

**Spring / Summer 2011**



**The Newsletter  
of the  
Hellenic Association for American Studies  
(HELAAS)**

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*Visit the HELAAS website at*

[www.enl.auth.gr/helaas](http://www.enl.auth.gr/helaas)

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## **HELAAS Board 2007-2009**

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**\*\*Note: Due to the resignation of the HELAAS Secretary, please forward your emails to Tatiani Rapatzikou, acting secretary of HELAAS.**

## **EDITORIAL**

Dear HELAAS Members,

Summer at last. I assume you are all getting ready for peaceful and relaxing breaks, so I promise to be brief.

The main events during the past months since the last Newsletter have been the EAAS Board meeting in Rome and the various HELAAS activities planned for the coming year.

The EAAS Board meeting re-elected Meldan Tanrisal from ASAT (Turkish Association for American Studies) to the post of the EAAS vice-president for the next two years since last year she was elected just for a year in order to replace Martin Heusser who had resigned for serious health reasons. The body also elected Philip Davies from BAAS (British Association of American Studies) as president for the next year so as to replace Hans-Jurgens Grabbo, former president of EAAS, who resigned unexpectedly due to serious health problems as well. Gert Buelens from BLASA (Belgium Association of American Studies) was elected to replace Jenel Virden to the post of Secretary General. The Board meeting decided to create a data basis with information concerning the research fields and interests of the individual nation association members in an attempt to encourage cooperation among them.

The Board also finalized the list of workshops for the Izmir conference next year and accepted all workshops submitted by members of HELAAS. Congratulations.

Workshops titles have not been announced yet but they will be in the forthcoming EAAS Newsletter, to be out soon. The Izmir conference is expected to be a great success, and you are encouraged to plan your participation as soon as the workshops are announced.

Despite the unpleasant world economic conditions, and with hardly any funding but with a lot of enthusiasm and determination, the HELAAS Board has planned two activities, a one-day Symposium in the beginning of the new academic year and a conference in late 2012 (tentative date).

The Symposium on

“Images of America,” will be held on September 30th, 2011, in the new Conference Premises of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. The symposium

will be held in Greek and participants have been encouraged to focus on images of America as a case study in itself or in conjunction with Greek culture. Some of the areas to be touched upon are photography, translation, literature, cinema, music and other. You will receive a detailed program and relevant information in early September.

The International Conference on

“Literature and Ecology” (tentative title) will be held at the University of Thessaloniki (exact date to be announced).

The organizing committee is largely depending on your support and help and will be looking forward to seeing you all in them.

***Have a nice and enjoyable summer.***

All best wishes,

Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni

President of the HELAAS Board

## **MEMBERS' CORNER**

Please find in this section information about our member publications (not necessarily pertaining to American Studies) and activities.

Here are our members' publications for Spring/Summer 2011:

### **MONOGRAPHS**

*A Bridge Over the Balkans: Demetra Vaka Brown and the Tradition of "Women's Orients"*

Eleftheria Arapoglou (Gorgias Press, 2011)

This book is a critical study of Demetra Vaka Brown, one of the most significant Greek American writers of the turn of the last century, framed within the fields of "Orientalism" and cultural studies. Offering an overview of her life and career with analytical readings of her major works, the book's focus is on the role of Vaka Brown as cultural agent: at once a white female and an immigrant of Greek descent and a former citizen of Ottoman Turkey who worked as a journalist and author in the United States, writing in English and contributing her work to mainstream publications. The book presents the identity and spatial politics of Vaka Brown, recovering the discursive techniques employed in her identification processes and assessing the significance of her cultural agency in the context of the dominant themes and preoccupations of the Orientalist tradition. Vaka Brown is further examined as a case study which provides historically informed and cultural perspectives on the complexities and ambiguities of women's imperial positionings at the second half of the nineteenth and the beginning of the twentieth centuries in the East and West. By exploring the author's predicament in constructing an authorial and narrative identity in the interstices between the East and the West, modernity and tradition, ethnicity and nationalism, the book articulates a nuanced historical and cultural reading of Vaka Brown's writing and ultimately probes the alternative responses Vaka Brown's texts offer to the "scaffoldings" of nationalism.

### **EDITED COLLECTIONS**

*Henry James and the Supernatural*

Anna Despotopoulou and Kimberley C. Reed (Palgrave, 2011)

Why was Henry James drawn to the supernatural and what narrative purpose did his repeated use of the ghostly fulfill? Covering a wide range of James's fiction and

non-fiction, distinguished James scholars deal with the complex ways in which James's interest in the supernatural blends with his philosophical historical and cultural engagement. This volume is the first compilation of essays on this topic and it offers new and exciting readings of the varied ways in which the ghost story's generic conventions both articulate and interrogate the anxieties of turn-of-the-century Anglo-American culture.

## **JOURNAL SPECIAL ISSUES**

*"Representational and Literary Futures: American Writing in the New Millennium"*

Tatiani G. Rapatzikou and Arthur Redding

The special issue of Writing Technologies—an online and open access journal—is now available at:

[http://www.ntu.ac.uk/writing\\_technologies/current\\_journal/index.html](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/writing_technologies/current_journal/index.html).

Writing Technologies is looking for submissions for future volumes, including the open issue that will be published at the end of 2011. If you would like to submit something for consideration, please get touch with either Phil Leonard ([philip.leonard@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:philip.leonard@ntu.ac.uk)) or Dan Cordle ([daniel.cordle@ntu.ac.uk](mailto:daniel.cordle@ntu.ac.uk)).

## **PUBLICATIONS IN OTHER AREAS OF INTEREST**

*Small and Light Weapons*

Kyriakos Kouveliotis (Adobe Digital Editions, 2011)

[http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/small-and-light-weapons/16156637?productTrackingContext=search\\_results/search\\_shelf/center/1](http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/small-and-light-weapons/16156637?productTrackingContext=search_results/search_shelf/center/1)

*European Defence*

Kyriakos Kouveliotis (Adobe Digital Editions, 2011)

[http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/european-defence/16154726?productTrackingContext=search\\_results/search\\_shelf/center/2](http://www.lulu.com/product/ebook/european-defence/16154726?productTrackingContext=search_results/search_shelf/center/2)

*Olympic Truce*

Kyriakos Kouveliotis (Kindle Edition, 2011)

[http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00585CJHO/ref=cm\\_sw\\_r\\_tw\\_dp\\_QTjcob0FFENWX](http://www.amazon.com/dp/B00585CJHO/ref=cm_sw_r_tw_dp_QTjcob0FFENWX)

## **PRIZES/AWARDS**

### **Poet in Residence**

Liana Sakelliou was "Poet in residence" at the University of Coimbra and in Monsanto, Portugal, in Spring 2011. She had the opportunity to give readings of her own poems in addition to lectures on American and Greek poetry. The award ceremony takes place every three years and is organized by the University of Coimbra. A prize is given to a poet from Europe as well as a poet outside Europe.

### **The Criticos Prize** **The London Hellenic Society**

Established in 1996 and funded by the Criticos-Foteinelli Foundation, the Prize will be awarded to the author of an original work in English published in 2011 and inspired by Greece or Hellenic culture: ancient, Hellenistic, Byzantine or modern.

Areas of interest are not restricted but, since the work must be accessible to a broad readership, shortlists revolve around archaeology, art, history, and literature.

The 2010 Criticos Prize (awarded to **Zachary Mason** for his novel, *The Lost Books of the Odyssey* published by Jonathan Cape) was accompanied by a citation in honor of **Nikos Fokas** for his lifetime achievement in poetry and literature conferred on the occasion of the publication of *The Known: Collected Poems (1981-2000)*, translated by **Don Schofield** (Ypsilon Press).

## **CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION**

### **Utopia/Crisis/Justice**

#### **12th International Conference of the Utopian Studies Society(Europe)**

***08-11 July, 2011***

The Utopian Studies Society is an interdisciplinary society that aims to co-ordinate and encourage the diverse work currently taking place on the subject of utopianism. Its members include people researching literature, philosophy, sociology, history, architecture, politics and anthropology.

The Society was established in 1988 by a group of British scholars, following an international conference on utopianism at New Lanark. It was re-launched, following the "Millennium of Utopias" conference at the University of East Anglia in



June 1999.

The special focus of the 12th conference of the Society concerns the intersection between the question of Utopia, crisis, and justice. This year, the conference is hosted by the University of Cyprus and will be held at the University's central campus.

website: [cyprusconferences.org/uss2011](http://cyprusconferences.org/uss2011)

## **HELAAS SYMPOSIA/CONFERENCES**

### **Απεικονίσεις της Αμερικής**

Η Ελληνική Εταιρεία Αμερικανικών Σπουδών διοργανώνει στις 30 Σεπτεμβρίου 2011 συμπόσιο με θέμα «Απεικονίσεις της Αμερικής» το οποίο θα διεξαχθεί στο Κέντρο Διάδοσης Ερευνητικών Προγραμμάτων (ΚΕΔΕΑ) Η γλώσσα του συμποσίου είναι η Ελληνική.

Σκοπός του συμποσίου είναι η πρόσληψη της Αμερικής μέσα από λογοτεχνικά κείμενα, τη μουσική, το θέατρο, τη μετάφραση, το φωτογραφικό και κινηματογραφικό φακό, χειροτεχνήματα, πορτρέτα καλλιτεχνών κ.α. Έμφαση επίσης θα δοθεί στο τρόπο που η Αμερική «προσλαμβάνεται» αλλά και αναδιαμορφώνεται μέσω της Ελληνικής πολιτισμικής σκηνής.

Περισσότερες πληροφορίες για τους ομιλητές/τριες και ανακοινώσεις του συμποσίου καθώς και λεπτομερές πρόγραμμα θα λάβετε μέσω ηλεκτρονικού ταχυδρομείου στις αρχές Σεπτεμβρίου.

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### **The Viewing of Politics and the Politics of Viewing: Theatre Challenges in the Age of Globalization 18-21 April 2013**

The School of English of Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece, in co-operation with the [Hellenic Association for American Studies](#) (HELAAS), invites scholars to submit proposals for the international theatre conference to be held in **Thessaloniki in 18-21 April, 2013.**

Each era brings along its own problems. Our globalized world, with its conflicts, failed promises, economic challenges, recession, vast immigration, state corruption, ecological and environmental problems, provides more than enough challenges for theatre people to face, East and West. This international conference aims to explore the role of theatre in a world characterized by radical transformations and mediated transgressions. As a living experience, theatre has always provided the audience with the unavoidable confrontation with a society in transition, engaging

provocatively with questions of identity formation, (trans)national consciousness, cultural negotiations, globalizing processes, political antagonisms.

We invite proposals that explore theatre's potential to incorporate politics and influence audiences. Scholars, researchers, and artists are invited to submit 250-word abstracts for papers or practical presentations or panels by **February 15, 2012**. Topics may include among others:

- Politics as theatre/ Theatre as politics
- Theatre activism in a performative society
- Theatre and democracy
- Theatre radicals in an age of global conformism/ in a world dominated by multinational and corporate giants
- Theatre innovations and theatre viewing
- Audiences and mobs/ Trans-audiences
- Spectatorship/witnessing and new performance forms
- Politics of space/place
- Festival audiences: search for innovation or homogeneity?
- The future of theatre/ recession and theatre policy

Please address e-mails to: [spats@enl.auth.gr](mailto:spats@enl.auth.gr), [detsi@enl.auth.gr](mailto:detsi@enl.auth.gr)

### **Organizing Committee**

Prof. **Savas Patsalidis**, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece

Assistant Prof. **Zoe Detsi**, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki  
**Virginia Dakari**, Ph. D. Student, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki

## **CALL FOR PAPERS**

**8th Biennial MESEA Conference The Society for Multi-Ethnic Studies:  
Europe and the Americas 13–16 June 2012  
Blanquerna School of Communication, Ramon Llull University, Barcelona, Spain**

### **Call for Papers Media and Mediated Performances of Ethnicity**

“A decade into the twenty-first century, media culture has become a prime driving force in politics, culture, society, and everyday life. We can argue that the media—readily accessible to everyone—provide models for cultural perspectives and positions, and new forms of identity. In many ways the media have become today’s dominant culture, with visual, aural/oral, and digital forms of media culture increasingly replacing book culture among large sectors of the world’s urban population, requiring a fundamental revision of the notion of literacy. Media have also become prime constituents of socialization, with social-networking sites, blogs, Twitter, YouTube, and other similar vehicles shaping our lives in significant ways” (Davis, Fischer- Hornung and Kardux, 1). This argument, put forth in the introduction to the MESEA volume *Aesthetic Practices and Politics in Media, Music and Art* (Routledge 2010), points to the current need to heighten our critical engagement with media in its multiple forms. The 2012 MESEA Conference, to be held at the Ramon Llull University in Barcelona, invites papers that focus on the place, role, influence, effects and forms of media in contemporary society, with particular emphasis on its intersection with the performance of ethnicity and citizenship. Topics may include, but are not limited to:

- Media literacy/Literacy and the Media
- Media and literary intertextualities
- Youth cultures and the media
- Performance and performative media
- Mediating traditions: virtual natives and migrants
- Media, ethnic division; and social exclusion; media coverage: discourse and nationality
- Media Cartographies: landscapes/seascapes/mediascapes; global and glocal media
- Cyber hedonism versus cyber activism and responsibility
- Ethnic media, political protest and naturalization
- Mediating ethnic space and time; ethnic simulacrums
- McDonaldization and ethnic homogenization; advertising and virtual power
- Cultures of circulation/flow: cultural capital

Proposals should be submitted to our website between **August 15** and **November 15, 2011**. Submitters will receive notification of acceptance by January 1, 2012. Preference will be given to complete panel proposals with an inter/transdisciplinary and/or transnational focus. Panels may not include more than 2 participants from the

same institution. Presenters must be members of MESEA or MELUS in 2012.

As in previous years, MESEA will award two **Young Scholars Excellence Awards**. For more information please see: <http://www.mesea.org>

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### **War Memories: The Third International Conference on Asian British and Asian American Literatures**

**Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan  
9-10 December 2011**

A few months after the outbreak of the First World War, Sigmund Freud wrote that “no event has ever destroyed so much that is precious in the common possessions of humanity, confused so many of the clearest intelligences, or so thoroughly debased what is highest.” He was referring to the loss and devastation caused by the war; however, he was also prepared to accept that wars “would occupy mankind for some time to come.” Indeed, wars have continued to afflict humanity since Freud made these remarks nearly a hundred years ago, many of them fought in Asia: the Second Sino-Japanese War, the Pacific War, the Korean War, the War in Vietnam, the Gulf War, in addition to those wars of liberation and anti-colonization which led to the independence of various countries. Most recently, there was the invasion of Iraq, and War in Afghanistan has been in process for nearly a decade and seems unlikely to end in the near future. We observe the unfathomable loss and total waste of lives and resources. These wars have left generations with traumatic memories after suffering, directly or indirectly, from the conflicts and are remembered in various ways by different individuals and nations. One of the ways is literary production.

In view of the profound significance of war memories in the production of Asian British and Asian American literatures, the Institute of European and American Studies, Academia Sinica, Taiwan, invites submissions of original papers on the theme of “War Memories” for its third international conference on Asian British and Asian American literatures, to be held in Taipei on 9th and 10th December 2011. We welcome contributions on Asian British and Asian American literatures that bring into focus the general theme of the conference. Please send your proposals (300-400 words) and brief biographies (c. 200 words) to the e-mail address at [ycllee@sinica.edu.tw](mailto:ycllee@sinica.edu.tw) before 31st May 2011. The working language of the conference is English. Further information of the conference will be announced at our website address: <http://www.ea.sinica.edu.tw>

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## **NEW BOOK TITLE**

### ***TRANSCULTURALITY AND PERCEPTIONS OF THE IMMIGRANT OTHER: "FROM-HERES" AND "COME-HERES" IN VIRGINIA AND NORTH RHINE- WESTPHALIA***

Editors: Cathy Covell Waegner, Page R. Laws and Geoffroy de Laforcade  
Cambridge Scholars Publishing, March 2011  
ISBN-13: 978-1-4438-2695-2; ISBN-10: 1-4438-2695-2

No other issue in our times of globalization has aroused such passionate debate as the increasingly complex transborder movements of people of all ethnicities, with the self-perceived "from-heres" often struggling to maintain the illusion of separateness from intruding "come-heres." The paradigm of transculturality offers prospects to rethink, demystify and represent cultural unity and difference, assimilation and alterity, in a manner that acknowledges the fissures and the fictions in traditional cultural dichotomies such as the melodramatically instrumentalized "national" vs. "foreign." The interdisciplinary essays compiled in *Transculturality and Perceptions of the Immigrant Other* focus on the ways in which new diasporic and migrational patterns arouse ill will and conflict, but also negotiation and transcultural impulses, resulting in transformed meso-structures in media, schooling, and business. Investigating regional immigrant groups in the states of Virginia and North Rhine-Westphalia as well as the discourses and images in public media, films, literature, and cultural events, the studies both document the contest for geographical, work, and community space and place it in larger theoretical and specific historical contexts. Arising from an international project undertaken by senior and junior scholars from the fields of cultural studies, history, and sociology at Norfolk State University in Virginia and University of Siegen in Germany, these essays suggest that cultural citizenship can embody dynamic expressions of belonging and strategies of empowerment which shape political and economic communities, engendering in the process innovative forms of constantly negotiated, hybrid identity and transmigratory affiliation.

## **HELAAS List serv**

The HELAAS List-serv consists of an electronic mail discussion list and a related network site on the World Wide Web.

Please use this list for the discussion of virtually anything pertaining to the broad range of American Studies.

Messages to be circulating in this List-serv will concern news about: teaching and research projects, works in process, announcements of conferences, jobs, grants, fellowships, internet resources, book reviews, syllabi exchanges etc.

Also, you are invited to use this List-serv as an e-forum where you could post questions/queries or host debates over academic issues relating to American Studies.

An archive of all previously posted messages on the List-serv will be kept. All messages will be sorted by date or subject (eg. Women studies, cultural studies, teaching of American literature, etc).

Given that the HELAAS List-serv will be a semi-public e-forum, the list's editors, managers, advisory board and the association itself bear no responsibility for messages forwarded to people outside the list without the initial contributor's prior consent.

We hope that you find this List-serv service useful and constructive.

**For any comments or suggestions, please contact:**

<[trapatz@enl.auth.gr](mailto:trapatz@enl.auth.gr)> and <[ppatsala@enl.auth.gr](mailto:ppatsala@enl.auth.gr)>

## **HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS**

**Your 2011 Fee is now due.**

Your are kindly requested to update your **Helaas Membership Fee** for **2011**.

**Please do get in touch with the HELAAS Treasurer for any further inquiries: trapatz@enl.auth.gr**

The fee amounts to **15 Euros** per annum for students or **20 Euros** per annum for regular members. If you are a student, please verify your status by sending us a photocopy of your Student ID (Fax: 2310-997432).

Your HELAAS membership fee entitles you to:

- renew your subscription to EAAS
- apply for the EAAS grants (as advertised at **www.eaas.eu**)
- participate in all EAAS conferences
- advertise your American Studies publications at the EAAS Book Reviews section

Your membership fee also:

- helps HELAAS cover its organizational expenses (Newsletter, webpage support)
- enables HELAAS to organize events (symposia and conferences)
- supports HELAAS publications
- enables you to participate in HELAAS elections
- enables you to participate in all HELAAS conferences with a reduced fee

Please note our new bank account details for the HELAAS 2011 subscription fee:

PIRAEUS BANK, Account Number: 5272-026131-179

BIC: PIRBGRAA

IBAN: GR75 0172 2720 0052 7202 6131 179

**PLEASE NOTE YOUR NAME WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR BANK DEPOSIT OR DO EMAIL/FAX YOUR DEPOSIT SLIP TO THE TREASURER.**

We would also like to inform you that it is possible to download the membership form posted on the HELAAS web site

<[http://www.enl.auth.gr/HELAAS/registration\\_form\\_HELAAS.doc](http://www.enl.auth.gr/HELAAS/registration_form_HELAAS.doc)>