E-mail: teresacid@fl.ul.pt or teresacid.flul@gmail.com

Adina Ciugureanu (RAAS), Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University Constanta, Aleea Universitatii 1, Campus, Constanta, Romania

Phone: +40 241 551773 Fax: +40 241 543045

E-mail: adina.ciugureanu@seanet.ro

Marina Camboni (AISNA), Department of Modern Languages and Literatures, University of Macerata, Corso Cavour, 2, 62100 Macerata, Italy

Phone: +39 07332584028 Fax: +39 07332584380

E-mail: camboni@unimc.it

Pawel Frelik (PAAS), Department of American Literature and Culture, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Pl. Marii Curie Skłodowskiej 4, 20-031 Lublin, Poland

Phone: +48 81 5375 389 Fax: +48 81 5375 279

E-mail: pawel.frelik@umcs.edu.pl

Kostadin Grozev (BASA), University of Sofia, 15 Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1504 Sofia, Bulgaria

Phone +359 2 9308366

E-mail : kgrozev@gmail.com

Rüdiger Kunow (DGfA), Amerikanistik, Universität Potsdam, Am Neuen Palais 10, 14469 Potsdam, Germany

Phone: +49 331 977 1185 Fax: +49 331 977 1609

E-mail: rkunow@uni-potsdam.de

Jørn Brøndal (DAAS), Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M, Denmark

Phone: +45 65 50 21 90

E-mail: brondal@language.sdu.dk

Marietta Messmer (NASA), Department of American Studies, University of Groningen, P.O. Box 716, 9700 AS Groningen, The Netherlands

Phone: +31 50 363 8439 Fax: +31 50 363 582

E-mail: m.e.messmer@rug.nl

Ralph Poole (AAAS), Fachbereich Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Salzburg Akademiestraße 24, 5020 Salzburg, Austria

Phone: +43 (0)662 8044 4403

Fax: +43 (0)662 8044 167

ralph.poole@sbg.ac.at

Jacques Pothier (AFEA and EAAS Webmaster), Université Versailles St Quentin, 47 bd Vauban, 78047 Guyancourt Cedex, France

Phone: + 33 1 46267072 Fax: +33 1 39255692

E-Mail: jacques.pothier@uvsq.fr

David Rio (AEDEAN), Dpt. Filologia Inglesa, Facultad de Letras, University of the Basque Country (UPV/EHU), P. Universidad 5, 01006 Vitoria-Gasteiz, Spain
Phone: +34-945-013975 Fax: +34-945-013200
E-mail: david.rio@ehu.es

Yuri V. Stulov (BELAAS), American Studies Center, European Humanities University, 3 P. Brovki St., Minsk 220000, Belarus
Phone: +375 17 232 7036 Fax: +375 17 2315062
E-mail: yustulov@mail.ru

Lehel Vadon (HAAS), Department of American Studies, Eszterházy Károly College, Egészség ház u. 4, 3300 Eger, Hungary
Phone: +36 36 520 400/3041
E-mail: lvadon@ektf.hu

Boris Vejdovsky (SANAS), Université de Lausanne, Faculté des lettres, Littérature et culture américaine, L'Anthropole 5075, 1015 Lausanne, Switzerland
Phone: +41 21 692 2991 Fax: +41 21 692 3045
E-mail: boris.vejdovsky@unil.ch

Tatiana Venediktova (RSAS), Moscow State University, Department of Philology, 41, Leninsky prosp., Moscow 117334, Russia
E-mail: vened@philol.msu.ru

Smaragda Yemenedzi-Malathouni (HELAAS), School of English, Department of American Literature and Culture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
Phone: +30 2310 99 74 74
E-mail: yemene@enl.auth.gr



Board members in Rome (Photograph by Jacques Pothier)

MINUTES OF THE EAAS BOARD MEETING 8 and 9 April 2011, Rome, Italy

Centro Studi Americani, via Michelangelo Caetani 32, 00186 Roma, Italy *Item 1: Welcome*

Chair: Meldan Tanrisal, elected by acclamation

Stephen Matterson, Treasurer and IAAS Representative
Jenel Virden, Secretary General

Board Members present: Marcel Arbeit (CSAA), Gert Buelens (BLASA), Marina Camboni (AISNA), Teresa Cid (APEAA), Adina Ciugureanu (RAAS), Philip Davies (BAAS), Katya Ekaterina (BELAAS, ad interim), Pawel Freluk (PAAS), Rüdiger Kunow (DGfA), Kostadin Grozev (BASA), Marietta Messmer (NASA), Ralph Poole (AAAS), Jacques Pothier (AFEA), David Rio (AEDEAN), Meldan Tanrisal (ASAT), Lehel Vadon (HAAS), Boris Vejdovsky (SANAS), Tatiana Venediktova (RSAS), Smaragda Yemenedzi-Malathouni (HELAAS).

Apologies: David Mauk (ASANOR), Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (President)

Agenda:

1. Welcome – President
2. Minutes of Dublin Meeting
3. Report of the President
4. Report of the Vice President, Including ASE Newsletter
5. Report of the Treasurer
6. Report of the Secretary General
7. Report of the Website Administrator
8. EAAS Travel Grants
9. Appointment of Auditors
10. Dublin Conference Volume
11. Venue of Board Meeting 2013
12. Conference Venues 2014 and 2016
13. İzmir Conference 2012: Report on Progress
14. İzmir Conference 2012: Selection of Keynote Speakers, Parallel Lecturers and Workshops
15. Application for Membership: Southeastern European Association for American Studies
16. Amendment to the EAAS Articles
17. EJAS: Editor's Report and Selection of New Editors
18. Election of President, Vice President, and Secretary General
19. Auditors' Report
20. Any Other Business

Meldan Tanrisal (MT) took the chair. Item 11 of the agenda mailed to the members on 20 March 2011 was dropped. Item 18 was expanded to include the election of a new President. The changed agenda was approved by acclamation.

On 6 April 2011, Hans-Jürgen Grabbe (HJG) communicated to the officers his decision to resign as President of EAAS. Stephen Matterson (SM) explained the situation in light of HJG's decision. The Board was informed that it was now necessary to elect not just a new Secretary General and Vice President but also a President at the meeting, all of which would take place the following day under Item 18 (revised). The elections had moved to non-conference years due to previous issues with the re-establishment of the association. Problems have arisen since the switch to elections in non-conference years in terms of the workloads of the various officers. Conference elections make more sense for continuity of work from all officers. These matters, and possible responses were discussed, and a case was made for a return to elections scheduled along the previous long-established lines. Board members then introduced themselves to the group and new members were welcomed.

Item 2: Minutes of Dublin Meeting

Minutes: Approved, with thanks to Gert Buelens.

Item 3: Report of the President

In the absence of HJG, the Board members were referred to the summary of his activities in the newsletter as a reflection of his formal report.

Item 4: Report of the Vice President, including ASE Newsletter

MT reported that the newsletter was ready but had been stalled, unfortunately, due to the delay in receiving information and the finalization of information. Some minor changes were noted in the newsletter including the decision to withdraw conference announcements as they are on the web site. If anyone has any suggestions, MT is happy to take these on board and welcomes any comments.

Item 5: Report of the Treasurer

SM reported on the association accounts with accompanying handouts. SM noted that the association's finances are in good shape, with a small surplus from this year. There had been no need to draw on the Amsterdam Trust Fund. The conference accounts from Dublin have been finalized and indicate that the conference occurred without EAAS contributions. In fact, the organizers were able to make a small profit. The budget for next year suggests the Board meeting expenses for the meeting in Rome will be another case of raised per diems due to the high cost of the city. This can, however, be easily accommodated in the budget. The handover meeting of officers will take place in London in June and the costs may be higher than projected due to the number of people attending including a representative from Croatia. SM then went over the Amsterdam Trust Fund with a report from Hans Bak. The Fund has regained its losses from 2008 and the funds are healthy. The association has not used any profits from them for two years. As a result, EAAS has not needed to draw on the funds for the travel grants. The Board agreed to continue the defensive risk policy of our investments and to lower cash assets to 10%. Thanks were expressed to Hans Bak for his excellent management of the fund and for bringing it back from its low in 2008. SM then noted a procedural issue with the bank EAAS is using; it has decided to go cashless. The Treasurer now requires the written consent of the other officers for cash withdrawal. SM asked for Board approval for him to be indemnified for 450 Euros. This was approved.

Item 6: Report of the Secretary-General

Jenel Virden (JV) reported that the initial concern about the lack of workshop proposals turned out to be unfounded, as many people responded to the extended deadline and the numerous calls for contributions. The extended deadline meant that the Board now faced selecting from 43 workshop proposals and 9 parallel lectures. The job of the Sec-Gen throughout the previous year was associated with the submission and collation of workshop proposals and answering questions related to the 2012 conference. JV suggested that the job of Sec-Gen could be made much easier if a pro forma could be designed for workshop and parallel lecture proposals in order to avoid problems with formatting of information received. The Board agreed this would be preferable.

Item 7: Report of the Website Administrator

Jacques Pothier (JP) reported that since HJG had designed a very good template website, taking on

the role of website manager was much easier than expected. Things have run smoothly. The only thing that JP had to make a decision about was listing conference announcements. The difficulty is that conferences are listed in the order in which they take place, rather than the dates of calls for papers. JP also suggested that the web site could have a section on grants offered by other associations or organizations in Europe. He noted that we could also expand the section on publications to publicize the publications of our national associations, which could include publishing tables of contents. It would entail some extra work which would be facilitated by use of a template. Pawel Frelik (PF) asked whether we should think about collating a data base of American Studies colleagues so that people can identify people working on similar topics and similar fields. JP noted that the French association had already started to do this, as have some other associations. This has produced an on-line directory of American Studies in France that is searchable. David Rio (DR) commented that this would easily work for EAAS. JP clarified that the data was not about members of the French association but rather data provided by a consortium of universities supported by the government. The same is apparently true with the Italian web site. If individual associations were to put together a searchable listing this could then be fed to the EAAS web site. Some debate ensued about the best way to move forward, and a decision was taken to leave the details to those who would deal with the situation. There may be legal issues without getting the consent of the individuals; however, it was noted that the information is already available on university websites that are in the public domain and state funded. Further discussion ensued about the possibility of asking association members to create their own profiles for the website as in social networking sites. With a pro forma people could add as much or as little as they wished, but this might require hiring someone to set it up initially and there are maintenance costs to consider. A suggestion was made that these costs could be covered by our reserves and the Amsterdam Trust Fund. JP agreed to put together a proposed format to send to associations for their input. A Board member asked if the web site could have a link to the ASA and JP said he would check that it is there and visible. Adina Ciugureanu (AC) asked for more visible connections to the national associations on the EAAS website. MT reported for HJG about his collection of data on the use of the EAAS web site. A decision was taken to investigate the establishment of a membership database as outlined above, including the costs of developing the pro forma for the workshop submissions. JP will add additional information to the website as well.

Item 8: EAAS Travel Grants

SM reported that EAAS gave out 9,000 Euros last year and this year we have received 15 applicants. The officers have been examining them and although there were more than usual, SM suggested that Board members should advertise the grants as much as possible in the future within their national association. Although officers make the decision, the Board discussed assigning someone to look these over through another pair of eyes. This was generally agreed.

Item 9: Appointment of Auditors

Marcel Arbeit (MA) and Phil Davies (PD) are currently auditors and have agreed to continue. SM has the full Amsterdam reports for review and the auditing of the accounts took place during the lunch break.

articles have also appeared in the EJAS. The officers had to step in to act as readers of the material for inclusion in the volume from Oslo in order to cut down on the number of entries and to move the long-delayed process along.

Item 11: Venue of Board Meeting 2013

It was suggested that the Board meet in Moscow at either the Moscow University or Russian State Humanities venues. This could be done in conjunction with a locally organized and proposed conference and Tania Venediktova (TV) suggested that some members of the Board could contribute to the conference by possibly running a round table. The Board agreed to both suggestions. The dates for the Board meeting in 2013 will be April 25-28th, which confirms a previous decision of the Board at Dublin.



Board members during the meeting (Photograph by Jacques Pothier)

Item 10: Dublin Conference Volume

SM reported for HJG that the Dublin conference volume is moving on quickly and is at the stage of copy-editing and should be completed early in May and would then be out in early autumn. The long awaited Oslo volume is now at proofs stage and a copy was sent by HJG to the Board. Some Oslo conference

Item 12: Conference Venues 2014 and 2016

MT read out a report that was provided by HJG about the various proposals for the venue of the EAAS conference in 2014. Some concerns were raised about transport in Romania in Constanza. Adina Ciugureanu (AC) reported that by 2014, the road should be completed and the railways should be finished. In the worst case

scenario, buses could be arranged to pick people up from the airport. Another possibility is increasing flights from Bucharest to Constanza (35 minutes). AC also suggested that there are enough conference rooms and hotels to accommodate attendees. Reduced prices had already been negotiated with local hotels and several tourist trips could be arranged as well. AC has experience organizing conferences, having previously run a conference with 600 delegates, and has a good team in place. The problem, as Gert Buelens (GB) pointed out, was that this would fall on the heels of the conference in Turkey. AC noted that the proposal had full US Embassy support. The Netherlands Association had a counterproposal for holding the conference at The Hague – seat of the Dutch government. Working with the tourism board of The Hague, tailor-made tours could be arranged and the venue would be easy to reach by the EAAS membership. The Hague is just 30 minutes from Schiphol airport (Amsterdam) by train. This would provide a better balance for conference locations. Discussion suggested that the costs of accommodation would be cheaper in Romania but the cost of getting to The Hague would be lower. Marina Camboni (MC) suggested setting a precedent to alternate conferences between western and eastern Europe. The Board decided that the conference in 2014 would be held at The Hague. The Board voted unanimously to hold the 2016 conference at Constanza.

Item 13: İzmir Conference 2012 -- Report on Progress

MT reported that she had visited the site of the 2012 conference at Ege University. The facilities are good and include 10 classrooms for workshops and two large lecture halls for plenaries. MT also reported (with the help of slides) that there are two more large halls, one a 400 seater and another a 700 seater, available for keynote speakers. There are 50 rooms available for accommodation at the university guest house and the conference organizers are working with a travel agency to facilitate matters for further accommodation. There are a number of historic buildings that can be used for receptions, banquets and other special activities that hold up to 500. Arrangements will be made with catering on campus for coffee/teas and lunches. So far the prices are negotiable. MT also reported that there will be tours organized. The preliminary negotiations indicate the price of 65 Euro for a single and 80 for a double room. The US Embassy has agreed to support the conference, partially. Ralph Poole (RP) spoke to how good İzmir is as a venue.

Item 14: İzmir Conference 2012 -- Selection of Keynote Speakers, Parallel Lecturers and Workshops

The rest of the afternoon was taken up with discussion and the preliminary selection of workshops and parallel lectures for the İzmir conference.

Meeting: Saturday 9 April, 9:30 start

Item 14 continued. İzmir Conference 2012 -- Selection of Keynote Speakers, Parallel Lecturers and Workshops

Discussions of proposals continued in the morning session and resulted in the Board selecting 25 workshops and 5 parallel lectures for the İzmir conference. The local organizers at İzmir will select one other parallel lecture. The Board then discussed possible names for the keynote speakers with suggestions made from both the US and Europe. A concern was raised over the way parallel lectures are both advertised and selected in the sense that traditionally, these were lectures given by senior scholars in their field. Instead, we have had more proposals from relatively junior colleagues this year. This issue can be revisited at the Board meeting before the next conference call for papers goes out. Refining the initial advertisement or having the Board solicit papers from established colleagues are two options. AC suggested clarifying criteria for judging workshop proposals as well.

Item 15: Application for Membership -- Southeastern European Association for American Studies

The Board received a representative of the tentatively named SEAAS (Southeastern European Association for American Studies) who presented his petition to the meeting for inclusion of the association on the Board of the EAAS. Petar Penda (PP) gave a presentation on the work he has done so far with regard to formally organizing an association. He mentioned the support of the US Embassy for the formation of an American Studies association in the region. Other help would be forthcoming to establish the national association journal and provide additional support. PF noted there was a competing organization wishing for inclusion in EAAS and asked whether Dr Penda would be willing to work with Jelena Sesnic to include them in the SEAAS. AC noted that the name suggested that the association did not necessarily represent all the countries in what is traditionally considered Southeastern Europe, as this area encompasses countries with established independent associations. PP noted that he was willing to change the name and reported that this was a name suggested to him by HJG. The President of EAAS had suggested that Dr Penda should not form the association before discussions at

this Board meeting. Other groups within the area are already organized and have been or will be invited to join, should they desire. Some discussion ensued about the actual structure of this association, but it was noted that other national associations within EAAS have a similar structure such as the Nordic Association. PD noted the importance of including members who are engaging in research in history, politics and the social sciences as well. Dr Penda said he was happy to do this and also noted that there were many postgraduates interested. JP noted that there are other associations in the region, such as in Croatia, that should be invited into any new association. Dr Penda answered several more questions about a postgraduate provision, structures of English Departments on his list, the current list of proposed members, and so forth. He noted his willingness to work with other associations to create a combined association if others were willing to do this. He agreed to contact people again to see if any others would be willing to collaborate. The region itself provides some problems with cross border co-operation. Consideration had been given to charging an annual fee to include subscription to the journal along the region of 20 Euros, reduced for postgraduate students. Dr Penda was thanked for his work and the Board informed him that EAAS would consider his petition along with that received from another association in the same geographical area.

Item 16: Amendment to the EAAS Articles

Amendments to the Articles of the Association had been distributed and approved at the Dublin Board meeting in 2010. They read as follows:

Current wording of Article 16:

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



Board members during the meeting (Photograph by Jacques Pothier)

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.

Current wording of Article 17 (3):

Changeover and Final Provisions

(3) The above Articles were passed on April 3rd, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland.

Appended Article 17 (3):

The above Articles were passed on April 3rd, 2009 in Zurich, Switzerland, and amended on 9 April 2011 in Rome, Italy.

The amendments were discussed and a vote was taken. The 20 members present voted 20–0–0 in favour. A copy of the amendments was signed by all the members present and will be forwarded to HJG after the meeting for filing with the German authorities.

Item 17: EJAS -- Editor's Report and Selection of New Editors

PF gave a report noting that the next edition of the journal is due out soon. He also noted that there had been problems finding readers for submitted articles and part of this was due to problems with the current Editorial Board for the journal. The current situation is not functioning well. PF suggested an amendment to the current working board. The current arrangements have slowed the process down quite a bit, adding to problems with the editorial committee itself. The entire Middelburg team has resigned which is a group of 3, although Giles Scott-Smith agreed to keep things going temporarily. The Journal now needs new editors – no fewer than two on the history/political side (or perhaps as many as three). HJG had approached Phil Davies (PD) who indicated his willingness to take on this role. In terms of another editor, it was agreed that PD might approach someone else in the UK. PF reported that having editors from many different countries did not work well and that the Advisory Board is international in its membership, which did not need to be duplicated in the Editorships. Restructuring the articles of EJAS itself might be necessary. The Board agreed to put this on the agenda for the next meeting in İzmir since it did not appear on the Rome agenda. The Board agreed to support PF in finding readers/reviewers outside the Advisory Board, until such time that the EAAS Board can amend the articles of the journal itself. The Dublin minutes reflect an extended discussion of this and the

previous decisions of the Board. Joint editors, one in literature with one in history/politics, with up to three associate editors for the journal itself could work. Half of the Advisory Board will be replaced in the near future, which will mean looking for 9 new members of the Advisory Board this year via suggestions from the EAAS Board members. Names are to be sent to PF and PD by the 10th of May. The EAAS Board also agreed to allow the EAAS officers discretion in finalizing the editorial and advisory board memberships.

Item 18 (revised): Election of President, Vice President and Secretary General

EAAS Treasurer Stephen Matterson (SM) took the chair.

The previous day's discussion of election schedules was renewed. The Board agreed that efforts be made to establish a schedule whereby the elections of officers takes place in conference years, with this schedule to begin at the İzmir 2012 conference, if possible. The officers will pursue this in the appropriate manner. A report was received by the Board from the selection committee set up to solicit volunteers to run for positions as officers. The three member committee had approached various members of the Board and they stressed that their recommendations are not meant to pre-empt anyone to volunteer to run.

The nominating committee reported that Meldan Tanrısal, who represents the American Studies Association of Turkey, was willing to stand for election to Vice President. After the resignation of Martin Heusser as Vice President of the EAAS on 18 February 2010, MT was designated as Acting Vice President by a Board resolution passed in Dublin according to Article 8 (11) on 26 March 2010. There were no other candidates. Meldan was elected as Vice President by a vote of 20–0–0 and accepted the position.

Thereupon Meldan Tanrısal took the chair as elected Vice President and Acting President in keeping with Article 9 (7).

Two volunteers came forward for the position of President, Philip Davies, representative of the British Association for American Studies, and Teresa Cid, representative of the Portuguese Association for American Studies. The 20 association representatives present in Rome conducted an election.

Philip Davies received 10 votes and Teresa Cid 8 votes. There were 2 abstentions. Since abstentions, according to Article 8 (4), count as negative votes, the election resulted in an impasse. However, "in an impasse situation, the President's second vote shall be automatically added to the vote initially cast" (Article 9 [2]). Acting President Meldan Tanrısal voted for Philip Davies, who thus became President to fill out

Hans-Jürgen Grabbe's mandate (Article 9 [7] until 2013). PD accepted the election results.

The committee then reported that there were three people willing to take on the role of Secretary General: Gert Buelens, Adina Ciugureanu and Pawel Frelik. Adina withdrew her nomination after consideration. Pawel also withdrew his nomination, noting that he is going to be in the United States all of next year so it would not be appropriate for him to run for Secretary General this year as he will be absent in the run-up to the conference. Gert Buelens, the representative of the Belgian-Luxembourg Association for American Studies, was elected as Secretary General by a vote of 20-0-0. GB accepted the election results.

Item 19: Auditors' Report

The auditors (MA and PD) met, consulted the accounts, read the report of the Amsterdam Fund, and reported back to the Board that the financial audit indicated that the handling of the accounts is correct. The Board accepted the auditors' report unanimously.

Item 20: AOB

- David Rio (DR) raised the issue that the European journal index, as it currently stands, does not include all of the journals EAAS sees as significant. He suggested that the Board may want to write in support of journals and even supply a list of journals that we feel should be included in the index. DR was hoping the Board could endorse journals for the list. A shop talk to discuss this at the İzmir conference was recommended. MC suggested the first step to take was to make a list of journals in American Studies along with a ranking. This will be done by circular email. Boris Vejdovsky (BV) noted some of these would already appear on the ASA website. The incoming Secretary General will email Board members for suggestions.

- MA distributed several copies of the Moravian Journal of Literature and Film and gave a brief

explanation of how the journal works and what it contains, noting the lack of citations of European scholarship. This is the third issue and is being distributed within the United States.

- AC raised the issue of the need to have clearer criteria for judging workshops. PF suggested that using the grading of workshop proposals as A, B or C was straight forward. Stephen Matterson suggested that there should be a grid that accompanies each workshop proposal. This was agreed and would be produced in time for the Board meeting at İzmir. Rüdiger Kunow (RK) suggested anonymous applications. This will be discussed at İzmir. Gert Buelens suggested that there could be two rounds in order to smooth out the process.

- JV received an email regarding the possibility of a film showing in İzmir by Brian Woodman about 'The Pruitt-Igoe Myth: An Urban History.' This was passed on to MT for the consideration in İzmir.

- JV also reported that the women's caucus had enquired about a women's shop talk at the conference.

- A request was received to grant funds to post-graduates to attend a conference on Bob Dylan. The request was sent to HJG and entailed small amounts. The officers suggested that when requests arrive, there needs to be a more formalized method of distributing funds. This will be an item for the agenda in İzmir, and the officers will discuss this at the handover meeting.

The officers conveyed a vote of thanks to Hans-Jürgen Grabbe for all his help. The newly-elected President will draft a letter, on behalf of the Board, to send to HJG. MT also thanked the Board for its help over the last few days in the smooth running of the Board meeting.

The meeting adjourned at 1:30pm.

Meldan Tanrısal
Vice President

Jenel Virden
Secretary General

2012 BIENNIAL EAAS CONFERENCE

30 March - 2 April, İzmir, Turkey

The Health of the Nation

Accepted Workshops

These workshops have been approved for the 2012 Conference. If you are interested in proposing a paper for a workshop, write to the organizers by **October 1**. See Guidelines for EAAS Workshops below.

Workshop 1: The Cinematic Eye: War, Post-War Trauma, and States of National Health in American Film

Chairs

Katherine Hoffman, St. Anselm College, Manchester, NH, USA

E-mail: kathy.hoffman@gmail.com

Walter Hoelbling, Karl Franzens University, Graz, Austria

E-mail: walter.hoelbling@uni-graz.at

This session addresses the role of American film depicting various levels of individual and national physical/psychological health, relating to war and post-war trauma, from *Birth of a Nation* to *All Quiet on the Western Front*, *Gone With the Wind*, *The Best Years of Our Lives*, *Apocalypse Now*, *Born on the Fourth of July*, *Flags of Our Fathers*, and more recently *The Hurt Locker* or *The Green Zone*. The sessions seeks papers that:

- explore fictional and non-fictional narratives and meta-narratives relating to the depiction of war and both personal and public health;
- consider the role of documentary versus “art” film;
- look at the role of “propaganda” elements and the role of technological innovations and “special effects;”
- investigate how specific aspects of physical and mental health, incl. trauma and healing, are presented; as well as the construction and role of individual, group, and national identities, and how they are impacted by war and health related issues;
- discuss if there are specific “American” health issues presented in films, arising from war that are perhaps unique to the United States;

- consider the role of various theoretical points of view such as feminist, colonial, or post-colonial, or semiotic theories, related to selected films.

Proposals should be emailed to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 2: From Bodybuilding to Nation Building: Health and Disease in the Nineteenth Century

Chairs

Ingrid Gessner, University of Regensburg, Germany
E-mail: ingrid.gessner@sprachlit.uni-r.de

Gregory Tomso, University of West Florida, USA
E-mail: gtomso@uwf.edu

At its very core, one might find in the United States a double helix of health and fear, a spiraling of anxieties of purity and loss that have shaped the nation. One might say this structure constitutes part of the “cultural DNA” of America’s nineteenth century, a period in which the country sought to define itself through and against myriad threats to the national body. By studying discourses of health and disease, we thus come to understand the social, political and technological advancement of American nationhood in the nineteenth century.

This panel seeks papers addressing the cultural impact of health and disease in all areas of nineteenth-century literature, art, and culture. We especially welcome studies that explore how notions of health and disease were woven into discourses of progress and nation building that enabled the formation of a distinct national identity. Topics may include but are not limited to: disease and national ideology; the representation of panics and epidemics, health and empire; new technologies of health; the rise and fall of “nervous” diseases; plantation medicine; biopolitics and public health; sanitation; sexuality and/or class as expressed through discourses of illness; and the increasing numbers of women in medicine and science.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 3: Environmental Crisis and Human Costs

Chairs

Ufuk Özdağ, Hacettepe University, Turkey

E-mail: ozdag@hacettepe.edu.tr

Carmen Flys-Junquera, Franklin Institute-University of Alcalá, Spain

E-mail: carmen.flys@uah.es

The linkage between environmental devastation and health disruption is finally on the public health agenda. Nuclear catastrophes, the use of pesticides, air pollution, toxic waste, synthetic chemicals, and GMOs, are all connected to the escalating rates of deadly diseases. Widespread public awareness owes much to Rachel Carson's *Silent Spring* (2012 marks the 50th anniversary)—the book that launched the environmental movement with its deep documentation of pesticide damage to human health and the natural environment. Writers/scientists following in Carson's footsteps, have currently made human health issues the main focus of mainstream environmentalism in the West. Likewise, both non-fiction and fiction writers have explored how the intertwined ecologies of the human body and the earth body define the health of ecosystems.

This workshop invites papers on the impact of environmental derangement on human health in American literatures, film studies or other cultural expressions. We invite papers that focus on:

- Environmental issues affecting human health;
- Denunciations of environmental racism and its disproportionate effects on minority and poor populations;
- Parallel affects of environmental, physical and mental health derangement;
- Intertwined ecologies of the human body and the earth body;
- Cultural diversity and biodiversity; health and wealth.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 4: Mobilizing for the Health of the Nation—Social Movements and Health Care

Chair

Guillaume Marche, Université Paris-Est Créteil, France

E-mail: gmarche@u-pec.fr

Examining how social movements contribute to setting the terms of the debate on health care expansion is a way to understand which definitions of the national body politic—and of the relationship between “the people” and the government—functioned at various times in US history. Do social movements attempt to force their views on decision-makers, or do they facilitate compromise? Do they organize a view to change the public's opinion, rather than seek policy change through interaction with political decision-makers? Have grassroots and more institutionalized organizations mobilized in similar or opposite ways? Are conservative mobilizations against health care expansion social movements, or do they merely instrumentalize this issue for partisan purposes? Have women's or African American organizations deployed identity-specific or “universalist” stances when working toward universal health care? Has health care improvement been a strategic asset or a hindrance to progressive social movement organizations—labor unions or consumer advocacy groups, for example—for which this is not an exclusive or primary goal? Have various social movement bases been able to coalesce, or have such forms of collective mobilization remained somewhat balkanized? This workshop welcomes papers dealing with these issues from the standpoint of history, political science or sociology.

Workshop 5: The Changing Intellectual Frameworks of Social Security in Post-Great-Depression America: Health Care Reform as a Case Study

Chairs

Marcus Graeser, German Historical Institute, Washington, DC, USA

E-mail: graeser@ghi-dc.org)

Maurizio Vaudagna, University of Eastern Piedmont, Vercelli, Italy

E-mail: Maurizio.vaudagna@lett.unipmn.it

Social security has been a major issue in post-Great Depression American national identity, public life, government action, and economic growth. Moreover, throughout the postwar years, health care and the need for reform have often been at the center of the social policy controversy in the United States. However intellectual principles and policy preferences in programs of social protection have repeatedly witnessed a pendulum-like movement of change and continuity. The purpose of this workshop is to analyze how different, progressive as well as conservative, intellectual frameworks that have grounded the public conversation on social security and health care since

the 1930s have been lenses through which different visions of the responsibilities of government, the market, and the individual have emerged and engaged in intellectual and policy conflicts.

We would like to invite papers that focus on:

- the significant failure to include health insurance in the New Deal and Great Society version of social security;
- the discrepancies between Medicare and Medicaid and its effects on the fragmentation of health care;
- the conservative backlash against social security since the 1970s and its consequences for health care;
- the current controversies on health care reform and its trajectories.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 6: The Arts and the Health of the Nation

Chairs

K. Keyvne Baar, Tamiment Library and New York University, USA

E-Mail: keyvne.baar@nyu.edu

Kate Dossett, University of Leeds, UK

E-Mail: k.m.dossett@leeds.ac.uk

The Arts have long been considered a vital indicator of and outlet for the health of the nation, particularly during times of crisis at home and abroad. This workshop considers the significant role of the arts and American culture during times of trouble in the twentieth and twenty-first centuries. Focusing on how cultural industries, the state, and individual artists have sought to use the arts to educate, interpret, and entertain, we look to examine the arts as they contribute to not only the health, but also the healing of the American nation.

We particularly encourage proposals on the following topics:

- The 1930s Federal Arts Projects of the Works Progress Administration;
- The role of culture and the arts in American wars at home and abroad;
- Contemporary debates on the function of American arts and culture;
- The relationship between the state and the development of American art, including the ongoing threat to defund programs such as the National Endowment for the Arts and the National Endowment for the Humanities.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 7: Hollywood and the Health of the Nation

Chairs

Melvyn Stokes, University College London, UK
E-mail: melvynstokes@hotmail.com

Gilles Menegaldo, University of Poitiers, France
E-mail: Gilles.Menegaldo@univ-poitiers.fr

Hollywood has explored many aspects of American health and the lives of health professionals, including doctors, dentists, nurses, and sex therapists. After World War II, there was a vogue for films on psychiatry. Many movies have treated addictions, including drugs and alcohol. Others have focused on disability or epidemics (from yellow fever to AIDS). More positively, Hollywood films have dealt with exercise and sport (baseball, football, tennis) and the “great outdoors” as a healthy environment.

Proposals for papers may address topics such as: Do the changing representations of doctors and/or hospitals over time reflect wider American changes in attitudes towards health? How have films dealt with mental illness and psychiatric care/psychoanalysis in films such as *Shock Corridor* and *Marnie*? Have filmic views of epidemics changed with the appearance of AIDS (*Yellow Jack*, *Panic in the Streets*, *Longtime Companion*, *Philadelphia*)? What approach to environmental health is promoted in films such as *The China Syndrome* and *Erin Brockovich*? How has the subject of war trauma (e.g., John Huston’s 1946 documentary *Let There Be Light*) been treated on film? What issues have documentary films on public health addressed, and in what ways have they reflected the times in which they were made?

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 8: Health, Food and Citizenship in the 19th Century

Chairs

Selma Bidlingmaier, Ruhr-Universitaet Bochum, Germany

Email: Selma.Bidlingmaier@rub.de

Katharina Vester, American University, Washington, D.C., USA

Email: vester@american.edu

Spurred by medical/scientific advancements and health policies, hygienic praxes, and food regulations, nineteenth-century US society saw the advent of new

body management practices. They helped to produce definitions of the nation and legitimize the inclusion and exclusion of entire groups from socio-political, economic and cultural participation and ultimately, citizenship. Scientific discourses proliferated around questions of gendered health care, such as the regulation of weight and masturbation in white middle-class men and the management of hysterical, corseted, or pregnant female bodies; the nutritional Americanization and sanitization of immigrants; and the disciplining of unruly bodies that were located in seemingly unregulated, un-American spaces, such as reservations, Chinatowns, and tenements. Political privilege was legitimized by abjecting the “racialized,” “gendered,” “sexualized,” and “classed” other who was imagined as having the potential to infect the physical and moral body of American society and thus pose an imminent threat to the ongoing project of nation building.

We invite papers that engage critically with issues relating to:

- Discourses of health, hygiene, and food in the nineteenth century employed in the regulation of bodies, spaces/places, the imagination of the nation and American society, citizenship, etc.;
- Strategies of subversion of regulatory discourses of the body and resistance against the abjection of certain bodies to keep the national body “healthy.”

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 9: The Ages of Life: Health, Life Expectancy, and the Ambiguities of Living and Aging

Chair

Roberta Maierhofer, University of Graz, Austria
E-mail: roberta.maierhofer@uni-graz.at

Similar to the issue of health that can be both literal and metaphorical, personal and public, human and environmental, age and aging are concepts that are understood according to time, circumstances and disciplinary approach. In this workshop, we are asking for papers that investigate the topic of health within the matrix of time and experience. This cultural ambiguity of aging enables an analysis of social functions of images as a basis for interdisciplinary exchange.

Contributions are welcome that conceive the relationship between living and aging as a productive antagonism, which focus on the interplay between

continuity and change as a marker of life course identity:

- What role does the notion of health play in this interaction?
- How does our understanding of health influence our notion of agency within a subversive deconstruction of normative age concepts?
- How can negative images of old age as physical decrepitude and disease be deconstructed?
- Depictions of appreciation of life even in the oldest age as forms of “successful frailty.”

Workshop 10: Representations of Madness in American Culture

Chairs

Susanne Rohr, University of Hamburg, Germany,
E-mail: Susanne.Rohr@uni-hamburg.de

Marek Wilczyński, University of Gdańsk, Poland
E-mail: marek@amu.edu.pl

In this workshop we want to explore representations of madness in American art, be those in literature, visual arts, film, theater, or music, from the earliest examples to the present date. We aim at investigating the relationship between developments in American society, politics, or philosophy and the particular format of the representations. Following Foucault and other prominent theorists in the field, we start from the assumption that concepts like madness and its counterparts, sanity or reason, are social constructions that are evidence of a whole network of discourses on social norms active in a particular society at a given time. As such, they are open to continuous modification and reformulation. With their capacity to transcend, sublimate and undermine, the arts play a vital role in negotiating this persistent process of revision.

We invite papers that focus on the following questions:

- What does the way American art represents madness (and sanity) tell us about this society’s predominant ideological structure?
- How can the various artistic techniques used to depict the fragile relationship between reality and delusion be brought into dialogue with the values, power structures and apprehensions of American society at a given time?

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 11: American (Anti-)Theatricality and Contagion: Staging the Health of the Nation

Chairs

Theresa Saxon, University of Central Lancashire, Preston, UK.

E-mail: TSaxon@uclan.ac.uk

Lisa Merrill, Hofstra University, Long Island, New York, U.S.A.

E-mail: Lisa.Merrill@Hofstra.edu

In America, theatre has long been regarded as a dangerous form of contagion, with the potential to spread throughout the populace. William Dunlap spoke of the “worm in the bark” that threatened the “root” of American theatre. Yet, despite protestation and outright ban, theatre has spread across the nation. This panel calls for papers assessing theatrical contagion in/of America. Papers could explore how America’s theatres have engaged with conceptualisations of “contagion,” such as discourses on miscegenation in plays like Boucicault’s “The Octoroon” and Green’s “In Abraham’s Bosom.” Other fields of enquiry could be the “spread” of technologies, as in Sophie Treadwell’s “Machinal,” or the “dangers” of theatres as a site of mixing in the audience as well as onstage as in Marc Blitzstein’s “Cradle Will Rock,” or Orson Welles’ “Voodoo Macbeth.”

We welcome papers on a range of topics that explore theatre’s capacity for contagion:

- as a contributor to and a marker of a diseased national body;
- as a stage for investigations into the nation’s cultural health;
- as a participant in renewing and reshaping the diseased body politic, to restore the “health of the nation”;
- as a leveller, commingling different audience populations;
- as a site of radical organizing.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 12: Breeding the Nation: Eugenics, culture, and science in the United States, 1900-1940

Chairs

Bob Rydell, Montana State University

E-mail: rwrydell@gmail.com

Jaap Verheul, Utrecht University

E-mail: j.verheul@uu.nl

The Eugenics movement that flourished in the United States between 1900 and 1940 was a meeting ground between science, society and public policy. Animated by concerns over the welfare and health of the nation, eugenicists proffered solutions to perceived social ills by preventing “undesirable” genes from spreading and stimulating the “fit” to produce offspring. Through research, propaganda, and the active promotion of legislation for sterilization, segregation and selective immigration, American eugenics attempted to support the “racial” health of the nation.

This workshop will focus on this complex interaction between eugenics and American society. What explains the popularity of the gospel of eugenics during the first half of the twentieth century? What do the various definitions of “fit” and “undesirable” tell us about the social ideals and nightmares of the age? How was eugenics used to construct categories of differentiation such as race, ethnicity and gender? To what extent was eugenics informed by the contemporary interrogation of American civilization in a time of mass politics and popular culture? What was the relationship between the rise of eugenics and mass immigration? How was eugenics related to changing ideas about the role of the state in the amelioration of social hardships? How can we explain the differences between eugenics in the United States and that of countries such as Britain and Germany?

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 13: Health Care and American Constitutionalism

Chairs

Mehmet K. Konar-Steenberg, William Mitchell College of Law, St. Paul, Minnesota, USA

E-Mail: mehmet.konarsteenber@wmitchell.edu

Helle Porsdam, SAXO Institute, Department of History, University of Copenhagen, Denmark

E-Mail: porsdam@hum.ku.dk

As the economic crisis deepens, a new American president rises from the left with a mandate for change. Immediately he confronts legal attacks from those on the right who claim his new policies violate constitutional guarantees of individual autonomy and limited federal power. All sides recognize that the Supreme Court will have the final word, but the outcome in that closely divided court is too close to predict.

From Roosevelt in the 1930s to Obama today, American constitutional history replays itself. In

both instances, the Supreme Court considered the same, seemingly dry legal issue: Whether Congress is authorized to adopt social legislation under its constitutional authority to regulate “commerce among the states.” Yet these legal battles are anything but dull academic exercises. They are proxy wars over deeply held and sometimes violently contested visions of the roles of the individual and the government.

This workshop explores the constitutional dimensions of American health care. We invite papers exploring how the constitutional law surrounding particular health care issues (such as “Obamacare,” abortion, limitations on doctors’ speech rights, euthanasia, medical testing, forced sterilization of mentally disabled people, etc.) is informed by and informs America’s culture wars.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 14: Physical Hygiene, Mental Health, and the Growth of a Nation: Literature in the Service of Advancing America

Chairs

Thomas Austenfeld, Université de Fribourg, Switzerland

E-mail: thomas.austenfeld@unifr.ch

Brigitte Zaugg, Université Paul Verlaine – Metz, France

E-mail: brigitte.zaugg@orange.fr

Papers should examine how works of fiction or poetry from the mid-nineteenth century to the present address the joint issues of health and hygiene, both mental and physical, in relation to the fate of the nation. Though contributions on the entire period are welcome, special emphasis will be placed on turn-of-the-century writings.

Possible topics to be addressed include:

- Women’s health – obstetrics, death-in-childbirth, contraception, as well as dress reform and physical exercise;
- Squalid living conditions, both urban and rural, in relation to the health of Americans;
- Newly emergent psychoanalysis and the public discussion of mental health;
- Naturalist writers and their arguments concerning the impact of the environment on the mental and physical health of their characters;
- Pamphlets and/or propaganda pieces seeking to enlighten the public about various illnesses;

- The figure of the doctor and the growing interest in science as reflected in fiction;
- New evocations of the “mad scientist” figure.

The organizers would be especially interested in contributions discussing Frank Norris, Theodore Dreiser, Charlotte Perkins Gilman, Edith Wharton, Margaret Sanger, F. Scott Fitzgerald, William Faulkner, Robert Lowell, Sylvia Plath, Walker Percy, Joseph Heller, William Styron, Kaye Gibbons, Lee Smith, or Joyce Carol Oates.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 15: Economic Inequality and the Health of the Nation in the United States.

Chairs

Alf Tomas Tønnessen, Volda University College, Norway

E-mail: toenness@hivolda.no

Robert Mason, University of Edinburgh, UK

E-mail: robert.mason@ed.ac.uk

The degree of economic inequality in the United States has expanded enormously since the mid-1970s and is now similar to the level of the 1920s. In fact, the level of inequality is worse in the U.S. than in several Latin American countries.

What are the main reasons? Are political scientists Jacob Hacker and Paul Pierson right when they claim that rising inequality is a result of political decisions? Is the Republican Party to blame because of large tax cuts and spending reductions? Are Democrats also to blame because of their acceptance of deregulation during the Carter and Clinton presidencies?

What are the economic consequences of this development? Economist Robert Reich claims that there was shared prosperity between the mid-1940s and the mid-1970s, but this has disappeared since then. Why have wages stagnated for many Americans?

In their book *The Spirit Level*, epidemiologists Richard G. Wilkinson and Kate Pickett argue that high levels of inequality weaken societies. What are the effects of rising inequality?

President Barack Obama said in his 2008 campaign that he wants to “spread the wealth.” Will he succeed in doing so, or will anti-European attitudes and conservatives’ anti-statist rhetoric, among other factors, stop him?

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 16: Illness and its Metaphors: Challenging Medical Discourse from a Gendered Perspective

Chairs

Emma Domínguez-Rué, University of Lleida, Catalunya, Spain

E-mail: edominguez@dal.udl.cat

Ulla Kriebner, University of Graz, Austria

E-mail: ulla.kriebner@uni-graz.at

Susan Sontag opens her essay “Illness As Metaphor” (1978) with the argument that “the most truthful way of regarding illness -and the healthiest way of being ill- is one most purified of, and resistant to, metaphoric thinking”(3). Even though literary and cultural critics have analyzed and investigated the representation of sickness from a gendered perspective, institutional policies usually lack the involvement of the humanities. Medical discourse therefore needs to be analyzed in order to expose predominant cultural narratives regarding illnesses of the body and mind. As cultural critics, we have to challenge these views in order to redefine the binary constructions of “health” and “illness” as related to gender.

Contributions are welcome that focus on, but are not limited to:

- critical readings of gendered national/institutional health care policies;
- the therapeutic function of narrative and artistic creativity;
- cultural perceptions of illness according to gender and age;
- narratives of pain and trauma;
- hysteria, menopause, and other female “maladies”;
- the “double standard of aging” for men and women;
- the potential of cultural criticism to challenge dominant medical discourses;
- fictional doctors and patients;
- metaphors of illness and gendered identity construction;
- representations of illness and gender in film and other media;
- aging as illness: gender and the anti-aging war;
- narrative medicine as an approach to healing.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 17: A Breakdown of Self-Management: Cultural Constructions of Health and Illness in the Age of Neo-Liberalism

Chairs

Winfried Fluck, Freie Universität Berlin, Germany

E-Mail: winfriedfluck@hotmail.com

Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, Greece

E-Mail: tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr

Depending on changing cultural perceptions, health and illness have been framed differently in American cultural history and have changed their cultural meanings repeatedly. From being considered as primarily biological phenomena to being seen as symptoms of psychological repression or economic exploitation, in the course of the twentieth century, health and illness have been related to modes of self-governance and self-discipline. Nowadays, the cult of self-management as prerequisite for health manifests itself in nutrition and fitness routines designed to keep the self in shape for maximum use of one’s professional and personal potential. Conversely, illness is no longer associated with a breakdown of moral self-control, with exploitation or repression, or with the nervous disorders of over-refinement, but with lack of proper self-management. Health and illness have thus been redefined from the point of view of a neo-liberal fitness regime which produces winners and losers on the grounds of their willingness and skill for self-management. Our workshop invites contributions on the connection between health/illness and the changing concepts of self-governance in American cultural history.

Papers can focus on:

- the role of health and illness in twentieth century literary or cultural representations;
- comparisons between different types of self-governance and self-management texts;
- the interdependency of health and illness in the process of cultural construction.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 18: From the Body Politic to the Body Poetic: American Poetry and the Language of the Body

Chairs

Éric Athenot, Université François-Rabelais, Tours, France

E-mail: eric.athenot@orange.fr

Valerio Massimo De Angelis, Università di Macerata, Italy

E-mail: vmdeangelis@vodafone.it

From Gall's phrenology to Lavater's physiognomy, the impact of pseudo-sciences on nineteenth-century American poetry is a well-documented phenomenon, culminating in Whitman's "Body Electric" and Dickinson's complex brain poems. Mid-nineteenth-century American poets frequently used somatic images to imbue their texts with an unprecedented physical dimension. Through these, they called into question the Puritan body/soul divide, subverted traditional gender roles, and commented on pressing social and political issues. The Civil War spawned a poetry of physical suffering on both sides: it led Melville to write epic poems about the war's major battles, and drove Whitman to put his work aside in order to nurse wounded soldiers, while the fighting threw into relief the Union's precarious health.

This workshop will try to examine how American poetry, ever since the mid-nineteenth century, has approached theoretical, political and social issues in somatic terms, by drawing upon images of health and disease, suffering and healing, union and decay. From Lowell's and Plath's traumatic lyrics to Pinsky's "9/11," the questions addressed by this workshop will be the role played by poets in times of natural, political and social crises, their civil and political engagement, what comfort they bring to the nation, the circulation of images of death and suffering within and without the poems, and the forms chosen by poets in moments of crisis.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 19: The Scourges of the South

Chairs

Thomas Ærvold Bjerre, University of Southern Denmark

E-mail: th.bjerre@litcul.sdu.dk

Beata Zawadka, Szczecin University, Poland

E-mail: beatazaw@poczta.onet.pl

The term "healthy South" seems to have a slightly oxymoronic quality. History has shown that speaking of the South entails speaking about the region's "scourges," i.e., health issues that are far less serious in other American regions. Obesity, diabetes and methamphetamine addiction are only the latest to plague the South, a region that for more than a century has also been made to bear a lot of metaphorical baggage related to illness. This includes private, public, social, political and cultural (un)healthy customs, traditions, manners, rituals, and other southern practices.

How have these issues been played out in historical, literary, filmic, and other materials from various fields of scholarly research on and of the South? The Southern Studies Forum welcomes proposals for papers focusing broadly on issues such as:

- the prevalence of certain, literal and metaphorical, diseases, and their (grotesque) realizations/"epidemiological patterns;"
- health "prevention" and "recreation;"
- the use of "drugs;"
- mental health: is there any specific, region-bound, literal and metaphorical "(in)sanity?;"
- public health and its "institutions."

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 20: Caring and Curing: Nursing in American Culture

Chairs

Hans Bak, Radboud University, Nijmegen, The Netherlands

E-Mail: h.bak@let.ru.nl

Marcel Hartwig, University of Siegen, Germany

E-Mail: hartwig@anglistik.uni-siegen.de

Since the 1970s, social history, American studies and media studies in particular have developed a nascent interest in the study of historical, literary, and popular cultural representations of nurses and nursing. This development coincided with a growing awareness of the roles of gender, class and ethnic discourses in the construction of public images of all professions. Therefore nursing's public image is not only a concern to the profession itself but also to the politics of American healthcare.

In order to explore both the representations of nurses in literature and their greater political and cultural impact on the nursing profession, we invite papers on the history of nursing from the perspectives of literary criticism, social history, and media studies.

Themes for papers could include, but are not limited to:

- nursing death in American culture;
- the nurse at the front;
- portrayals of nurses and nursing in literature and popular culture;
- self-representations of nurses;
- ethics of nursing;
- historical images of minority ethnic nurses;
- the social context of nursing in the U.S.;
- nursing discourses as subversions of dominant medical narratives in American culture and thus as subversive texts in American culture as a whole.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 21: 9/11 as National and Worldwide Trauma: Healing Fictions, Artefacts, Projects

Chairs

Devrim Kılıçer, Ankara University, Turkey

E-mail: kilicer@humanity.ankara.edu

Pamela Mansutti, University of Waterloo, Ontario, Canada

E-mail: pamelamansutti@gmail.com

As we are approaching the tenth anniversary of 9/11, cultural, historical, political and art-related discourses on the terrorist attacks are well in place and keep on thriving, recently with a heightened impetus owing to the triumphant termination of the “evil” Osama bin Laden. In laying the multiple strata of the event bare, we ask questions like:

- Is it possible to stay grounded before Ground Zero?
- Can the US really be looked at as a wounded body that heals, or is the bodily metaphor an exhausted one, given the emerging discourses about a ramified, transnational America and the idea of a post-9/11 global trauma?
- How do space, time, and national belonging affect the healing process?
- What is the relationship between traumatic memory and healing?
- Does healing mean forgetting or does it keep the scar present and visible?
- In the year of the presidential elections (2012), how does 9/11 impinge on the development and promotion of “the health of the nation?”
- In our attempts to answer such questions we invite papers that investigate, but are not limited to, the literary, cultural, historico-philosophical significance

of the wound of 9/11 in the productions that followed the attacks.

Proposals should be sent to both workshop chairs.

Workshop 22: From Dr. Kildare to Grey’s Anatomy: The Health of a Nation in Medical TV Series

Chair

Pierre Floquet, IPB Bordeaux University, France

E-mail: floquet@ipb.fr

Ever since “Dr. Kildare” was aired in 1961, audiences have enjoyed following stories of doctors and patients through television shows, but the phenomenon has boomed since 1994 when “E.R.” brought a new type of rhythm and realism to the depiction of hospital activity. This workshop will not only explore the reasons for such success, and the relationship between television fiction and reality, but will also consider the political and social dimension of the treatment of health in medical series. Papers are invited that focus on the following topics, though other angles are also welcome:

- Medical TV series as a subgenre: a new and evolving type in serial representation?
- The body in medicine; diachronic and/or synchronic approaches (from “Nurse Jackie” to “Private Practice” or “Scrubs,” etc.);
- From realism to performance, from mockumentary to show (from “E.R.” to “Grey’s Anatomy,” etc.);
- The issue of (un)equal access to medical treatment, and social status;
- Social and political issues (in “M*A*S*H*” for instance);
- The audience’s reception of these shows, in the US, and/or in Europe;
- From fiction to real-life: potential patients’ expectations.

Workshop 23: First-Person Narratives of Health, Disease and Death, Eighteenth to Twenty-first Centuries: Exploring an American Specificity

Chair

Sophie Vallas, Université Aix-Marseille-I, Aix-en-Provence, France

E-Mail: sophie.vallas@univ-provence.fr

In “On Being Ill,” Virginia Woolf noted that “literature does its best to maintain that its concern is with the

mind” and regrets that “of all the daily drama of the body there is no record.”

Since the birth of American literature, narratives of the self (diaries, spiritual journals, autobiographical/ autofictional writings) have always dealt with the ailing body, recording individual experiences of health, disease and approaching death—private stories that also compose a national history of emotions and self-perceptions. Over the last fifty years, concepts such as autothanatography, autopathography or autosomatography have been coined to try and define the countless self-narratives of disease, disability and death that have been multiplying, especially in the US. To what extent can those texts be seen as reflecting the health of the nation? The workshop welcomes papers dealing with:

- the specific inscription of the body in the various types of self-narratives written from the Eighteenth century to the present;
- the importance of gender, race, religion, sexuality and ethnicity in the development of those narratives;
- the relationship between the self and the body in those texts;
- the interaction between self-writing and public health discourses or policies.

Workshop 24: For the Health of the Body (Politic): Pathologies and Potentialities of Hybridity from Fanon to Bhabha

Chair

Thomas Claviez, University of Berne, Switzerland

E-mail: claviezt@zedat.fu-berlin.de

In recent years, hybridity has been offered as an alternative to exclusive, monolithic, and homogenous notions of community based upon authenticity and identity. What the concept of hybridity opens up, however, is the entire discourse of pathology connected to it, mainly rooted in the field of psychoanalysis. Prominent scholars in the fields of feminism, post-colonialism or both have tried to overcome the ideal of self-identity, authenticity, unity, origin, and purity, trying to redefine their contrary – hybridity, splitness, processuality, mixture – as both positive and partly inherently feminine. In trying to do so, they are writing against an entire tradition in psychoanalysis whose vocabulary is to a large extent still notoriously saturated by a patriarchic discourse which tends to pathologize these “other” concepts.

This workshop invites contributions that focus on:

- theoretical reflections on the status of hybridity in national and/or postcolonial contexts;
- the aesthetics of hybridity in post-colonial, feminist, or other literary texts;
- psychoanalytical and/or political approaches to, and readings of, hybridity;
- hybridity between the individual and the communal, and between creativity and pathology.



İzmir Konak Square, Watch Tower (Photograph by Esra Erköse)

2012 EAAS Conference: Guidelines for EAAS Workshops

1. A workshop may be chaired by one person, or, preferably, by two persons from different countries. No one may (co-)chair a workshop at two consecutive EAAS conferences.
2. Workshop sessions are 2:00 hours.
3. Speakers are selected by the workshop chairs from those colleagues responding to the Call for Papers published in the ASE Newsletter. The required number of speakers per session is four, the maximum number is eight (two sessions). Note: Of the speakers in any workshop, not more than two may come from the same country. Speakers must be members of their national American Studies association if there exists one in their home country. Speakers from Canada, Israel, Japan, and the USA must be members of their respective American Studies associations, or of another organization with an appropriate focus (OAH, APSA, etc.). No speaker can present more than one paper at the conference.
4. Papers should be presented rather than read; chairs are encouraged to suggest this to their contributors.
5. The maximum presentation time for papers is 20 minutes; chairs must keep their speakers within that time frame. The overall structure of the workshop is the responsibility of chairs; chairs MUST comply with these rules in order to: 1) allot each paper the same amount of time; 2) allow sufficient time for discussion.
6. Chairs must send a description of no more than 200 words (body of the text, excluding workshop title and details for chairs) that preferably includes a range of possible questions that papers might address, to the EAAS Secretary General by Monday, May 9, 2011 for inclusion in the May issue of the ASE Newsletter. E-mail (buelens@eaas.eu) is the preferred channel of communication.
7. Proposals for workshop papers, together with abstracts (150-200 words) must reach the workshop chair(s) by October 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.
8. Chairs must send a list of speakers and paper titles they have selected to the EAAS Secretary General by October 15, 2011 for inclusion in the October issue of the ASE Newsletter and posting on the EAAS website.
9. Chairs must send a confirmed list of speakers, paper titles, and contact details of speakers, to the EAAS Secretary General by December 1, 2011.

10. The final deadline for any last-minute changes to the printed conference program is January 10, 2012.
11. Chairs are encouraged to send out photocopies or electronic versions of abstracts/papers to all speakers in their workshop prior to the conference.
12. 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.
13. Speakers must present their papers in person; they are expected to be present at all sessions of their workshop.
14. Chairs are responsible for selecting and editing TWO of their workshop presentations and recommending them, in order of preference, for publication in the EAAS conference volume. Chairs are also encouraged to produce individual volumes based on their workshop papers. Please note, though, that in compliance with a unanimous decision of the EAAS Board at the 1998 Lisbon conference, EAAS subsidies for such volumes are not available.
15. Chairs will be asked to present a post-conference report to be published in the ASE Newsletter; it may therefore be useful to take notes during the sessions. The report of approximately 200-250 words should give ASE readers an idea of the major arguments of papers and of conclusions reached in the workshop.
16. If special technical equipment (data projection devices, screens, audio equipment, computers, OHPs) is needed in a workshop, please inform, by December 1, 2011, the EAAS Secretary General, who will consult with local organizers.
17. Please address all correspondence concerning workshop matters first to the EAAS Secretary General. Please acknowledge all correspondence from the Secretary General.
18. Workshop chairs should make copies of these guidelines available to their speakers.
19. 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.

Prof. Dr. Gert Buelens
EAAS Secretary General
Department of Literary Studies
Ghent University
Blandijnberg 2
B-9000 Gent, Belgium
E-mail: buelens@eaas.eu

IMPORTANT DEADLINES:

OCTOBER 1, 2011: Workshop paper proposals (with 150-200 word abstracts) to be sent to Workshop Chairs.

OCTOBER 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).

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.



Ege University's Yeşil Köşk (Green House), İzmir (Photograph by Meldan Tanrısal)

CONSTITUENT ASSOCIATIONS OF EAAS

AAAS • Austrian Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.univie.ac.at/Anglistik/aaas/>

President: *Astrid Fellner*, Institut für Anglistik, Amerikanistik, und Anglophone Kulturen, Universität des Saarlandes, Postfach 15 11 50, D-66041 Saarbrücken, Germany
E-mail: fellner@mx.uni-saarland.de

Vice President: *Mario Klarer*, Institut für Amerikastudien, Universität Innsbruck, Innrain 52 6020 Innsbruck, Austria
Phone: +43 512 507 4172 Fax: +43 512 507 2879
E-mail: Mario.Klarer@uibk.ac.at

Secretary: *Eugen Banauch*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Wien, Univ.-Campus AAKH/Hof 8, Spitalgasse 2, A-1090 Wien
E-mail: eugen.banauch@univie.ac.at

Treasurer: *Simone Puff*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Alpen-Adria Universität Klagenfurt, Universitätsstraße 65-67, 9020 Klagenfurt, Austria
Phone: +43 463 2700 2514 Fax: +43 463 2700 2599
E-mail: simone.puff@uni-klu.ac.at

BELAAS • Belarusian Association for American Studies

Chair: *Yuri V. Stulov*, World Literature Department, Minsk State Linguistics University, Zakharova St. 21, Minsk 220034, Belarus
Phone: +375 17 288 25 63
E-mail: yustulov@mail.ru

Vice Chair: *Tatiana Komarovskaya*, Russian and World Literature Department, Belarusian M. Tank State Pedagogics University, Sovetskaya St. 18, Minsk 220050, Belarus
Phone: +375 17 284 86 10
E-mail: komar37@tut.by

Vice Chair: *Tamara Romanovskaya*, Department of English, Belarus State Economics University, Partizanski Ave. 26, Minsk 220000, Belarus

Secretary: *Irina Kudriavtseva*, World Literature Department, Minsk State Linguistics University, Zakharova St. 21, Minsk 220034, Belarus

Phone: +375 17 288 25 63
E-mail: worldlit@mail.ru

Treasurer: *Svetlana Kernozhitskaya*,
Phone: +375 17 288 25 63.

BLASA • Belgian Luxembourg American Studies Association

Website: <http://blasa.studentenweb.org>

President: *Theo D'haen*, KU Leuven - Faculteit Letteren, Blijde-Inkomststraat 21 - bus 03311, BE-3000 Leuven
Phone: +32 16324876
E-mail: theo.dhaen@arts.kuleuven.be

Vice-President for Belgium: *Gert Buelens*, Ghent University, Rozier 44, 9000 Ghent, Belgium
Phone: +32 9 264 3700 Fax: +32 9 264 4184
E-mail : Gert.Buelens@UGent.be

Vice-President for Luxembourg: *Jean-Jacques Weber*, Centre University, Avenue de la Fadencerie 162A, 1511 Luxembourg
Phone: +352 4666 44216
Fax : +352 4666 44217
E-mail: jean-jacques.weber@ci.educ.lu

Secretary: *Maggie Nicholson*, Commission for Educational Exchange, Boulevard de l'Empereur 4, 1000 Brussels, Belgium
Phone: +32 2 519 5770
Fax: +32 2 519 5773
E-mail: fulbright@kbr.be

Treasurer: *Cecilia Gielen*, Mechelen University College Tourism and Leisure Management, Lange Ridderstraat 44, BE - 2800 Mechelen
E-mail: Cecilia.gielen@khm.be

BAAS • British Association for American Studies

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

Chair: *Martin Halliwell*, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, UK
Tel: +44 (0)116 252 2645
Fax: +44 (0)116 252 2065
Email: mrh17@leicester.ac.uk

Secretary: *Catherine Morley*, School of English, University of Leicester, University Road, Leicester LE1 7RH, UK
Email: catherinemorley@baas.ac.uk

Treasurer: *Theresa Saxon*, Department of Humanities, University of Central Lancashire, Preston PR1 2HE, Great Britain
Phone: +44 1772 893026 Fax: +44 1772 892924
E-mail: TSaxon@uclan.ac.uk

BASA • Bulgarian American Studies Association

Website: <http://www.writingacademia.org/BASA/LINKS.html>

President: *Julia Stefanova*, Executive Director, Bulgarian-American Fulbright Commission, 17 Alexander Stamboliiski Blvd., 1000 Sofia, Bulgaria
Phone: + 359 2 981 85 67 Fax: +359 2 988 45 17
E-mail: jstefanova@fulbright.bg

Vice-President: *Kostadin Grozev*, Department of History, University of Sofia, 15 Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1502 Sofia, Bulgaria
Phone: + 359 2 93 08 366
E-mail: kgrozev@gmail.com

Treasurer: *Madlen Danova*, Department of English and American Studies, University of Sofia, 15 Tzar Osvoboditel Blvd., 1502 Sofia, Bulgaria
Phone: +359 888 32990
E-mail: MDanov2004@yahoo.co.uk

CSAA • Czech and Slovak Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.csaa.upol.cz/>

President: *Marcel Arbeit*, Department of English and American Studies, Palacky University, Křížkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 68 563 3104 Fax: +420 68 563 3111
E-mail: arbeit@aix.upol.cz

Vice-President: *Alena Smiešková*, Department of English and American Studies, University of Constantin the Philosopher, Štefánikova 67, 949 01 Nitra, Slovakia
Phone: +421 37 640 8455
E-mail: alenasmieskova@hotmail.com

Secretary: *Michal Peprník*, Palacký University, Křížkovského 10, 771 47 Olomouc, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 68 563 3113 Fax +420 68 563 3101
E-mail: peprni@ffnw.upol.cz

Treasurer: *Roman Trušník*, Tomáš Bata University in Zlín, Mostní 5139, 760 01 Zlín, Czech Republic
Phone: +420 576 032 329
E-mail: trusnik@fhs.utb.cz

AFEA • French Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.afea.fr/>

President: *Marc Amfreville* Université Paris 12 Val-de-Marne, 88 rue Defrance, 94300 Vincennes, France
Phone: +331 48 08 16 13
E-mail: marc.amfreville@free.fr

Vice President: *André Kaenel* Université Nancy 2, 13 rue Lyautey, 54320 Maxeville, France
Phone: +333 83 98 51 38
E-mail: kaenel@univ-nancy2.fr

Vice President: *Marie-Claude Perrin-Chenour*, Université Paris X, 39 rue de la Butte aux Cailles, 75013 Paris, France
Phone: +331 4580 5710 96 Fax: +331 4580 5710
E-mail: marie-claude.chenour@wanadoo.fr

Secretary: *Anne Ullmo*, Université Lille III, 15 rue Alfred de Musset, 91120 Palaiseau, France
Phone: +33 1 69 31 08 07
E-mail: anne.ullmo@free.fr

Treasurer: *Anne-Marie Paquet-Deyris* Université Paris Ouest, 24 bis boulevard Arago, 75013 Paris, France
Phone: +331 47 07 49 81
E-mail: paquet.deyris@yahoo.fr

DGfA • German Association for American Studies

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

President: *Peter Schneck*, Fachbereich Sprach- und Literaturwissenschaft, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Universität Osnabrück, Neuer Graben 40, 49069 Osnabrück, Germany
Phone: +49 541 9694412 Fax: +49 541 9694738
E-Mail: schneck@dgfa.de

Vice President: *Jürgen Wilzewski*, FB Politikwissenschaft, Universität Kaiserslautern, Postfach 3049, 67653 Kaiserslautern, Germany
Phone: +49 0631 205-3816
E-Mail: wilzewski@dgfa.de

Executive Director: *Carmen Birkle*, Institut für Anglistik und Amerikanistik, Philipps-Universität Marburg, Wilhelm-Röpke-Straße 6, 35032 Marburg, Germany
Phone: +49 6421 28-24345 Fax: +49 6421 28-24343
E-Mail: executive_director@dgfa.de

HELAAS • Hellenic Association for American Studies

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

President: *Smaragda Yemenetzi-Malathouni*, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of English, Department of American Literature and Culture, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
Phone: +30 2310 99 74 74
E-mail: yemene@enl.auth.gr

Vice President: *Theodora Tsimpouki*, University of Athens, Faculty of English Studies, University Campus Zografou, 15784 Athens, Greece
Fax: +30 17 24 89 79
E-mail: tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr

Secretary: *Vassilis Manoussakis*, University of Peloponnese, Departments of Philology and History, Archaeology and Cultural Heritage Management, University Campus, 24100 Kalamata, Greece
Phone: +30 27210 65140
E-mail: vman2007@ath.forthnet.gr

Treasurer: *Tatiani Rapatzikou*, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, School of English, Department of American Literature and Culture, 54124 Thessaloniki, Greece
Phone: +30 2310 997414 Fax: +30 2310 94 74 32
E-mail: trapatz@enl.auth.gr

HAAS • Hungarian Association for American Studies

Website: <http://primus.arts.u-szeged.hu/american/haas/>

Chairperson: *Lehel Vadon*, Department of American Studies, Eszterházy Károly College, Egészség ház u. 4, 3300 Eger, Hungary
Phone: +36 36 520 400/3041
E-mail: lvadon@ektf.hu

Secretary General: *Irén Annus*, Institute of English and American Studies, University of Szeged, Egyetem u. 2, 6722 Szeged, Hungary
Phone: +36 62 544 264
E-mail: iannus@lit.u-szeged.hu

Treasurer: *Gabriella Varró*, North American Department, University of Debrecen, Egyetem tér 1, 4010 Debrecen, Hungary
Phone: +36 52 316 666/22152
E-mail: gabriella.varro@gmail.com

IAAS • Irish Association for American Studies

Website: <http://www.americanstudiesinireland.mater-dei.ie/>

Chair: *Aoileann Ni Eigearthaigh*, School of Humanities, Dundalk Institute of Technology, Dundalk, Co. Louth, Republic of Ireland
E-mail: aoileann.nieigearthaigh@dkit.ie

Vice Chair: *JoAnn Mancini*, Department of History, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Republic of Ireland
E-mail: JoAnne.Mancini@nuim.ie

Secretary: *Marisa Ronan*, Clinton Centre for American Studies, University College Dublin, Belfield, Dublin 4, Republic of Ireland
E-mail: marisa.ronan@gmail.com

Treasurer: *Jonathan Mitchell*, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, Co. Kildare, Republic of Ireland
E-mail: Jon.Mitchell@nuim.ie

AISNA • Italian Association for North American Studies

Website: <http://www.aisna.net/>

President: *Marina Camboni*, Università degli Studi di Macerata, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Corso Cavour 2, 62100 Macerata, Italy
Phone: +39 0733 2584028 Fax: +39 0733 2584380
E-mail: camboni@unimc.it

Vice-President: *Laura Coltelli*, Università di Pisa, Dipartimento di Anglistica, Via S. Maria 67, 56126 Pisa, Italy
Phone: +39 050 2215866
E-mail: coltelli@angl.unipi.it

Vice-President: Daniele Fiorentino, Università degli Studi di Macerata, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Corso Cavour 2, 62100 Macerata, Italy
Phone: +39 0733 2584036 Fax: +39 0733 2584380
E-mail: dfiorentino@unimc.it

Secretary: Valerio Massimo De Angelis, Università degli Studi di Macerata, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Corso Cavour 2, 62100 Macerata, Italy
Phone: +39 0733 2584043 Fax: +39 0733 2584380
E-mail: vmdeangelis@vodafone.it

Treasurer: Giuseppe Lombardo, Dipartimento di Studi Internazionali e Comunitari, Inglese e Angloamericani, Facoltà di Lettere e Filosofia, Università di Messina, Località Annunziata – 98100 Messina
E-mail: ahab@i2000net.it

Vice President: Anna Krawczyk-Łaskarzewska, Institute of Neophilology, University of Warmia and Mazury in Olsztyn, ul. M. Oczapowskiego 2, 10-719 Olsztyn, Poland
Phone: +48 89 524 6520 Fax: +48 89 524 5141
E-mail: jlask@o2.pl

Secretary: Radosław Rybkowski, Department of American and Polish-American Studies, Jagiellonian University, Rynek Główny 34, 31-010 Kraków, Poland
E-mail: radoslaw.rybkowski@uj.edu.pl

Treasurer: Zuzanna Ładyga, American Literature Department, University of Warsaw, ul. Nowy Świat 4, 00-497 Warszawa, Poland
Phone: +48 22 625 2862 Fax: +48 22 6252 931
E-mail: z.ladyga@uw.edu.pl

NASA • Netherlands American Studies Association

http://www.netherlands-america.nl

President: Adam Fairclough, History Department, Leiden University, P.O. Box 9515, 2300 RA Leiden, The Netherlands Phone: +31 71 527 2706 Fax: +31 71 527 2652
E-mail: A.Fairclough@hum.leidenuniv.nl

Secretary: Diederik Oostdijk, English Department, Vrije Universiteit Amsterdam, De Boelelaan 1105, 1081 HV Amsterdam, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 20 598 6439 Fax: +31 20 598 6500
E-mail: dm.oostdijk@let.vu.nl

Treasurer: Giles Scott-Smith, Roosevelt Study Center, P.O. Box 6001, 4330 LA Middelburg, The Netherlands
Phone: +31 118 631590 Fax: +31 118 631593
E-mail: gp.scott-smith@zeeland.nl

PAAS • Polish Association for American Studies

Website: http://paas.org.pl

President: Jerzy Kutnik, Department of American Literature and Culture, Maria Curie-Skłodowska University, Pl. Marii Curie Skłodowskiej 4, 20-031 Lublin, Poland
Phone: +48 81 5372 609 Fax: +48 81 537 5279
E-mail: kutnikjr@hektor.umcs.lublin.pl

APEAA • Portuguese Association for Anglo-American Studies

Website: http://www.apeaa.uevora.pt/

President: Maria Antónia Lima
E-mail: antonialima@mail.telepac.pt

Vice President: Carla Ferreira de Castro
E-mail: cfcastro@sapo.pt

Secretary: Cristina Firmino Santos
E-mail: santos.cj@gmail.com

Secretary: Alexandra Vieira da Silva
E-mail: analexandra@gmail.com

Treasurer: Luís Guerra
Phone: +351 266 740 800
E-mail: luisguerrapt@yahoo.com

Please address all correspondence to:
Universidade de Évora, Colégio do Espírito Santo,
Largo dos Colegiais 2, 7004-516 Évora, Portugal
Phone: +351 266 740 800 Fax: +351 266 740 804

RAAS • Romanian Association for American Studies

Website: http://www2.raas.ro

President: Adina Ciugureanu, Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University Constanta, Aleea Universitatii 1, Campus, Constanta, Romania
Phone: +40 241 551773 Fax: +40 241 543045
E-mail: adina.ciugureanu@seanet.ro

Vice President: Roxana Oltean, Faculty of Foreign Languages, Department of English, Univ. of Bucharest, 7-13 Pitar Mos Street, 70151 Bucharest, Romania
Phone: +40 727 77 34 66
E-mail: roxana.oltean@txmail.ro

Secretary: Ileana Marin, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University Constanta, Aleea Universitatii 1, Campus, Constanta, Romania
Phone: +40 241 551773 Fax: +40 241 543045
E-mail: marini@u.washington.edu

Treasurer: Ludmila Martanovschi, Department of English and American Studies, Faculty of Letters, Ovidius University Constanta, Aleea Universitatii 1, Campus, Constanta, Romania
Phone: +40 241 551773 Fax: +40 241 543045
E-mail: ludmila_martan@yahoo.com

RSAS • Russian Society for American Studies
Website: <http://www.rsacs.journ.msu.ru>

President: Yassen Zassoursky, Moscow University, Department of Journalism, Moscow University, Mokhovaya ul. 20, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: yzassoursky@gmail.com

Vice President: Tatiana Venediktova, Moscow University, Department of Philology, 1st Humanities Building, room 970, Vorobiovy Hills, 119 899 Moscow, Russia
E-mail: vtatiana@mtu-net.ru or vened@philol.msu.ru

Vice President: Eugene Yazkov, Moscow University, Department of History, 1st Humanities building, room 690, Vorobiovy Hills, 119 899 Moscow, Russia
E-mail: amstud@hist.msu.ru

Secretary: Larisa Mikhaylova, Moscow State University, Department of Journalism., 22, Olimpiyskiy prosp., apt. 43, 129110, Moscow, Russia
E-mail: larmih@gmail.com

Scandinavia

NAAS • Nordic Association for American Studies
Website: <http://www.NAASudies.com>

DAAS • Danish Association for American Studies
<https://sites.google.com/site/daasstudies/>

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Website: <http://www.helsinki.fi/hum/renvall/pam/fasa/>
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Website: www.asanor.com

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

President: Jørn Brøndal, Center for American Studies, University of Southern Denmark, Campusvej 55, 5230 Odense M, Denmark
Phone: +45 65 50 21 90
E-mail: brondal@language.sdu.dk

Vice President (Board Member from Sweden): Helena Wahlström, Centre for Gender Research, Uppsala University, P.O. Box 634, SE-751 26 Uppsala, Sweden
Phone +46-18-471 7298
E-mail: Helena.Wahlstrom@gender.uu.se

Board Member from Finland: Ari Helo, University of Vaasa, Faculty of Philosophy, Intercultural Studies in Communication and Administration, P.O.Box 700, 65101 Vaasa, Finland
Phone: +358 44 2803885
Email: ari.helo@uvasa.fi

Board Member from Iceland: Julian d'Arcy, Department of English, University of Iceland, 101 Reykjavik, Iceland
Phone: +354 525 4450 Fax: +354 525 4410
E-mail: jaydarcy@hi.is

Board Member from Norway: Zeljka Svrljuga, Department of Foreign Languages, University of Bergen, P. O. Box 7800, NO-5020 Bergen, Norway
Phone: +47 55 58 23 65
E-mail: Zeljka.Svrljuga@if.uib.no

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

President: Maria Socorro Suárez, Departamento de Filología Anglogermánica y Francesa, Campus de Humanidades, Universidad de Oviedo, 33011 Oviedo, Spain
Phone: +34 985 10 4574
Fax: +34 985 10 4574
E-mail: lafuente@uniovi.es

Secretary: *Ignacio Palacios*, Departamento de Filología Inglesa, Avenida Alfonso Castela, Universidad de Santiago de Compostela, 15782 Santiago de Compostela, Spain
Phone: +34 981 56 3100 ext. 11890
Fax: +34 981 57 4646
E-mail: iafeans@usc.es

Treasurer: *Alberto Lázaro*, Departamento de Filología Moderna, C/ Trinidad 3-5, Universidad de Alcalá, 48001 Alcalá de Henares, Spain
Phone: +34 91 885 4474
Fax: +34 91 885 4441
E-mail: alberto.lazaro@uah.es

SANAS • Swiss Association for North-American Studies

Website: <http://www.sagw.ch/de/sanas>

President: *Deborah Madsen*, English Department, Faculté des Lettres, University of Geneva, 1211 Genève 4, Switzerland
Phone: +41 22 379 7884
E-mail: Deborah.Madsen@lettres.unige.ch

Secretary: *Philipp Schweighauser*, University of Basel, Nadelberg 6, 4051 Basel, Switzerland
Phone: +41 61 267 27 84 Fax: +41 61 267 27 80
Email: ph.schweighauser@unibas.ch

Treasurer: *Christina Ljungberg*, Bergstrasse 29c, CH-6045 Meggen, Switzerland
Phone: +41 41 377 2717 Fax: +41 41 377 2735
E-mail: cljung@es.uzh.ch

ASAT • American Studies Association of Turkey

Website: <http://simplifyurl.com/4b0>

President: *Meldan Tanrısal*, Department of American Culture and Literature, Hacettepe University, Beytepe Campus, 065302 Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 297 85 00
E-mail: meldant@hacettepe.edu.tr

Vice President: *Tanfer Emin Tunç*, Department of American Culture and Literature, Hacettepe University, Beytepe Campus, 06532 Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 297 85 00
E-Mail: asat2007@gmail.com

Secretary: *Özlem Uzundemir*, Department of American Culture and Literature, Başkent University, Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 234 10 10/2026
E-Mail: ozlemuzundemir@gmail.com

Treasurer: *Gözde Erdoğan*, Department of American Culture and Literature, Hacettepe University, Beytepe Campus, 06532 Ankara, Turkey
Phone: +90 312 297 85 00
E-mail: pgozde@hacettepe.edu.tr



Fontana di Trevi, Rome (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, and 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 the officers since 1954. The link to European journals is another feature which we hope will 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 recent academic activities conducted in Europe and thus contribute to a dynamic interaction among European Americanists. Members who wish to announce new publications are requested to include in their posting full bibliographical information (author/editor, title, place, publisher, and year of publication), ISBN number, retail price (and possibly discounts for EAAS members) and a 100-word abstract.

EAAS-L is moderated by Jaap Verheul, University of Utrecht, The Netherlands
E-mail: Jaap.Verheul@let.uu.nl

To contribute to EAAS-L, please send your messages to:
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THE AMERICAN STUDIES NETWORK

President

Detlef Junker
Heidelberg Center for American Studies
Hauptstraße 120
69117 Heidelberg, Germany
E-mail: djunker@hca.uni-heidelberg.de

Vice-President

Erik Åsard
The Swedish Institute for North American Studies
Engelska parken, Humanistiskt centrum
Thunbergsvägen 3L, P.O. Box 527
751 20 Uppsala, Sweden
E-mail: erik.asard@engelska.uu.se

Treasurer

Cornelis A. van Minnen
Roosevelt Study Center
P.O. Box 6001
4330 LA Middelburg,
The Netherlands
E-mail: ca.v.minnen@zeeland.nl

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 EAAS. Its goal is to promote the study of the United States through 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 from 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 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 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 about 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, by providing a public library or research archive.

ASN Members

Austria

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

Belgium

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

Denmark

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

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

Germany

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

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

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

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

Great Britain

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

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

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

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

Italy

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

Netherlands

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

Poland

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

Spain

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

Sweden

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

EAAS Rob Kroes Publication Award

The European Association for American Studies (EAAS) is pleased to announce its biennial award for the best unpublished book manuscript in American Studies. The award is named for Rob Kroes, who served as Treasurer (1976–1988) and President (1992–1996) of EAAS.

For many years, Rob Kroes also edited the series *European Contributions to American Studies*, in which the EAAS Biennial Conference volumes appeared from 1980 to 2006. The competition is open to all members of the twenty-one national and joint-national American Studies organizations of EAAS.

The EAAS defines “American Studies” broadly. 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. To be considered, manuscripts should be between 250 and 400 pages long (375,000 to 670,000 characters equaling 1,500 characters per page).

Authors of eligible manuscripts are invited to nominate their work. We urge scholars who know of eligible manuscripts written by others to inform those authors of the prize. The award is open to authors of English-language manuscripts only. Entrants are requested to write a one- to two-page essay explaining why the manuscript is a significant and original contribution to American Studies. The winning work will be published at no cost to the author in the series “European Views of the United States” (Universitätsverlag Winter Heidelberg). The author is expected to provide the publisher with a camera-ready manuscript or PDF file. Manuscript guidelines are available upon request.

Four copies of the manuscript, clearly labeled “2011 Rob Kroes Award Entry” must be mailed to the following address and received by August 31, 2011:

Prof. Philip John Davies
Eccles Centre for American Studies
The British Library 96 Euston Road
London NW1 2DB
Great Britain

The winner will be announced by December 1, 2011.



Vittorio Emanuele, Rome (Photograph by Lehel Vadon)

Editorial Deadlines

- March 1, 2012 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

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>).