Fall / Winter 2010

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

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PRESIDENT:
Smatie Yemenetzi-Malathouni, Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University Campus, 541 24, Thessaloniki, Greece, e-mail: <yemene@enl.auth.gr>

VICE-PRESIDENT:
Theodora Tsimpouki, University of Athens, Faculty of English Studies, School of Philosophy, University Campus Zografou, 157 84, Athens, Greece, e-mail: <tsimpouki@enl.uoa.gr>

**SECRETARY:
Vassilis Manoussakis, Department of Philology – Department of History, Archaeology and Culture Heritage Management, School of Philosophy, University of Peloponnese, University Campus, 24 100 Kalamata, Greece, e-mail: <vman2007@ath.forthnet.gr>

TREASURER:
Tatiani Rapatzikou, Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, University Campus, 541 24 Thessaloniki, Greece, e-mail: <trapatz@enl.auth.gr>

MEMBER:
Helena Maragou, The American College of Greece, Deree College, School of Arts and Sciences, Department of English and Languages, 6 Gravias Street, 15342 Aghia Paraskevi, Athens, Greece, e-mail: <maragou@acg.edu>

**NOTE: Due to the resignation of the HELAAS Secretary, please forward your emails to Tatiani Rapatzikou.
Dear HELAAS members,

Here we are again at the end of a calendar year which has given us a lot of issues to think about and has prompted new adjustments to our lives. Due to the new situation created, HELAAS board moved very cautiously and temporarily suspended some of its activities. But as of 2011, we are going to resume all of them, starting with a Symposium planned on May 20, 2011 despite the sparse funding. The title of this symposium is «Απεικονίσεις της Αμερικής» and it will take place in Thessaloniki. The language of the symposium will be Greek as the activity falls within the efforts of the Hellenic Association to make its presence better felt in the cultural life of the Greek public. An international Conference has also been scheduled either at the end of 2011 or the beginning of 2012. We will send you a CFP and a final date soon after the Christmas break.

There have been some significant events during the past year, and you can read about them in the following pages of the Newsletter: the construction of the American Studies Resource Portal which was launched in May 2010, the publication of a volume of selected papers from the last HELAAS symposium organized in Athens, poetry collections and books published by HELAAS members. I am sure that there have been many other events which we have not been informed about or we may have missed. So, please, do let us know, if an event you’ve been involved with has taken place, and write a few words about it so as to give us the opportunity to advertise it in the forthcoming Newsletter. The HELAAS board considers this very important as it will bring members closer and it will encourage closer cooperation of people and departments.

After all, our membership is continuously increasing thanks to the tireless efforts of our treasurer officer, Tatiani Rapatzikou, who has been keeping in touch with all of you. As HELAAS is not funded by any domestic or other source, its members’ contributions are its only income; so please keep your membership renewed.
Despite all odds, our member numbers have slightly increased, despite resignations and retirements, thanks to Tatiani whom we thank for her concern for the association. The new members have been recruited among graduate and PhD students, and we would like to ask you to encourage your graduate and PhD students to join HELAAS; recruitment of new members among the new generation of Americanists is absolutely vital for our association.

Due to the scarcity of funds, we find it very difficult to publish HELAAS books on our own. As a result we have sought the help of the publishers’ market—which is not an easy task; but thanks to the efforts of Dora Tsimpouki and Helena Maragou we have had a brand new volume of selected papers—most of them from our last symposium—published by Metaixmio (read about it in the Members’ Corner). Thank you Dora and Helena.

HELAAS secretary, Vassilis Manoussakis, has resigned from his post in the board for very serious personal reasons. He will continue being a member of that board, though. Our thanks for the work he has put in the association all these years. Tatiani Rapatzikou has offered to take over and she will certainly be assisted by all of us. Thank you, Tatiani.

This coming year, besides the events already planned, the Board will attempt the construction of an electronic HELAAS journal, in the example of all other Associations of American Studies in Europe. In order to do so we need the support of all of you, either as contributors or advisory board or editorial board.

As far as EAAS and its board meetings in Dublin last March are concerned, the main event has been the election of Meldan Tanrisal, the Turkish representative in EAAS, to the post of the vice-president which had been empty for quite some time after the resignation of Martin Heusser for serious health reasons.

The articles of the new EAAS By-Laws was voted by all members of the EAAS board and it will be official as soon as some pending tax issues are worked out.

The EAAS conference in Dublin last March proved to be a successful one and five members from the Hellenic Association either read very interesting and thought-provoking papers or presided conference panels.

The next EAAS conference will take place in Izmir on March 30 – April 2, 2012. The title is “The Health of the Nation” and the deadline for submission of workshop proposals is January 30, 2011. Greek representation in all biennial EAAS conferences has been
significant and HELAAS members are invited to submit proposals and abstracts on topics related to their fields of research, especially since this time the conference will be housed in a neighboring city. Please remember to visit the EAAS site as you will find interesting information there concerning conferences, grants, programs, travel expenses, book awards etc, for both present and future academics (http://www.eaas.eu).

Looking forward to your co-operation and active involvement in the HELAAS activities.

On behalf of the HELAAS board I wish you all Merry Christmas and a constructive and prosperous New Year, full of good health and happiness

Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni
MEMBERS’ CORNER

We would like to welcome you to our association’s new feature. This corner will include information about our member publications (not necessarily pertaining to American Studies). Attention will be paid to the publication of poetry collections, books, essay collections and other either in English or Greek.

Here are a few titles:

**Η Δική μας Αμερική: Η Αμερικανική Κουλτούρα στην Ελλάδα**


Πόση η Αμερική επηρεάζει την ελληνική κουλτούρα; Με ποιους τρόπους η Ελλάδα αφομοιώνει, επεξεργάζεται και μετουσώνει την αμερικανική πολιτισμική επιρροή; Το βιβλίο εξετάζει την πολιτισμική σχέση Ελλάδας και Αμερικής, συνδιαζούντας διαφορετικές επιστημονικές προσέγγισες και επιδράζοντας στις πολλαπλές διαδικασίες μέσω των οποίων οι δύο κουλτούρες αλληλεργοφοδοτούνται και συνδιαλέγονται. Η διεξοδική ανάλυση των τρόπων με τους οποίους η Ελλάδα συναλλάσσεται με την αμερικανική κουλτούρα αποκαλύπτει όχι μόνο την αδιαφορητήτητα παρουσία της αμερικανικής πολιτισμικής επιρροής στη χώρα μας, αλλά και ότι αυτή εμπλουτίζει, αντί να υποσκάπτει και να περιορίζει, όπως πολλοί πιστεύουν, την πολιτισμική έκφραση των Ελλήνων. Στο βιβλίο περιέχονται κείμена συγγραφέων και ειδικών από τον χώρο της ιστορίας, της λογοτεχνίας, της εποχής των συγγραφέων και των μέσων μαζικής επικοινωνίας.

**Πορτρέτο Πριν το Σκοτάδι**


Ο κύκλος των ποιημάτων αποτελεί έναν φανταστικό διάλογο ανάμεσα στο Βρετανό ποιητή και συγγραφέα Edward James και την ιδιόρρυθμη Βιεννέζα χορεύτρια και σταρ της δεκαετίας του ’20 Tillie Losch.

**Ανδρό-γυνες Αναγνώσεις: Πέρσι Σέλλεϋ και Μαίρη Σέλλεϋ**


Ο Πέρσι Σέλλεϋ είναι ένας από τους σημαντικότερους ρομαντικούς ποιητές. Η έντονη προσωπικότητά του, η σκανδαλώδης ζωή του, ο ασυμβίβαστος ιδεαλισμός του, η αυστηρή κριτική του σε θέματα κοινωνικά, πολιτικά, θρησκευτικά, του χαρακτηρίστηκαν ως αμφιλεγόμενη φιγούρα της εποχής του και τον ανήγαγαν σε είδωλο για τις μεταγενέστερες γένες. Η Μαίρη Σέλλεϋ είναι συγγραφέας με ευρυτάτατο έργο που περιλαμβάνει μυθιστορήματα, διηγήματα, θεατρικά κείμενα, δοκίμια, βιογραφίες και ταξιδιωτικές εντυπώσεις. Το μυθιστόρημα ομοίο που
την έκανε διάσημη είναι το Φράνκενσταϊν. Οι δύο συγγραφείς συναντήθηκαν στα νεανικά τους χρόνια, ερωτεύτηκαν, παντρεύτηκαν και πέρασαν μαζί μια πολυτάραχη ζωή ως ανδρόγυνο. Ανάγοντας την κυριολεξία σε μεταφορά, το βιβλίο αυτό επιχειρεί μια σειρά από «ανδρό-γυνες αναγνώσεις» του έργου τους, δηλαδή προσεγγίσεις πάνω στη θεωρητική σχέση αρσενικο-θηλυκού και την πραγματιστική σχέση άνδρα-γυναίκας. Τα τρία κεφάλαια του βιβλίου αναφέρονται στο έργο του Σέλλεϋ και διερευνούν τη θηλυκή μορφή που κυριαρχεί στην ποίησή του σε μυθολογικό, ιστορικό, κοινωνικό και ψυχολογικό επίπεδο. Το τέταρτο κεφάλαιο μελετά το Φράνκενσταϊν της Μαίρης Σέλλεϋ (με τα μάτια της σύγχρονης ποιήτριας Λις Λόκχεντ). Η προμηθεική παρουσία που διατρέχει το έργο του ανδρόγυνου Πέρσυ και Μαίρης (Προμηθέας Αιώμονος vs. Φράνκενσταϊν; ή, ο σύγχρονος Προμηθέας) δεν αντιπαραθέτει μόνο την ανθρώπινη με τη γυναικεία γραφή, αλλά και μια ιδεαλιστική ουτοπία με τη δυστοπία του νέου τεχνολογικού κόσμου.

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Digital Media: The Culture of Spectacle and Sound [Greek Edition: Ψηφιακή Ψυχαγωγία: Παιχνίδια Υπολογιστών και Βιντεοπαιχνίδια]
This is a book that attempts to cast a sober look at the digital media and technologies that have reshaped the traditional forms of entertainment, cinema, television, radio, music and have introduced new forms like gaming and video art installations. The authors in this book examine the new cultural landscape that has been reshaped by the new media technologies and assess the transformation of the old media as they become more hybridic, versatile and interactive. Our notions and theories about mass media and culture seem to have become out-dated; it is high time our theories about art and culture were given a new start.

Translated from the Greek and Prefaced by Don Schofield. Athens: Ypsilon Books, 2010
This is a bilingual edition of a selection of Nikos Fokas’ poems translated from the Greek by Don Schofield who has also prefaced the volume. Fokas’ poetic sensibility, as Dimitris Houliarakis describes it, is comprised of details that portray “infinitesimal moments, imperceptible movements that you capture with the corner of the eye, words that don’t come out of the mouth though they are there on the tip of the tongue, half-lit faces and landscapes that remain motionless inside the strange decay and pervasive immobilization of time.” His themes, as Vangelis Hadzivasileiou identifies them, are “the mature rumination of childhood years, the triumph and fall of love and the erotic, the tyrannical insistence of memory, the human need for unity with the divine in the absence of the divine, [... social and political differences, but, above all, the gaping abyss and the unremitting void of human existence.”
CALL FOR PAPERS

American Pornographies: Consumerism, Sensationalism, and Voyeurism in a Global Context

Annual MA-Level Graduate Student Conference at American Studies Leipzig
Leipzig, 1-2 April 2011

Although conventionally associated with sexuality alone, ‘pornography’ is most productively understood more broadly as the often sensationalist commodification of individual acts and features. In this sense, it can serve as a prism, a new focalization, when scrutinizing recent changes in consumerist dynamics. In the realm of actual pornography, increasingly popular ‘porn 2.0’ portals like YouPorn now allow formerly ‘passive’ consumers to become ‘active’ producers through user-generated content, exemplifying a more general shift towards content production in consumer culture. Defining pornography more broadly, networks like Facebook can be similarly understood as commodifying (or ‘pornographying’) personal relationships by recasting them in the logic of voyeurism and exhibitionism. These are only some of the developments relevant to the study of the multidirectional, heterogeneous, and transnational field of consumerism, which can be revisited and investigated most productively with an interest in different notions of ‘pornography.’

The previously understudied and often silenced subject of pornography thus brings new impulses to the study of consumerism, particularly in light of the rising influence of globalization and the Internet. We therefore invite proposals that investigate the intricacies of pornography as well as those that frame ‘pornography’ in the broader context of consumerism and related notions like sensationalism, voyeurism, materialism, or exhibitionism. Accordingly, contributions could address questions such as: Which new challenges to the concept of pornography have arisen since feminism has complicated simplistic notions of pornography as always being oppressive? How has consumerism, in turn, reconfigured notions of gender, ‘race,’ and sexuality? How do shifting understandings of consumption create transnational and individual narratives or turn previously unidirectional phenomena like Americanization into reciprocal processes? In what ways is consumerism both vilified and cherished—in terms of individualism, modernization, social mobility, power dynamics, or materialist re-readings of the American Dream? In how far do terms like ‘food porn,’ ‘torture porn,’ and the ‘pornography of violence’ complicate understandings of ‘consuming,’ e.g., information, religion, and war through sensationalist depictions in the media and pop culture?

Calling for an interdisciplinary angle, we welcome contributions by MA-level students from literary and cultural studies, sociology, political science, history, minority studies, gender studies, media studies, and all other fields related to American studies. Proposals on pornography could focus, for instance, on political censorship of allegedly ‘obscene’ art, on how ‘queer’ pornographies differ in their depictions of gender or their projections of gazes, or on interracial constellations in pornography as a perpetuation of (stereotypical) cultural fantasies. We also encourage contributions that incorporate a broader understanding of ‘pornography.’ These papers could range, for example, from investigating the visual commodification of ideologies or bodies...
(e.g. in advertising) to discussing the ‘pornографication’ of the youth; from reading suburbia—both in fiction and as a social reality—as conformed, commodified living to looking at global affairs through the lens of ‘political pornography.’

As a platform to discuss the complexities of ‘pornography’ and consumerism within the wide spectrum of academic contexts, our conference invites all interested MA-level students. Please note that there will be no conference fee. Also, to encourage nationwide and international participation in our conference, we will be able to award several travel and accommodation grants to students in Europe, ranging from about 100€ to 250€.

Please submit your proposal (max. 300 words) for a 20-minute presentation with your name, current level of graduate study, affiliated university, and email address to asl-gradconference@uni-leipzig.de by January 6, 2011. We will notify all authors by January 17, 2011.

For further information, please refer to http://americanstudies.uni-leipzig.de/asl-gradconference2011 or contact us via email.

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The Third International Anniversary Conference

From Francis Bacon to William Golding: Utopias and Dystopias of Today and of Yore

October 20th – 23th 2011

The North University of Baia Mare, the Faculty of Letters, Department for Foreign Languages

We are celebrating 450 years since Francis Bacon’s birth, and 100 years since William Golding’s by launching an invitation to an interdisciplinary fathoming of the depths of the human attraction toward utopias and dystopias. Whether they use the Baconian method ‘invented’ by the 1st (and last) Viscount Saint Alban, or the allegorical treatment of places and characters of the British dystopian poet and novelist, there are hundreds of writers, poets, artists, philosophers and critics that have added new facets and interpretations to the dreams or nightmares of humanity concerning their social organization, political hazards, humanist and religious values, as well as future heavens or apocalypses.

From the New Atlantis to Oleanna, Shangri-La, Xanadu or Shambala, many such Arcadian sites have been imagined by humanity to place their utopian visions. Dystopias are envisaged horrid places of Amalgamation, of the human being living in
a Limbo, or in such places like Kazohinia, Kallocain, the future Zanzibar, the Metropole, the Terraplane, Metro 2033, or Grandoria. Since Foucault we also speak of Heterotopias, which are so fashionable in popular culture, especially with such complex and mixed symbols as those present in museums, theme parks, malls, holiday resorts, gated communities, wellness hotels and festival markets.... . Ecotopias, which started in the Hippie Movement with tones of primitivism and eco-anarchism are ‘sweetened’ by such contemporary dreams as the green skyscrapers, or the hovering cities.....

We invite contributions from academics in the domains of philology, philosophy, theology, psychology, and the arts to tackle any aspect of the above, in a conference that will combine paper presentations with cultural events, and with our tribute to the great two personalities that we are celebrating. Theme theatre performances, as well as art exhibitions, movies and musical events will come to add new insights into the vast domain, as well as into the lives and work of Bacon and Golding. We are only suggesting a few guidelines for panel discussions, but we are open to other suggestions, as well, for papers presented either in English or in Romanian:

- the rhetorics of utopian and dystopian writings;
- recurrent themes in literary and philosophical debates on utopias and dystopias;
- genres of utopian and dystopian literary creations;
- postmodern thinking and Foucault’s concept of heterotopia;
- ecotopias and New Age; environmentalist interpretations of the future;
- Bacon and his vision of a New Atlantis;
- William Golding’s dystopian vision on the ‘civilized’ human being;
- social and religious utopias and dystopias;
- transformation, evolution or devolution of utopian thinking during the centuries....

As we would like to encourage a true interdisciplinary participation, with papers delivered both in English and Romanian, we will decide upon sections after the scientific committee has selected the most interesting propositions. Therefore, please fill in the registration form below, and send it to the organizing committee on baconandgolding.conference@yahoo.com by March 1, 2011. For further queries please refer to our website http://baconandgolding.ubm.ro or contact Mrs. Ligia Tomoiaga, at tomoiagaligia@gmail.com

All participants will have 15 minutes for paper presentation and 10 minutes for discussions. Selected papers will be published in the conference proceedings. For those who would like to participate, but cannot be physically present, we offer the possibility of video conferencing.

The conference registration fee is € 50 and it covers participation costs, coffee breaks, lunches and conference portfolio. Participation through video conference is € 30.
RECOMMENDED JOURNAL – SPECIAL ISSUE

Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies

Read the latest Special Issue from Journal for Eighteenth-Century Studies, now available on Wiley Online Library.

Special Issue: Animals in the Eighteenth Century

Guest edited by Glynis Ridley

This Special Issue is grouped into four thematic sections – Speakers, Subjects, Boundaries and Emotions – examining not only ways in which animals were represented during the eighteenth century but also ways in which traditional representations of animals were changing.

Foreword Peter Singer

Introduction: Representing Animals Glynis Ridley

Click on the article to read an example paper from each section, or select the heading to view the full content list

Speakers

The talking animal is a staple of folk tales and children's stories the world over. Under the heading of 'Speakers', three papers show that talking animals have always played a pivotal role not only in the stories of infants but also in myths about the infancy of human culture.

Talking Animals in the Bible: Paratexts as Symptoms of Cultural Anxiety in Restoration and Early Eighteenth-Century England
Ann Cline Kelly

Subjects

In 'Subjects' four papers explore the empirical investigation of the animal kingdom: taken together, they embrace consideration of everything from the microscopic to the gigantic.

Animated Beings: Enlightenment Entomology for Girls
Sam George
**Boundaries**
The whole concept of a fixed boundary between 'the animal' and 'the human' was placed under increasing pressure during the Enlightenment. The four papers in 'Boundaries' reflect the liminality that could be attached to the categories of both animal and human at the time.

*Sovereign Violence and the Figure of the Animal, from Leviathan to Windsor-Forest*
Tobias Menely

**Emotions**
In the final group of papers, 'Emotions', three contributors explore the difficulties and confusion that can arise when a writer's or artist's desire is to portray not animals considered as less than human but ones that are clearly meant to be considered on a level with their human

*Oysters for Hodge, or, Ordering Society, Writing Biography and Feeding the Cat*
Lisa Berglund

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The Department of American Literature and Culture, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki, Greece, is happy to announce the launching of a virtual learning environment for the promotion of the research and study of American literature and culture in Greece.

The American Studies Resource Portal provides:

- links to all academic departments in Greece which offer courses in American Studies;
- information about undergraduate and graduate courses in American culture, literature and politics;
- course outlines and bibliographical data;
- list of M.A. theses and Ph.D. dissertations completed and in progress in American Studies nationwide;
- news about conferences and events;
- HELAAS activities and publications;
- online links to resources, libraries and research centers with emphasis on American Studies in Europe and the U.S.
- access to our online creative writing magazine Echoes

The American Studies Resource Portal makes a wide range of sources and data relating to American Studies available to a wide community of scholars, academics, university students, educators, independent scholars, school teachers and pupils as well as the general public.

Project Directors

Zoe Detsi-Diamanti
Assistant Professor
Email: detsi@enl.auth.gr

Tatiani Rapatzikou
Assistant Professor
Email: trapatz@enl.auth.gr

Eleftheria Arapoglou
Adjunct Lecturer
Email: elefarapoglou@yahoo.com
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 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 2007 subscription fee:

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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>