

Spring/Summer 2014



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

**In this Issue:**

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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 2012-2014**

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### **TREASURER:**

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### **MEMBER:**

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## EDITORIAL

Dear HELAAS members,

Another busy but creative academic year is gradually coming to an end. On this occasion I'd like to wish you all on behalf of the members of the board a relaxing but also rejuvenating summer break.

These last few months many important endeavors, as regards the stature of our association, have been completed and new paths have been paved thanks to all your continuing support.

The EAAS international conference that was held in The Hague, Netherlands, between 3-6 April 2014 brought together an array of very insightful papers and keynote presentations under the umbrella theme of "America: Justice, Conflict, War." The next international conference will be held in Bucharest in 2016. More information will be made available in due course.

As regards the EAAS board, HELAAS is officially participating in it for the next two-year period (2014-16) via the Sec.-General position. The hand over process took place in late June 2014. The EAAS Vice-President position has also been renewed with Pawel Frelik from PAAS (Polish Association for American Studies).

I'd also like to share with you the news of the approval in late June 2014 of the updated HELAAS charter document. The new articles that have been added provide the legal support our association needs for all its formal online activities (Skype participation of members in HELAAS general assembly meetings, online opinion polls for new activities etc.) as well as the framework for supporting HELAAS-members group initiatives.

As for our new HELAAS academic journal, all moves according to plan. This publication will be hosted by the open source journal platform of Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. Our journal, with the title **EXCENTRIC NARRATIVES: JOURNAL OF LITERATURE, CULTURE AND MEDIA**, will be hosting peer-reviewed academic articles in English on an annual basis under a particular theme and guest editorship. The first issue will contain papers from our international conference to take place in Athens in November.

This exciting event will be hosted by the Faculty of English Language and Literature in National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, between 27-29 November 2014. Our heartfelt thanks go to the members of the organizing committee for all their efforts as regards its organization. We're hoping to see most of you there!!

As for our next General Assembly meeting, this is going to take place in early Fall 2014. You'll receive an email invitation about it in September 2014. We look forward to discussing with you our ideas as well as hearing your opinion about strengthening the bonds between HELAAS and the community.

*\*\* Sending you our warmest wishes till we all meet again \*\**

Tatiani Rapatzikou, *President of the HELAAS Board*

## MEMBERS' CORNER

In this section please find information about our member publications, projects, conference participations and awards:

### GRANTS

Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou, Graduate Student at the School of English at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, won the Young Scholar Excellence Award, awarded by MESEA for her paper "Post-Ethnic Virtual Reality in William Gibson's *Burning Chrome: Savage Hybrids Wandering Cyber-Borderlands*," presented at the Ninth Biennial MESEA Conference, May 29-June 1, 2014, Universität des Saarlandes, Saarbrücken, Germany.

Aikaterini Delikonstantinidou has been selected as assistant editor for the forthcoming 2015 issue of *Gramma/Γράμμα: Journal of Theory and Criticism*.

Delikonstantinidou, Aikaterini. "Body Staging(s) on the Margins of Feminist Politics and the Avant-garde: Re-viewing Carolee Schneemann and Karen Finley." *American International Journal of Contemporary Research, AIJCR*, 4, (2014): 150-58. [http://www.aijcrnet.com/journals/Vol\\_4\\_No\\_4\\_April\\_2014/19.pdf](http://www.aijcrnet.com/journals/Vol_4_No_4_April_2014/19.pdf).



### PUBLICATIONS

Adrienne Kalfopoulou, *Ruin, Essays in Exilic Living* (Red Hen Press, forthcoming September 2014). One of the essays in the collection, "With my Daughter, Hannah Arendt, and the City of Futures" won a Notable Essay of the Year award from Best of American Essays 2013.

The essays in *Ruin* link meditations on teaching, friendship, motherhood, love, the financial meltdown in Greece, the shared language of politics and advertising, Occupy Wall Street, and the Parthenon Marbles into a relentless interrogation of identity and loss. Kalfopoulou's Athens and New York are twinned sites of perpetual dislocation, palimpsests of political, economic, cultural – and personal – crisis. The refugee, the immigrant, the fragmented "I" charted in these essays – all are studies in exilic living, pilgrims wandering the wreckage of late capitalism.



Feleki, Despina. "Popular Authorship Reconfigured: Stephen King's Authorial Personae from Print to Digital Environments." Special Issue. *Authorship Journal* (University of Gent, March 2014) <http://www.authorship.ugent.be/article/view/1071>

This paper foregrounds those contemporary sociocultural conditions that have reconfigured authorship in relation to the materiality of the product through the

example of Stephen King's writing and marketing choices. An investigation of selected printed and digital works, including *Misery*, *Lisey's Story*, *Duma's Key*, and *UR*, showcases King's concern for the future of authorship in the digital age and the position of the writer in the book and entertainment industries. This article seeks to trace the trajectory of the concept of the author who is seen moving from print to digital environments and being entangled in new forms of communication with the reader.

Feleki, Despina. The second one is a contribution to the 5th volume of the electronic Journal *Writing Technologies* of the Nottingham Trent University out in Winter 2013 and available at [http://www.ntu.ac.uk/writing\\_technologies/current\\_journal/156916.pdf](http://www.ntu.ac.uk/writing_technologies/current_journal/156916.pdf).

This essay takes as its subject the intersection of various artistic modes and writing practices as an outcome of the more general turn to digitality in the creation of contemporary popular fiction writing. It aims to present Stephen King's *Discordia*, the 3D online interactive electronic experience that is based on the printed *Dark Tower* series, as an instance of trans-media storytelling. In this endeavor, I study the contributions of the technologies of film-making and video gaming for the completion of an immense project while testing each genre's potential and limitations.



### EDUCATIONAL INITIATIVES

Kouveliotis, Kyriakos. Opening on-line education: The institutional model of a Global Degree, Track: Open Policy, OER: Alternative forms of Assessment and Accreditation, OCWC GLOBAL CONFERENCE, Open Education for a Multicultural World, LJUBLIANA, SLOVENIA, April 23, 2014.

Kouveliotis, Kyriakos. "A Survey into the Relevant Theoretical Approaches Applied in the Study of European Tourism Policy-Making Process." *International Journal of Applied Sciences in Tourism*. Volume 01 (2014).



### NEW HELAAS MEMBERS

We would like to welcome Makrina Chrisopoulou, Elisavet Ktenidou, and Nikos Kontos our new HELAAS members:

Makrina Chrisopoulou is a Ph.D. Candidate in Department of American Literature, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. She received her BA in 2004 and her MA in American Literature and Culture from the same faculty in 2007. She has participated in European training programs and has worked voluntarily for non-profit organizations. She is currently working as a state School teacher. Her academic interests broadly include ethnic studies. Her Ph.D. research focuses on Native American autobiographies

Elisavet Ktenidou graduated from the School of English Language and Literature at Aristotle University of Thessaloniki in 2011. She completed her MA in American Studies at the University of East Anglia, UK, on a double scholarship, from the Arthur Miller School and the School of American Studies. She pursued a second MA in International Relations at the University of Macedonia, Greece, specializing in Diplomacy and European Studies. Elisavet has also completed a four-month-long internship at the Consulate General of the United States in Thessaloniki.

Nikos Kontos is Lecturer in Translation and Culture Studies at the School of English, Aristotle University, Thessaloniki, Greece. He holds a BA in Rhetoric from the University of California, Berkeley; an MA in Comparative Literature from San Francisco State University; and a Ph.D. in Theoretical and Applied Linguistics from Aristotle University of Thessaloniki. His Ph.D. thesis titled “Thematization and Information Dynamics in Translation” (1990) was a dissertation on the syntactic and stylistic problems of translating Greek literary texts into English. He teaches courses in Rhetoric, Semiotics, Popular and Visual Culture. His publications have reflected his teaching areas and special interests.



## **EAAS BOOK PUBLICATIONS**

The EAAS book series with the title “European Views of the United States” is hosted by Universitätsverlag WINTER Heidelberg. All recent book titles appear both in hard copy and e-book format.

The latest publication with the title *Health of the Nation* edited by Meldan Tanrisal and Tanfer Emin Tunc was published earlier this year. It contains 19 essays that approach the theme title from an interdisciplinary and transatlantic point of view.

For more information about the particular book title and the book series please check the link below.

European Views of the United States link:

**[http://www.winterverlag.de/en/programm/buchreihen/anglistik\\_amerikanistik/r\\_eihe129/Europ\\_Views\\_of\\_the\\_United\\_States/alle/](http://www.winterverlag.de/en/programm/buchreihen/anglistik_amerikanistik/r_eihe129/Europ_Views_of_the_United_States/alle/)**



## **HELAAS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE**

**Faculty of English Language and Literature  
National and Kapodistrian University of Athens  
&  
Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS)**

International Conference

**The War on the Human:  
Human as Right, Human as Limit and the Task of the Humanities**

**Athens, 27-29 November 2014**

***Keynote Speakers:***

**Professor Christopher Bigsby**, University of East Anglia  
**Professor Stathis Gourouris**, Columbia University

The Faculty of English Language and Literature, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens, Greece in cooperation with the Hellenic Association for American Studies (HELAAS), invites scholars to submit proposals for the international conference to be held in Athens between 27-29 November 2014.

What is “human” in the twenty-first century? On what grounds and to what end is the very validity of the term “human” questioned and challenged at present? The resilience of the perspectives shaped through the antihumanist and poststructuralist discourses as well as the versatility of currently emerging interdisciplinary gnoseologies identified as posthumanism constitute parameters which testify, first and foremost, the complexity and urgency of the issue. Taking the lead from Edward Said and heeding closely to his vehement and persistent call for a dynamic reaction to the contemporary phenomenon of “forgetting the human”—blatantly manifested in the continuous growth of racist, sexist, economic, cultural, and all other discriminatory practices—, this international conference aspires to bring into focus the imperative that the human is essentially redefined and unremittingly reclaimed as “anthropos,” i.e. an uneven, complex, and differential being. This is a scope of interest which instructively emphasizes the task of the humanities for the present moment; a historical juncture of intense and consequential precariousness on literally all levels.

The vast and ever-growing number of exiles, refugees, and immigrants, the increasing number of citizens losing basic labor rights, the marginalization of the poor, the economic and political impoverishment of citizens of the industrialized societies, the onslaught of neoliberal practices against democratic rights, the rise of fascism, are some of the preminent characteristics of the current economic, cultural and political crisis that make the focus of the humanities on the human and the articulation and examination of her/his differential and uneven temporality more timely than ever.

Topics for panels and individual papers might include but are by no means limited to the following:

- Antihumanism, Poststructuralism and Posthumanism:  
Seeking New Genealogies, New Archaeologies
- Literary Reconfigurations of the Human: Dominant and Alternative Perspectives
- Human Rights/ Human Limits and Multicultural Translations
- Human Rights/ Human Boundaries and Strategies of Containment:  
Literary Responses
- Radical Narratives on / of the Human
- Posthumanist Ethics and Ecocriticism in Literature and the Arts
- Representations / Assessments of Biopolitical Violence
- Literary Insights into Austerity Politics and Democratic Rights
- Theoretical and Historical Perspectives on Neoliberal Appropriations of the Human

**Deadline for abstract/panel submissions: 1 June 2014**

(Abstract: 250-300 words followed by a paragraph-long bio)

For any inquiries and abstract/panel submissions, please send your email to the members of the organizing committee.

**Organizing committee:**

Dr. Theodora Tsimpouki, Professor, Faculty of English Language and Literature,  
University of Athens email: [tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr)

Dr. Asimina Karavanta, Assistant Professor, Faculty of English Language and  
Literature, University of Athens email: [akarav@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:akarav@enl.uoa.gr)

Dr. Konstantinos Blatanis, Lecturer, Faculty of English Language and Literature,  
University of Athens email: [kblatanis@enl.uoa.gr](mailto:kblatanis@enl.uoa.gr)



## OTHER CALLS FOR PAPERS

### **CFP: BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR AMERICAN STUDIES POSTGRADUATE CONFERENCE**

#### **Protest: Resistance and Dissent in America**

BAAS Postgraduate Conference, Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> November 2013

**University of Sussex**

Keynote speakers:

Professor Will Kaufman (University of Central Lancashire)

Dr. Joe Street (University of Northumbria)

In *Notes of a Native Son*, James Baldwin wrote: “I love America more than any other country in the world and, exactly for this reason, I insist on the right to criticize her perpetually.” Baldwin’s words encapsulate the tension between patriotism and resistance that permeates American history and culture, and they also hint at the blurred boundary between words of criticism and acts of disobedience. Protest has taken both public form, in a history of marches and demonstrations, but has also occupied private, silent, or imaginative spaces. It has been embodied in the American Revolution, and the Occupy Wall Street campaign, but is also present in the African American oral tradition, or the songs of protest against the Vietnam War. This conference aims to explore the sites of resistance that have shaped the country, to consider the question of how we might define American protest, and to ask whether dissent can be reconciled with nationalism.

This is a one-day interdisciplinary conference for postgraduate students with an interest in American studies, from a variety of disciplines including; history, literature, politics, gender and sexuality studies, law, music, media studies, critical theory, and cultural studies. We would like to invite proposals for a 20-minute presentation on a topic that relates to our theme. This might include, but is not restricted to, the following:

- Patriotism and disobedience
- Religious dissent and non-conformism
- Non-violent versus violent activism
- Newspaper coverage of political demonstrations
- Gender, sexuality and activism
- The art of the placard and/or the protest poster
- Underground or covert resistance
- Protest and disability
- Cultures of protest
- Protest literature
- American Protest music

Please email an abstract of 250-300 words to [protestinamerica@gmail.com](mailto:protestinamerica@gmail.com). All submissions should include your name, institution, email address, a short profile, and the title of your proposed paper. **The deadline for submissions is 1<sup>st</sup> September 2014.**

Enabled by the generous support of the British Association for American Studies, the organising committee will be charging a minimal fee of £10 for attendance, in order to

keep costs low for postgraduate attendees.

For further information on the conference, please follow us on Twitter (@ProtestinAm), Facebook (<https://www.facebook.com/ProtestinAmerica>), and visit our web site at [www.protestinamerica.wordpress.com](http://www.protestinamerica.wordpress.com).



## **CFP: SOCIETY FOR THE STUDY OF AMERICAN WOMEN WRITERS TRIENNIAL CONFERENCE**

Sheraton Society Hill, Philadelphia, PA

Call for Proposals

Due Date: Tuesday, February 13, 2015 for all proposals.

For the 2015 Triennial Conference of the Society for the Study of American Women Writers, the conference organizers welcome proposals on any topic related to the study of American women writers, broadly conceived. The strength of the society is rooted in the dynamic ideas and research accomplishments of its members, which the 2015 conference continues to facilitate and honor. As in the past, however, we would also like to take the opportunity that the conference affords to create discussions and conversations around a shared theme, which we have designated as

### **Liminal Spaces, Hybrid Lives.**

The terms liminality and hybridity are most familiar in post-colonial contexts; however, they suggest critical concepts that draw on multiple disciplines and privilege inclusion. Often informed by notions of crossing, intersectionality, transition, and transformation, these terms contest exclusionary practices involving class, ethnicity, gender, race, religion, and sex, among other variables. The word “limen,” from which liminality derives, designates threshold. The threshold functions simultaneously as both an obstructive barrier and an enticing opening for the entry into unknown, perhaps unknowable states that invite exploration. Both spatial and temporal, the liminal is a site of in-betweenness enabling non-normative perspectives. It is a site where difference becomes encounter as well as a location that resists assimilation while simultaneously allowing for the dynamic possibilities of fusion that hybridity embraces and articulates.

With the theme of “Liminal Spaces, Hybrid Lives,” the 2015 Triennial SSAWW Conference aims to celebrate the multiplicity of American women’s writing across a longstanding literary tradition that continues to be dynamic in contemporary times. The conference theme of liminality and hybridity, and the wide range of implications and meanings that these expansive concepts imply, will facilitate a process of encounters, engagements, and conversations within, between, among, and across the rich polyphony that constitutes the creative acts of American women. Thus, through a focus on liminality and hybridity, the 2015 SSAWW conference hopes to present the varied ways in which women, as critics, dramatists, educators, essayists, journalists, oral storytellers, poets, novelists, short story writers, and practitioners of both older and emerging forms, invent

and reinvent the American literary and cultural landscape.

Possible topics involving the conference themes may include but are not limited to such keywords and ideas as:

Alienation and/or disillusionment as states of in-betweenness  
Borders and peripheries  
Boundaries between/within the built environment and/or the natural environment  
Child, adult and blurring boundaries  
Collaboration  
Crossings  
Cross-species encounters: human and animal relationships  
Horizontal and/or vertical paradigms of social constructs  
The hyphen  
In between public and private or the semi-private, the semi-public  
In between resilience and vulnerability  
Historical constructions of space, place, home  
Liminal spaces in the home  
Immigration and/or citizenship  
Inside and outside—the academy, the canon, etc.  
Leadership from, on, within the margins  
The mainstream and/or the subversive  
The margin and/or the center  
Mutations  
Obscurity and celebrity  
Outliers  
Porosity  
Pressures of normalization  
Technology and the human  
Transatlantic  
Transcontinental  
Transgender  
Transgressions

The conference organizers welcome and encourage complete session submissions as well as individual paper abstract submissions. The cfp for complete panel submissions can be posted on the SSAWW website in addition to other venues of your choice. For posting on the SSAWW website, please send cfp to: [ssaww2015.web@gmail.com](mailto:ssaww2015.web@gmail.com).

Please direct questions about the conference to: [ssaww2015.query@gmail.com](mailto:ssaww2015.query@gmail.com)

Submissions are electronic: [ssaww2015.submit@gmail.com](mailto:ssaww2015.submit@gmail.com)

Please see full submission guidelines and panel cfps on the SSAWW website: <http://ssawwnew.wordpress.com/>

We look to the 2015 conference to carry forward past achievements, and to create present and future opportunities for the growth of the Society and all its members with the understanding that inclusivity, in all its forms, intellectual rigor, and supportive outlooks are the responsibility of the entire membership. We look forward to hearing from you and receiving your submissions.

Conference Organizers:

Rita Bode (**[rbode@trentu.ca](mailto:rbode@trentu.ca)**), VP of Organizational Matters and Conference Director

Dick Ellis (**[r.j.ellis@birmingham.ac.uk](mailto:r.j.ellis@birmingham.ac.uk)**), President

Beth L. Lueck (**[lueckb@uww.edu](mailto:lueckb@uww.edu)**), Associate Conference Director

Miranda Green-Barteet (**[mgreenb6@uwo.ca](mailto:mgreenb6@uwo.ca)**), Conference Program Coordinator

Leslie Allison (**[leslie.allison@temple.edu](mailto:leslie.allison@temple.edu)**), Conference Grad Assistant

Martha Pitts (**[marthab.pitts@gmail.com](mailto:marthab.pitts@gmail.com)**), Conference Grad Assistant



## **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 2014 Fee is now due.**

You are kindly requested to update your **Helaas Membership Fee for 2014.**

**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](http://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 2013 and HELAAS 2014 subscription fee:

**PIRAEUS BANK, Account Number: 5272-056406-113**

**BIC: PIRBGRAA**

**IBAN: GR28 0172 2720 0052 7205 6406 113**

**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)>

