

Spring / Summer 2012



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

In this Issue:

Editorial of the New HELAAS Board

Members' Corner

Salzburg Global Seminar Series

HELAAS membership

Visit the HELAAS website at

www.enl.auth.gr/helaas

CONTENTS

HELAAS Board	3
Editorial	4
Members' Corner	5
Edited Collections	5
Projects	5
Conference Organization	6
Salzburg Global Seminar Series-American Studies	8
HELAAS List-serv	11
HELAAS Subscriptions	12

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EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS members,

The new HELAAS board sends you its warmest wishes for the rest of the summer season.

We would like to share with you news about the activities and events we have planned to work on and organize during our tenure despite all current difficulties.

A symposium in Greek with the title «Χωρο-γραφώντας την Αμερική» is going to be held during the winter season in Thessaloniki. This is about to be an interdisciplinary event focusing on the exploration of space, environment and ecology from a variety of perspectives. More information about our upcoming event is going to be sent to you in Fall 2012.

We are also hoping for an international HELAAS conference to be held in late spring in 2014. We will let you know more about its main theme and CFP in due course. The EAAS biannual conference is going to be held in 2004 as well in The Hague. We will keep you informed about it through our Newsletters and Listserv.

We are still working on the construction of our online HELAAS journal continuing in this way the efforts of the previous board. We are hoping to launch the first issue in 2013/2014. This endeavor will massively contribute to the international visibility of our association by offering a new publication venue for interdisciplinary scholarly works. We will make sure that this new journal will meet the criteria of all peer-reviewed publications.

The collected volume of essays from the 2011 HELAAS symposium with the title «Απ-εικονίσεις της Αμερικής» is expected to be published towards the end of 2012.

I would like to finish by thanking you all on behalf of the new HELAAS board for your continued support. We look forward to hearing about your news and activities.

With our very best wishes

Tatiani Rapatzikou
President of the HELAAS board

MEMBERS' CORNER

Please find in this section information about our member publications and projects:

EDITED COLLECTIONS

Yemenedzi-Malathouni, Smatie, Tatiani G. Rapatzikou, and Eleftheria Arapoglou, eds. *Re-inventing / Re-presenting Cultural Identities in a Global World*. Newcastle: Cambridge Scholars Publishing, 2012.

This is a collection of twelve selected essays which address the concept of cultural identity formation and enactment, immigration diaspora and repatriation, and gender politics within a globalized context. With the peripheral having now become the center of contemporary culture, this volume examines cultural and literary diversities that have emerged from the reciprocal traffic of ideas and influences between cultures, politics, aesthetics and disciplines, with an emphasis on cultural identity as a site of crisis and fragmentation.

Written in an accessible way, this volume addresses several audiences, from postgraduate researchers and scholars in the fields of Anglo-American and cross-cultural studies, women's studies, minority and ethnic literature studies, to scholars students and specialists of American, cross-Atlantic and even global studies. Because of the numerous theoretical concerns which underpin this work and its interdisciplinary approach, the publication is also aimed at researchers and scholars in the fields of trans-atlantic studies and cultural geography, as well as the general reader who is interested in globality and cultural identity.

PROJECTS

Fulbright Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund 2012

Title: *Urban Environments in Transition: Engaging Young Leaders and Raising Community Awareness through Multimodal Narratives.*

This is a recently funded project by the Fulbright Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund (AEIF) an international competition held in the U.S. in 2012. It will be implemented in Winter 2012-13 by bringing together Faculty members and students (undergraduate and postgraduate) from the School of English at the Aristotle University of Thessaloniki (AUnTh), the School of English at University of Athens (UoA), Department of Architecture at University of Thessaly as well as artists/writers from Athens and

Thessaloniki. Through a number of activities and events, this project will attempt to combine academic practice with artistic activity so as to address the various socio-cultural crises that the two major urban spaces of Athens and Thessaloniki face nowadays. More information about the project will be made available in due course. Project co-ordinator: Tatiani Rapatzikou (AUTH).

Members of the core team: Yiorgos Kalogeras, Youli Theodosiadou, Zoe Detsi (AUTH); Liana Sakelliou, Konstantinos Blatanis (UOA); Kamilo Nollas (photographer); Sakis Serefas (writer); Sotos Zachariadis (visual artist); Theodoros Zafeiropoulos (visual artist, PhD Candidate in University of Thessaly).

CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Call for Papers

The Viewing of Politics and the Politics of Viewing: Theatre Challenges in the Age of Globalized Communities

18-21 April, 2013

www.enl.auth.gr/theatreconference

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. We especially welcome panel proposals. Panels should include, besides the title and the summary of the topic, a summary of each individual contribution.

Topics may include among others:

- *Politics as theatre/ Theatre as politics*
- *Theatre activism in a performative society*
- *Aestheticizing politics*
- *Threatening hybridities*
- *The street theatre of the “occupy movement”*
- *Surveillance, sight and panopticism in a society of the spectacle*
- *Theatre and democracy, democracy as theatre*
- *Theatre radicals in an age of global conformism*
- *Theatre in a world of multinational and corporate giants*
- *Theatre innovations and the viewing experience*
- *Power, knowledge and the construction of place, space and viewing*
- *Creation, dissemination and consumption of (theatre) representations*
- *Legitimizing representations*
- *Rebellious representations*
- *Spectatorship/witnessing and new performance forms*
- *Festival audiences: search for innovation or homogeneity?*
- *The future of theatre/ recession and theatre policy*

Abstracts should be submitted by **August 31, 2012**. Please use the following template for your submission:

First: Author (s)

Second: Affiliation (if any)

Third: Email address

Fourth: Title of Abstract and Proposal

Fifth: the 250-word abstract

All papers accepted for and presented at the conference will be published in an ISBN eBook. Selected papers (developed into a maximum of 20-page chapters) will be published in a hard copy volume.

Please address e-mails to: **spats@enl.auth.gr** **detsi@enl.auth.gr**

For more information about keynote speakers, registration fees, accommodation, and conference events please visit the conference website: www.enl.auth.gr/theatreconference

We invite colleagues and people interested in participating to disseminate this call for papers.

Hope to meet you in Thessaloniki.

The Organizing Committee

Prof. Savas Patsalidis, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece; Assistant Prof. Zoe Detsi, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece; Virginia Dakari, Ph. D. candidate, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

SALZBURG GLOBAL SEMINAR SERIES
AMERICAN STUDIES

**Resistance and Readiness: Immigration, Nativism and the Challenge of Ethnic
and Religious Diversity in the U.S. and Europe Today**
27 Sep - 01 Oct, 2012

Speakers:

Peter Rose (Chair) - Sophia Smith Professor Emeritus of Sociology and Anthropology and Senior Fellow of the Kahn Liberal Arts Institute, Smith College; former director, American Studies Diploma Program, Smith College

Farid Hafez - Researcher and Lecturer, Department of Oriental Studies, University of Vienna, and Muslim Teachers Training College, Vienna; recent research project: "The Islamic Faith Community in Austria"

Andrea Hairston - L. Wolff Kahn 1931 Professor of Theatre, Smith College; playwright and novelist

Rob Kroes - Professor Emeritus and former chair, American Studies Program, University of Amsterdam; former president, European Association of American Studies

Edward Mortimer - Senior Program Advisor, Salzburg Global Seminar; Rapporteur, Council of Europe Group of Eminent Persons on *Living Together: Combining Diversity and Freedom in 21st Century Europe, 2010-2011*

Berndt Ostendorf - Professor Emeritus, North American Cultural History, America Institute, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich

Rubén Rumbaut - Professor of Sociology, University of California Irvine

Reinhold Wagnleitner - Professor of Modern History, University of Salzburg (Special Guest Speaker)

Abstract:

A special four day symposium organized by the Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association will be held at the Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria from September 27-October 1, 2012. The symposium is open to individuals working in the field of the topic; most participants will be university academics and journalists from a wide variety of countries. All activities will take place at the historic Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, and the adjacent Meierhof.

In some ways the meeting will be a ten year review of issues raised in an American Studies seminar held at Schloss Leopoldskron early in 2002. At that earlier gathering, 38 Americanists from 25 countries addressed "The Continuing Challenge of America's Ethnic Pluralism". That symposium was focused mainly on general issues of race and ethnicity, the impact of then-recent immigrants and refugees in the US, and concern about mounting xenophobia in the USA in the immediately wake of "9/11." Since then much has happened on both sides of the Atlantic in regard to issues of migration, integration, and what some have called "the limits of tolerance." The 2012 symposium will examine these matters once again, but this time from a much

more comparative perspective. Distinguished specialists in the field will lead plenary sessions, panels, and discussion groups looking at such topics as grounds for migration (push and pull factors), dichotomies between "natives" and "newcomers" and their significance in the US and various parts of Europe, identities and distinctions between "they" and "we" as expressed in politics and in the art and literature of marginality, patterns of adaptation and integration -- and isolation, and the varied meanings of "tolerance."

Many of these matters were addressed in a recent Council of Europe report, "Living Together: Combining Diversity and Freedom in 21st Century Europe," drafted by the Salzburg Global Seminar's Senior Program Advisor Edward Mortimer on behalf of a Group of Eminent Persons chosen by the Council's Secretary-General. We hope to spend at least one session reviewing that report and responses to it along with comparable American documents. Its central theme will be a *leitmotiv* throughout all of our deliberations.

Screening America: Film and Television in the 21st Century

15 Nov - 19 Nov, 2012

Speakers:

Ron Clifton (Chair) - Retired Counselor, Senior Foreign Service of the United States; teaching, lecture and research interests include analysis of the perception, reaction and impact of American culture abroad and the implications for cultural diplomacy and foreign policy.

Melis Behlil - Assistant Professor and Chair, Department of Radio, Television and Cinema, Kadir Has University, Istanbul; member of steering committee, European Network of Cinema and Media Studies; research interests include production studies, Hollywood, and globalization

Christopher Bigsby - Professor of American Studies and director of the Arthur Miller Centre for American Studies, University of East Anglia, UK; broadcaster and award-winning novelist and biographer; currently writing a book on American television drama.

Christof Decker - Professor of American and Media Studies, Ludwig-Maximilians-University, Munich; editor and author of *Visuelle Kulturen der USA/Visual Cultures of the USA* (2010)

Walter Hölbling - Professor of U.S. Literature and Culture at the American Studies Department at Karl-Franzens-University in Graz, Austria. His interests are contemporary American culture, literature, and film; U.S. postmodern and postcolonial fiction.

Lary May - Professor of American Studies and History, University of Minnesota; current project: "Foreign Affairs: Global Hollywood and America's Cultural Wars"

Toby Miller - (Keynote Speaker) Professor and Chair, Media & Cultural Studies, University of California Riverside; Author, *Global Hollywood 2*(2005), *Makeover Nation* (2008), and *Greening the Media* (2012)

Richard Pells - Professor of History Emeritus, University of Texas at Austin;

author of "Modernist America: Art, Music, Movies, and the Globalization of American Culture"(2011).

William Uricchio - Professor and Director, MIT Comparative Media Studies Programs; Professor of Comparative Media History, Utrecht University; currently working on the history of the televisual and on algorithms as cultural form.

Abstract:

The Salzburg Seminar American Studies Association (SSASA) is organizing a four day symposium on American film and television, to be held at the Salzburg Global Seminar, Salzburg, Austria, from November 15-19, 2012. All activities will take place at the historic Schloss Leopoldskron in Salzburg, Austria, and the adjacent Meierhof. The symposium is open to individuals working or interested in areas related to the topic. The symposium will focus on developments in American film and television since the turn of the millennium and the way they reflect and communicate messages and images about varied aspects of life and culture.

As we edge further into the 21st century there have been notable changes in the modern media and particularly in the film and television industries. The symposium will concern itself both with these changes and with the ways in which film and television have reflected and engaged with America and abroad. In the cinema, the documentary has become a significant force while television, partly as a result of cable -- particularly HBO and AMC, but also through a network such as NBC -- has attracted major talents from the theatre and the novel to produce genre series which compare favorably to any of world television. Why and how has this come about? Has this had any impact on mainstream television or movies? How has it affected the perception of America around the world?

In addition to sessions related to and the impact of films and television on individuals, our sessions will also explore the institutional effect of films and television on the arts, technology and politics of the United States and ultimately their relation to the perception of America abroad. We will examine the global politics of film making since Hollywood films are part of this modern global system, asking what film and television tell us about the new century, and the American political system. Discussions will include the impact of new technologies and the impact of new methods of film making and distribution.

As print journalism declines, television news falls prey to ideologues, and the blogger assumes an equal authority to the trained professional, where will we turn for our understanding of a changing world? Do we need to concern ourselves, as once we did, with the impact that American film and television products have on local media industries and people around the world?

For further information about becoming a symposium/a participant (for both events), please contact symposium director Ms. Marty Gecek (mgecek@salzburgglobal.org).

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> and <ppatsala@enl.auth.gr>

HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your 2012 Fee is now due.

You are kindly requested to update your **Helaas Membership Fee** for **2012**.

Please do get in touch with the HELAAS Treasurer for any further inquiries:

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: 210-7248979).

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

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(Dr. Konstantinos Blatanis kblatanis@enl.uoa.gr)

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>