

Winter 2011



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

In this Issue:

Members' Corner

Salzburg Seminar

HELAAS membership

Visit the HELAAS website at

www.enl.auth.gr/helaas

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HELAAS Board 2009-2011

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

EDITORIAL



Dear HELAAS members,

As we all know, this year has not been one of the best for the whole country and certainly it has not been one of the best for HELAAS either. The cutting down of funds has affected the scheduled activities for the year, so we had to reschedule on a less ambitious basis. The biennial international conference had to be postponed for next year and happier times and a Symposium was organized instead. It took place at the end of September 2011 in the auditorium of the Museum of Byzantine Art in Thessaloniki and as its title, "Images of America in Greece," it aimed to bring academics, students and the city people together. And that was fully achieved. It was attended very well, despite the ongoing student sit-ins, and everybody agreed that it was a great success. This year members from three Greek universities participated, which made it even more representative of HELAAS.

The 2011 meeting of all HELAAS members had an innovation this year. For the first time, the vice-president, Dora Tsimpouki, was able to participate live in the meeting through skype conference and we hope that as of next year, skype member attendance will increase.

The creation of an electronic HELAAS journal was also approved by the members and you will soon be invited to suggest a name for it. For the time being it will be issued once a year, it will host articles both in Greek and in English, as well as book reviews. You will soon hear from us on that matter.

The HELAAS board has nominated Katia Georgoudaki and Katy Kambitoglou emeritus members of our Association as a tribute to their contribution to American Studies in Greece and our Association respectively.

Let me finish this editorial by repeating the warmest wishes of the HELAAS Board for good health, happiness and peaceful holidays,

Smatie Yemenedzi-Malathouni
President of the HELAAS Board

MEMBERS' CORNER

Please find in this section information about our member publications and activities for Winter 2011:

EDITED COLLECTIONS

Lampropoulos, Apostolos, and Vassiliki Markidou. Eds. *Configurations of Cultural Amnesia. Synthesis 2* (Fall 2010): 1-90.
(<http://www.enl.uoa.gr/synthesis/issue2.htm>).

The second volume of the international journal of literature and culture, *Synthesis*, identifies cultural amnesia as a blind spot in memory studies and explores its configurations within an interdisciplinary context that brings together literary, philosophical and cultural approaches. It consists of an introduction, six articles, an interview with the distinguished critic of English and Comparative Literature, Jean-Michel Rabaté, and three book reviews that are related to the issue of cultural amnesia. The articles analyze a wide range of cultural products—such as plays, novels, life-writing narratives and films—that span from the Renaissance to the early twenty-first century and discuss multiple critical theories—such as aesthetics, psychoanalysis, deconstruction, structuralism and post-structuralism—within the framework of memory studies in an effort to underline the ways in which amnesia, and in particular cultural amnesia, has not only been registered in as well as problematized culture throughout the centuries but also shaped it. In a nutshell, by shedding light on the diversity and pervasiveness of cultural amnesia in both literature and culture, this volume endeavors to declare the pertinent and imperative need for its systematic study.

JOURNAL CONTRIBUTIONS

Kalfopoulou, Adrienne. "Sylvia Plath's Emersonian I/Eye." *Women's Studies*: Routledge, Taylor & Francis Vol. 40 (2011): 890-909.

(also available online at:

<http://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/00497878.2011.603619>)

Kalfopoulou, Adrienne. "Ruin." *World Literature Today (WLT)* (March/April 2011): 13-17.

(also available online at: http://www.ou.edu/wlt/03_2011/essay-kalfopoulou2.html)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Organizing Committee

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

Conference website: www.enl.auth.gr/theatreconference

NEW MEMBERS

Antonia, Iliadou (MA student in Department of American Literature, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Her interests focus on cultural studies, popular culture, media, film studies, 20th century American literature.

Eleftherakis, Antonios (holder of a BA in English and BA in Classics, National and Kapodistrian University of Athens): His interests focus on comparative Literature, American Theater, Postmodernism.

Politidou, Sofia (MA student in Department of American Literature, School of English, Aristotle University of Thessaloniki): Her interests focus on American poetry and African-American poetry.





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**SALZBURG SEMINAR AMERICAN STUDIES
ASSOCIATION (SSASA)**

Draft Program for 2012

**Resistance and Readiness: Immigration, Nativism and the Challenge of
Ethnic and Religious Diversity in the US and Europe Today
September 27-October 1, 2012**

In some ways the meeting will be a 10 year review of issues raised in an American Studies seminar held at the Salzburg Global Seminar in 2002, "The Continuing Challenge of America's Ethnic Pluralism". That symposium focused on issues of race and ethnicity, the impact of then-recent immigrants and refugees in the US, and concern about mounting xenophobia in the USA immediately following 9/11. The 2012 symposium will examine these matters once again, but this time from a more comparative perspective. Topics to be discussed will be grounds for migration (push and pull factors), dichotomies between "natives" and "newcomers" and their significance in the US and 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".

**American Films: Entertainment, Messages and Influence
November 15-19, 2012**

The symposium will focus on American films as a major instrument of multiple dimensions of communication. Beyond merely entertaining, they reflect messages about varied aspects of life and culture. They are, like language, culture carriers and as a consequence they influence perceptions at home and abroad of American life and experience. Because of their inherent soft power, they are a subtle as well as a pervasive instrument of foreign relations. Sessions will also explore the institutional effect of films 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. Another focus of the program is the revolution in American television that has made it the center for television drama as never before; while Hollywood is much as ever, the real revolution has been in television which attracts some of the best writing and acting talent. There also may be sessions that focus on the rise of the "new producers" who have risen to success by importing either foreign films or creating "art" films that have won major awards in the US.

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.

You 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 bank account details for the HELAAS 2011 and HELAAS 2012 subscription fee:

PIRAEUS BANK, Account Number: 5272-026131-179

BIC: PIRBGRAA

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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>