Spring/Summer 2013

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

In this Issue:
Members’ Corner
HELAAS Symposium/EAAS Conference – Call for Papers
Grants for EAAS Conference
Call for Manuscript Submission

Visit the HELAAS website at
www.enl.auth.gr/helaas
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EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS members,

On behalf of the all the members of the board I’d like to send you my warmest wishes for a relaxing, creative and enjoyable summer.

These last few months have been very busy for our Association. The current issue of our Newsletter contains lots of pieces of information about what has been achieved and what is planned for the future.

Please find enclosed information about two very important forthcoming events: the HELAAS Symposium to be held in November 2013 in Thessaloniki and the International EAAS Conference to be held in The Hague in April 2014. Both events are addressed especially to you. We would strongly encourage your participation and support.

The HELAAS symposium will be held in Greek, while English is the official language for the EAAS international conference. In this issue you’ll find detailed information about the EAAS workshops, finalized by the EAAS General Assembly meeting that was held in Moscow in April 2013, and EAAS conference grants.

As for the HELAAS symposium, we greatly look forward to seeing most of you in Thessaloniki as this will give us the opportunity to get to know you and find out more about your research and creative practice.

In addition to our scholarly mission, we have been busy these last few months with the updating of the Articles of our Association so as to meet all current legal requirements and changes. For the verification of the process a special General Assembly meeting will be organized in Fall 2013. You’ll all be notified beforehand since your participation in the process is greatly needed. This process comes to supplement the updating of our Association’s banking account that took place last year.

All these actions allow us to secure the future and professional profile of our Association in addition to enabling us to pave the path for further initiatives with regard to our members’ engagement with our Association activities. More information will become available as soon as we finalize the articles verification process in Fall 2013.

More information will also become available with regard to the publication of the volume «Απ-εικόνισεις της Αμερικής» in Fall/Winter 2013.

I’d like to finish by congratulating Anna Fyta on winning the EAAS Travel Grant for her research at Beinecke Library (Yale University, U.S.).
On behalf of the members of the board a big thank you to all of you for your continuing support and creative energy.

Tatiani Rapatzikou
President of the HELAAS Board
MEMBERS’ CORNER

In this section please find information about our member publications and projects:

PUBLISHED VOLUMES AND ARTICLES


A major contribution for the Greek reader, this anthology contains translations of more than 67 poems and 166 letters as well as an extensive introduction setting her work in the context of her life and the historical events of her time (100 pages). In addition, there are notes about the edition and translations, information about the recipients of the letters, a ten-page bibliography, a table corresponding the translated poems in the two major English editions of her complete poems, and an analytical table of contents. The contents at the end contains the first lines of the poems in Greek and in English, a useful listing because Dickinson’s untitled poems are referred to by their first lines, or by the numbers assigned to them in the complete editions. The translations are based on the more recent and authoritative complete edition of her poems by R.W. Franklin. As a dual-language poetry anthology, Dickinson’s poems in English on the left page face the Greek translations on the right page. Sixty photographs of people, places, examples of her signature, and manuscript pages of poems are included in the introduction. Her house having been made into a museum, the poems of Emily Dickinson are considered to be part of the cultural heritage of the United States, forming an integral part of the literature studies on all levels of education in the U.S. and also widely taught around the world.


Employing a wide range of interpretive and theoretical approaches, this collection brings together distinguished James scholars from four continents to elicit new and exciting readings of a diverse array of James’s fiction and non-fiction. Through their transformative acts, the essays investigate James’s life-long engagement with cities, places, and tourist sites; offer theoretically informed readings of his work’s textual richness; and explore his intricate involvement with social and cultural issues, such as gender and sexuality, economics, friendship and hospitality, and visual culture. Arranged under rubrics which signal the complex interrelations of Henry James as a historical individual and of the works he authored with a web of social, cultural, aesthetic, and philosophical discourses, the contributions collected in this book make a convincing case for the ongoing productivity of James’s oeuvre when interrogated from
new critical angles and, therefore, for its enduring centrality to the concerns of literary and cultural studies.


This paper concentrates on Lorenzo Thomas’s discussion, through his poetic creations, of the impact of American Media culture on the individual. In his poetry collection Chances Are Few (1979) and The Bathers (1981) the poet highlights the deceiving nature of the Media and reveals their integral role in the disorientation, manipulation, and alienation of the American society. Employing the aesthetics of postmodernism, Thomas subverts the image of cinema and TV as the arbiters of Truth and urges his readers to find their true identities, away from the Media-dictated lifestyle. Also, this paper will draw a link between Thomas’s poetry and the socio-political context of 1970s and 1980s in America. In a period of rebellion and disappointment, Thomas finds in Media a common thread that can unite Americans, regardless of their skin color. Finally, the paper will indicate that despite the poet’s African-American heritage, his poetry is not a “battle cry” against the oppressive white American society. Instead, Thomas, through his poetry, addresses American society as a whole, while he attempts to raise his readers’ awareness in the fight against the overwhelming power of the Media.


http://www.radicalcritique.org/2013/01/the-portrayal-of-african-american-women.html

The article explores the way Sonia Sanchez portrays black women in her poetry. It aims at demonstrating that Sanchez depicts black women as being in touch with their roots and aware of their history and tradition making this the source of their empowerment. The article also argues that Sanchez promoted women’s liberation by employing unconventional techniques in her poems. Sanchez is a revolutionary who breaks the syntactical, grammatical and stylistic conventions of poetry writing. In doing so, she demonstrates that the emancipation of black women and women in general will allow them to hold many different roles within society moving away from conventional roles and to be perceived differently than before. Sanchez makes use of specific techniques and poetic forms in order to point out the need for a variety of roles to be ascribed to black women as free and equal-to-men members of American society.
HELAAS MEMBERS’ ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES

The Faculty of Law of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO offers an MA in European Law and Policies (one academic year duration). The program offers an interdisciplinary approach to the European Union’s policies and is organized in seminars, videoconferences, exercises, tutoring and research activities. For more information, visit www.uninettunouniversity.net or you may contact Dr. Kyriakos Kouveliotis, director of the Atheneum-Liberal Studies of Athens and Professor of the International Telematic University UNINETTUNO at kkouveliotis@me.com

Cathy Marazi, Ph.D. Candidate at the Dept. of Translation and Intercultural Studies, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, was on the organizing committee of the Research Day Event (June 2013) for graduate students and also presented a paper titled: “Brand Characters: Locating the Identity in Adaptation.”

Other HELAAS members who presented at the same event are:
Despoina Feleki, Ph.D. Candidate at the Dept. of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Her paper was titled: “Authorial Personae: From Print to Digital.”

Vasilis Harisis, Ph.D. Candidate at the Dept. of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His paper was titled: “Scandal, Failure and Personalization in Diva Artistry and Autobiography.”

Various academic events have taken place both in Athens and Thessaloniki these last few months. All of them were very successful as they attracted both the attention of the academic community and the general public:

1. The symposium “The Times They Are A-Changin” was organized by Dora Tsipouki (Professor) Faculty of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, on April 26th, 2013.

This one-day event included a variety of presentations from academics, Ph.D. Candidates, graduate students and the Fulbright Scholar (Judy Zinis) visiting Faculty of English Language and Literature in Athens. Attention was paid to the literature and culture of the 1960s in the U.S. with emphasis placed on the commentary of novels, films and documentaries of the time.

2. The International conference, “The Viewing of Politics and the Politics of Viewing: Theatre Challenges in the Age of Globalized Communities” was
organized by the Dpt. of American Literature and Culture, School of English of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, in co-operation with the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS), in 18-20 April, 2013. This big event attracted a large number of scholars from the domestic and international scene (Australia, Brazil, Canada, Europe, India, U.S.) offering its audience an interesting diversity of papers and perspectives. Members of the organizing committee were: Savvas Patsalidis (Professor), Zoe Detsi (Associate Professor), Maria Ristani (Ph.D.) Elena Delliou (Ph.D. Candidate), Virginia Dakari (Ph.D. Candidate).

3. A special creative event was organized on February 1st, 2013, so as to launch the opening of the exhibition of the Athens team of the project “Urban Environments in Transition.” The creative event that included readings, poems and performance was organized by Liana Sakelliou (Professor) and Konstantinos Blatanis (Lecturer) – Faculty of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens – as well as by a number of twelve undergraduates, Ph.D. Candidates and graduates of the same School and University. The exhibition was curated by Kamilo Nollas (photographer).

4. An exhibition as part of the same project (“Urban Environments in Transition”) was organized in Thessaloniki as well. The exhibition opening took place on Jan. 22nd, 2013, in Sotos Art Space and featured the artwork of the Thessaloniki-based part of the student team. A number of twelve students (undergraduates, postgraduates and graduates) from School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki participated in the event with an array of artworks focusing on photo collages and narratives, video and sound narratives, artist’s books, creative writing, wired sculptures and text, TV narratives. The exhibition was curated by Theodoris Zafeiropoulos (visual artist).

5. A symposium was also held on Jan. 25th, 2013, with the title “Urban Environments in Transition” at the Museum of Byzantine Culture in Thessaloniki hosting as speakers all the members of the project team: Konstantinos Blatanis and Liana Sakelliou (Faculty of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); Zoe Detsi, Yiorgos Kalogeras, Youli Theodosiadou (School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki); Sakis Serefas (Writer and Translator); Kamilo Nollas (Photographer); Sotos Zachariadis (Visual Artist); Theodoros Zafeiropoulos (Visual Artist and Ph.D. candidate at Department of Architecture, University of Thessaly); Maria Chatzidimou, Evaggelia-Evormorfia Giourouki, Stergios Goutsidis, Vasilis Harisis, Zafiroula Kavadia, Evgenia Kleidona, Lizzy Pournara, Zoi Rapti, Eirini Saridaki, Zoi Tsivilitidou, Dimitra Triantafyllidou, Stavroula Vergopoulou (undergraduates, postgraduates and graduates of School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki); Tasoula Asimakopoulou, Anastasia Kapetanou, Alice Loupou, Lamprini Michou, Polytime Mitsakou, Maria Nikolopoulou, Sofia Salta, Angeliki Tseti, Katerina Vgena, Maria Zygogianni (Faculty of English Language and
Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens); Tatiani Rapatzikou (project designer and coordinator; School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki). The symposium was open to the public. All three events listed (3, 4, 5) were materialized due to the Alumni Engagement Innovation Fund competition that took place in the U.S. in Spring 2012 with the participation of the Fulbright Foundation in Greece and the support of the Educational and Cultural Affairs Bureau in the U.S.

The online platform of the project will soon become available containing all the material that was compiled and designed during the project (interviews, short responses, creative writing, multimodal narratives). A great number of artists, architects, Fulbright alumna, Primary and Secondary education teachers and pupils, NGO representatives participated in the project. More information will be sent to you in early Fall 2013.

NEW HELAAS MEMBERS

We would like to welcome the following new members to our association:

Anna Fyta: Her research interests include American Modernism, Feminism, Reception, Modern Drama. She is a currently a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of Philology, University of Ioannina, Greece.

Thomas Mantzaris: His research interests include contemporary American fiction, postcolonial studies, transmedia narratology. He is now a Ph.D. Candidate at the Department of American Literature and Culture, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece.

Michail Zontos: His research interests include American intellectual history, Progressive Era, the West, American foreign policy, International Relations. He is currently a Ph.D. Candidate at Utrecht University, The Netherlands.
Η Ελληνική Εταιρεία Αμερικανικών Σπουδών διοργανώνει στις 29-30 Νοεμβρίου 2013 δι-ήμεριδα αυτή αποσκοπεί στη διεπιστημονική προσέγγιση της «αμερικανικής γεωγραφίας» όπως αυτή διαγράφεται μέσα από τη λογοτεχνία, κινηματογράφο, θέατρο, μουσική, χορό, σκηνοθεσία, τηλεόραση, πολιτική, ιστορία κ.ά. στο πλαίσιο των Αμερικανικών Σπουδών, ιδιαίτερη έμφαση θα δοθεί στις συγκριτικές προσεγγίσεις της ελληνικής και αμερικανικής πολιτισμικής παραγωγής.

Η εκδήλωση αυτή απευθύνεται κατά κύριο λόγο στα μέλη της Εταιρείας τα οποία προσκαλούνται να συμμετέχουν με παρουσιάσεις από το ερευνητικό τους έργο.

Η επίσημη γλώσσα του συμποσίου είναι η ελληνική.

Όσοι ενδιαφέρονται, παρακαλούμε στείλτε τίτλο, σύντομη περιγραφή (300 λέξεις) και σύντομο βιογραφικό σας μέχρι 31 Αυγούστου 2013. Ειδοποίηση σχετικά με την αποδοχή των ανακοινώσεων που θα παρουσιαστούν στην ημερίδα θα σταλεί μέχρι τις 15 Σεπτεμβρίου 2013.

Μετά την αποκλήρωση της ημερίδας οι συμμετέχοντες θα λάβουν πληρωφορίες σχετικά με την επιλογή κειμένων με σκοπό τη δημοσίευσή τους σε τόμο.

Η Οργανωτική Επιτροπή
Τατιανή Γ. Ραπατζίκου
Επίκουρη Καθηγήτρια, Α.Π.Θ.
trapatz@enl.auth.gr

Σμάτη Γεμενετζή-Μαλαθούνη,
Αναπληρώτρια Καθηγήτρια, Α.Π.Θ.
yemene@enl.auth.gr
The paradox inherent in the United States’ commitment to the values of justice, liberty, and democracy on the one hand, and the often unforeseen and problematic results of enforcing and/or imposing these values on the other, has shaped the nation’s history domestically as well as internationally since independence.

At a domestic level, the U.S. was one of the first nations in modern history to establish a democratic and egalitarian form of government based on the Enlightenment principles of equality, political and civil liberties, and freedom of speech. At the same time, many of these principles have had different meanings for different groups within the U.S. throughout its history, and have repeatedly led to violent internal racial, ethnic, gender, and class conflicts.

In the arena of foreign policy Theodore Roosevelt’s “Corollary to the Monroe Doctrine” (1904), for example, officially consolidated the role of the U.S. as an “international police power,” prepared to intervene “in flagrant cases of . . . wrongdoings.” This set the
stage for a wide range of interventions, including those in Latin America and, more recently, the Middle East, whose transgressive nature has since met with harsh criticism. Yet the U.S. engagement in Europe during and after WWII has equally thrown into relief the nation’s crucial role as liberator and international promoter of justice and democracy.

The EAAS 2014 conference on “America: Justice, Conflict, War” will be hosted in The Hague (The Netherlands), the “City of Peace and Justice” that is home to the International Criminal Court as well as the International Court of Justice. Bringing Americanists from across Europe and across the globe to this location highlights the fact that many of the challenges facing the U.S. today increasingly tend to be, as Madeleine Albright has remarked in a recent interview, reflections of complexly interrelated problems of global justice and international peace diplomacy that transcend the boundaries of individual nation states and render the importance of international cooperation more crucial than ever.

We invite workshops that address the topics of justice, conflict, war, from the perspective of any of the disciplines within American Studies. Potential workshop themes may include but are not restricted to: questions of justice, domestic conflicts or international wars from the (pre-)colonial times to the present, including relations to Native Americans, slave revolts, race, class, gender and religious conflicts; conflicts between labor and capital, WWI and II, the Cold War, Vietnam, the First Gulf War, Afghanistan, 9/11, Iraq, the war on terror, and the war on drugs; violent responses to immigration and the militarization of the U.S.-Mexico border; the past / present role of the U.S. in the international community (UN, International Court of Justice, International Criminal Court, NATO); representations of justice, conflict, war in literature, film, and other media; war as cultural misunderstanding; war trauma, etc.

**Deadlines:**
**October 1, 2013:** Workshop paper proposals (one-page abstract [no more than 500 words] and one-paragraph bios) to be sent to both Workshop Chairs.
**October 15, 2013:** Deadline for workshop chairs to inform accepted speakers and send the tentative list of speakers and titles of workshop papers to the EAAS Secretary-General.
**November 15, 2013:** Deadline for workshop speakers in need of an EAAS Conference Grant [please insert a link to the information sheet here, Jacques] to submit applications electronically to the Vice-President, Professor Meldan Tanrisal (vice-president@eaas.eu).
**December 15, 2013:** Successful EAAS Conference Grant applicants will be notified and should promptly (and no later than December 31) confirm their attendance with their workshop chairs.
**January 15, 2014:** Deadline for submitting FINAL titles of papers and names and addresses of confirmed speakers to the conference organizers.
**February 3, 2014:** Deadline for information to be included in the 2014 biennial conference program.
**[April 3-6, 2014]:** EAAS Conference takes place in The Hague
April 20, 2014 (two weeks after end of conference): Deadline for chair 1 to send titles of two papers proposed for possible inclusion in conference volume (with speaker details) to Secretary-General.

April 20, 2014 (two weeks after end of conference): Deadline for chair 2 to send 500-word workshop report to the EAAS Secretary General, Gert Buelens, at secretary-general@eaas.eu.

Registration fees:

EAAS member € 140; late € 160; one day € 80
Non-member € 160; late € 180; one day € 90
Student member € 70; late € 80; one day € 40
Student non-member € 85; late € 100; one day € 50
Gala dinner € 70
Registration fees include: Participation in all workshop sessions and plenary lectures, two receptions, conference packet, coffee/tea

Please find information about each one of the workshops to be offered in the attached PDF file.

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GRANTS FOR EAAS CONFERENCE

EAAS grants to enable attendance at the biennial EAAS conference

At its Moscow meeting, the EAAS Board decided to earmark a special conference travel fund within the EAAS budget for the purpose of supporting speakers at the biennial EAAS conference. This opportunity is to be advertised as part of the CFP for the conference.

- applications must be submitted electronically to the EAAS Vice-President, Professor Meldan Tanrisal (vice-president@eaas.eu), by November 15, 2013;
- applicants can apply for a maximum of €500, to cover travel and/or accommodation and/or meals;
- applications should include a letter of acceptance of the paper from the organizers; a copy of the paper abstract; a budget covering the planned attendance (travel, accommodation, meals);
- special consideration will be given to early-career scholars and scholars from countries with a nominal GDP of less than 30,000 USD per capita (according to the most recent IMF list);
- successful applicants will be notified by December 15, 2013 and should then promptly (and no later than December 31) confirm their attendance with their workshop chairs (who need to finalize the workshop program by January 15);
• successful applicants should submit original receipts for all expenses to be covered by the grant to the EAAS Treasurer within two months of the conference travel (by June 1, 2014):

Professor Adina Ciugureanu  
Department of English and American Studies,  
Ovidius University Constanta, Aleea Universitatii 1 (Campus), 900472,  
Constanta, Romania  
E-mail: treasurer@eaas.eu

The Vice-President will liaise with the other EAAS Officers to administer this conference travel grant programme, and will report to and advise the Board on the progress of the programme and on its possible continuance beyond the 2014 conference.

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CALL FOR MANUSCRIPT SUBMISSIONS

EAAS 2013 Rob Kroes Publication Award  
Call for Manuscript Submissions

The European Association for American Studies invites submissions for its biennial Rob Kroes Publication Award for an unpublished book-length manuscript. 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, where the EAAS Biennial Conference volumes appeared from 1980 to 2006.

The competition is open to all members of the twenty-two national and joint-national American Studies organizations in EAAS (see http://www.eaas.eu/about-eaas/constituent-members).

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 opportunity. 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 in the
series European Views of the United States (Universitätsverlag Winter, Heidelberg) at no cost to the author. The author will be expected to provide the publisher with a camera-ready manuscript or PDF file. Manuscript guidelines are available upon request.

Submission instructions:
Please submit a pdf-version of your manuscript, with the brief essay, to the EAAS Secretary-General, Professor Gert Buelens: secretary-general@eaas.eu
Deadline: 15 September 2013

For information you can also visit the website:

http://www.eaas.eu/eaas-grants/rob-kroes-publication-award

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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>

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HELAAS SUBSCRIPTIONS

Your 2013 Fee is now due.

You are kindly requested to update your Helaas Membership Fee for 2013.

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: 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 2012 and HELAAS 2013 subscription fee:

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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>